

# Feature Article

## “Prevention of Traffic Accidents involving Elderly People”

### i Introduction

Our country is facing problems such as a serious population decrease and a super aging society.

Until now, various measures for traffic safety have been taken by the government, local governments and relevant private organizations as one. In 1970, the number of fatalities due to traffic accidents was 16,765, which was the worst in history; this has now decreased to one fourth or less of the number of fatalities. In 2016, the number of fatalities was 3,904 and for the first time in 67 years since 1949, the number of fatalities fell below 4,000 people. However, due to the progress of our aging society, recently though there has been a reduction in the fatalities due to traffic accidents, the traffic accident situation is still a severe one.

In this situation, the percentage of elderly people involved in fatalities due to traffic accidents has been classified as the worst ever - that is more than half the number of total deaths. Moreover, because of consistent fatal accidents being caused by elderly drivers, a "Ministerial Council on Measures for the Prevention of Traffic Accidents by Elderly Drivers" (hereafter called as "ministerial council") was held on November 15, 2016. Based on the situation of causing fatal accidents by elderly drivers, the government has been unitedly taking efforts for measures to prevent traffic accidents by elderly drivers



(State of the ministerial council held at the Prime Minister's Official Residence on November 15, 2016)

<Provided by the Cabinet Public Relations Office>

In this feature, the situations and characteristics accidents related to elderly pedestrians and bicycle users (hereafter referred to as 'elderly pedestrians') and elderly drivers will be analyzed. Also along with this, the country, local governments, related organizations and groups that co operate and work for the various traffic

accident prevention measures for elderly people, past efforts and efforts after holding the ministerial council and the direction of future efforts in line with these are described.