

## Chapter 2 Movements toward the Hosting of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

### 1. Toward the inclusive society taking opportunity of the Olympics and Paralympics

The Basic Policy for Promoting Measures related to Preparations for and Management of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020 was approved by the Cabinet on November 27, 2015. This policy considers the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the “Tokyo Games”) to be an opportunity to promote the barrier-free mind where everyone respects and supports each other’s individuality and personality regardless of whether or not anyone has disabilities. This was coupled with plans to advance urban development in terms of universal design in Tokyo with a view to nationwide deployment with the aim of increasing opportunities for persons with disabilities and realizing an inclusive society. Subsequently, after discussions in a subcommittee with the participation of many organizations with disabilities, the Universal Design 2020 Action Plan (hereinafter referred to as the “Action Plan”) was decided in February 2017.

### 2. Summary of the Universal Design 2020 Action Plan

#### (1) Basic concept

- Tokyo Games, where athletes with disabilities demonstrate overwhelming competence, is an excellent opportunity to change the public mindset toward the inclusive society.
- It is important to understand that disabilities are created by both personal physical and mental functional disabilities and social barriers. Under the social model of disability, therefore, it is the responsibility of society to remove the social barriers for persons with disabilities, and all people in society need to understand this and reflect it in awareness of themselves.
- We must not lose this opportunity to ensure the implementation of barrier-free mind efforts in ways that involve the general public. We will also pursue the realization of community development based on Universal Design that will measure up to other such initiatives around the world.

#### (2) Specific efforts

##### A. Barrier-free mind

The barrier-free mind refers to a state of mind in which all people, with their various physical and mental characteristics and differing mindsets, engage in communication with each other and support each other to deepen their mutual understanding. It requires individuals to take specific actions on a continuing basis, and the following three points present vital elements that

are to be implemented as measures throughout society at large.

- To understand the social model of disability, which declares society's responsibility for removing the social barriers for persons with disabilities
- To thoroughly ensure not to discriminate (unfair discriminatory treatment and not providing reasonable accommodation) against persons with disabilities (and their families)
- To foster the abilities to communicate with a variety of people who have conditions different from one's own and to develop the sensibility or empathy to imagine the difficulties and pain that everyone undergoes.

## B. Universal design in community development

Community development deals with vast areas and versatile measures, and the measures involved are also various. Therefore, the Action Plan was focused on these two viewpoints to organize a wide range of measures: (1) emphasis on barrier-free implementation for the Tokyo Games and (2) promotion of high standards of Universal Design in each region across the country.

### 3. Efforts to accelerate the universal design

The ministries concerned promoted various measures to realize an inclusive society based on the Action Plan. In this context, the meeting of the Ministerial Council on Universal Design 2020 was held four times by the end of FY 2020 to confirm further development of measures and the acceleration of efforts to realize an inclusive society as legacy.

As a framework of reflecting viewpoints of persons with disabilities, Universal Design 2020 Evaluation Meeting (hereinafter referred to as the "Evaluation Meeting") whose more than half of members are persons with disabilities or their support groups, was set and held. Based on the opinions from members of the Evaluation Meeting, the following improvement measures are taken.

#### (1) Creating a legacy of Inclusive Society Host Town

- To make the effort of Inclusive Society Host Town which promotes universal design in community development and barrier-free minds through the interaction with Paralympic athletes, a legacy of the Tokyo Games, we strengthened our efforts for barrier-free minds in the Master Plan and the Basic Concept System. In addition, the Act on Promotion of Smooth Transportation, etc. of Elderly Persons, Disabled Persons, etc. (Act No.91 of 2006, hereinafter referred to as "Barrier-free Act") was revised in May 2020 and fully implemented in April 2021.

## (2) Expansion and improvement of barrier-free minds

- To fully conduct education based on the new course of study which will be implemented in elementary schools from FY2020 and lower secondary schools from FY2021.
- The “Act Partially Amending the Act for Eliminating Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities,” which changes the current reasonable efforts to provide reasonable accommodation by businesses to an obligation, was enacted in the 2021 ordinary Diet session.
- In December 2020, the “Barrier-Free Mind Certification for Tourism Facilities” was launched, targeting tourism facilities with a proactive attitude toward barrier-free support and information dissemination.
- To support the development of input/output support devices such as speech-to-text conversion systems and eye input devices for pupils and students with disabilities so that they can effectively use information terminal equipment.

## (3) Barrier-free public transportation

- To formulate a new barrier-free development target for the five-year period starting in FY2021 and further promote barrier-free system in terms of both hardware and software, including in rural areas.
- To obligate to install free space for wheelchair users on the Shinkansen from July 2021 (six wheelchair users can use the space at the same time on the Tokaido Shinkansen).
- To formulate a Draft Manual For Public Transportation Operators for implementing Public Transportation Experiences by Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and publish the Guidelines for Public Transportation Operators to Treat Persons with Dementia in February 2021.

## (4) Promotion of barrier-free buildings

- In March 2021, Design Guidelines of Buildings for Users with Accessibility Needs were revised to add concepts for promoting barrier-free small-scale stores, such as eliminating steps at entrances, securing door widths, and installing movable seats.
- In May 2020, the Japan Industrial Standard (JIS) was revised to add nine new pictograms based on recent social changes, including all gender restrooms, beds for nursing care, and nursing rooms (for all genders).
- In December 2020, the Guidelines for Making School Facilities Barrier-free were revised and a target for the development of barrier-free public elementary and lower secondary school facilities by the end of FY2025.

(5) Efforts to contribute to measures against COVID-19, Etc.

- In December 2020, the interim report of the Coordinating Council for Measures against Novel Coronavirus summarized measures to prevent infection among para-athletes and formulated guidelines for supporting caregivers and other staff in preventing infection.

- To conduct Olympic/Paralympic education that responds to new lifestyles, such as dispatching para-athletes online and distributing video messages from para-athletes.

- To prepare and disseminate the Collection of Telework Case Studies for Persons with Disabilities: Linking Urban and Rural Areas to expand employment opportunities for persons with disabilities by using telework systems.