

Editorial **What is missing?**

Feature **Barrier-Free Access to Transport**

Transport Accessibility

Jack Short Deputy Secretary General, ECMT

There is wide political support at the international level to improve transport accessibility for people with impaired mobility. But there are substantial differences between national policies. Despite some progress, it is still far from easy for a disabled person to travel in comfort, dignity and confidence. Reviewing the problems with each transport mode and making suggestions for future improvements, the author stresses that such developments are not for a small minority but are of help to every transport user.

European Approaches to Accessible Transport Systems

Aristotelis Naniopoulos Assistant Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Some 31% of Europeans will be elderly or disabled by 2020, and their transport requirements should be met by all transport modes forming the 'travel chain'. To identify the requirements of such travellers, the TELSCAN European Commission research project has been conducted by various organizations. Unlike the USA, Europe has no strong regulations about transport accessibility, but combined efforts are being made through the EU. Various efforts by European railways are presented, and the author makes some basic policy recommendations for the future.

Can Improved Mobility Raise the Elderly's Sense of Fulfillment?

Hitoshi Ieda Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Tokyo
Yasuyuki Muraki Tokyo Construction Office, JR East

Many elderly people do not go out because of physical constraints and poor transport conditions. By analyzing the relations between living environments, activities outside the home, and sense of fulfillment, the authors show that improved mobility brings more sense of fulfillment to elderly people. Some policy recommendations are also made.

Accessibility for the Disabled

Akira Kanbayashi Acupuncturist, Moxibustion and Massage Therapist

Everyone has some form of impairment or disability in the broadest sense of the word, and there should be no distinction between those who are impaired and those who are not. Opportunities for the disabled have increased in postwar Japan, but some people have misgivings about the current tendency of depending solely on machines and special devices to remove transport barriers. As a visually impaired person, the author raises some fundamental questions about today's public transport accessibility.

Railway Stations and Right to Equality

Yoshihiko Kawauchi Architect

Facing increasing numbers of elderly and disabled passengers, railways must make their facilities more accessible. But most new devices to help disabled passengers cannot be used without the help of station staff. The desire of disabled passengers to move independently is often ignored. As an architect and wheelchair user, the author emphasizes the importance of assuring safe and unrestricted transport for all.

**JR East Stations
—Accessibility for Today and Tomorrow**

Akio Shiibashi and Toshiyuki Takai JR East

This article describes JR East's current approach of improving station facilities and rolling stock for disabled and elderly passengers. It also describes how the company is developing new technologies for better accessibility.

Accessible GO Transit Services

Richard C. Ducharme Managing Director, GO Transit

As an integrated train and bus network serving Toronto and its suburbs, GO Transit is improving stations, trains and buses, based on the recommendations of an advisory committee representing elderly and disabled passengers.

Information Instant Senior Citizens Discover Inconvenience of Stations / Japanese Ministry of Transport Guidelines on Installation of Elevators and Escalators / New Designs for Disabled Air Passengers

**Metropolis on the Move
—Public Transport in Berlin**

Carola Jeschke General Manager for Public Transport Services, Berlin Metropolitan Council

Berlin is now growing as Germany's Federal capital and massive construction works are going on to restore the prewar S-Bahn and U-Bahn networks and further develop a new integrated public transport system for the 21st century. This article provides a good general view of Berlin's public transport today and tomorrow, including tramways and buses.

**From Lille-Flandres to Lille-Europe
—The Evolution of a Railway Station**

Corinne Tiry Architect-Researcher

Lille has two railway stations—Lille-Flandres for conventional trains and Lille-Europe as a strategic point for the European high-speed rail network. A massive redevelopment project called Euralille is under way between the two stations. The role of the stations as a central pivot of the city is examined from a historical viewpoint.

**Another Perspective
Roles of Women in Mongolia and Japan**

Narantuya Dodongiin Stationmaster, Ulan Bator

With a very low population density, women play a vital role in the workforce alongside men in Mongolia, while women's role in Japanese society still seems to be very limited. A Mongolian stationmaster presents her impression of Japan as well as a brief description of her railway.

**Railway Technology Today 7
Braking Systems**

Izumi Hasegawa and Seigo Uchida Railway Technical Research Institute

This article is the seventh in a 12-part series on today's advanced railway technologies. Specialists from RTRI explain how braking systems stop trains safely.

Topics December 1998 to February 1999

- Photostory**
1. New JR East *Cassiopeia* Night Express
 2. Preserved Steam Locomotives in Japan