

Holding the Traffic Safety Forum

- The Cabinet Office holds the Traffic Safety Forum for raising the traffic safety awareness. In this forum, people with relevant knowledge and experience who are familiar with the traffic situation of the area or people involved in traffic safety are invited and lectures or panel discussions related to traffic safety measures in the concerned area are carried out.

On October 27, 2016, the forum, co-sponsored by the Wakayama Prefecture and Wakayama City, was held in a small hall of Wakayama Prefectural Cultural Hall with a theme of "Let's follow rules of safe riding of bicycles which are friendly to all and let's prepare for the unforeseen" with a participation of about 270 people.

- In this forum, experts who attended the forum had different viewpoints and they gave their opinions and proposals regarding necessity of observance of manners or rules of bicycle driving, effective promotion of bicycle education and necessity of bicycle insurance in our country.

○Content of proposal of the panel discussion and keynote speech



Keynote Speech

Mr. Akira Yoshida, Former Professor at the Tsukuba University Post Graduation Institute, University of Human Arts and Sciences, Graduation course

"Improvement of traffic literacy by awareness of individual manners to social manners"

Professor Akira Yoshida told following regarding modern problems of bicycles.

Presently, modern problem of the roads on the road that serves as the daily living space, pedestrians, bicycles and other vehicles exist together is that on these roads a state of disorder is caused and many accidents occur. For their coexistence and to prevent accidents, safety education based on the characteristics of regional, generational, age wise, behavior wise targets, is important. Further, risk management, appropriate actions and attitude are necessary to avoid the accidents and improvement of traffic literacy are also necessary. Thorough observance of rules and achievement of manners is aimed by giving safety guidance that values independence and autonomy. It is important that all of us have the awareness regarding individual manners (one's own ways) to social manners (common understanding).

Panel Discussion

Experts familiar with traffic safety measures of bicycles were invited as panelists and there was a beneficial discussion by Mr. Akira Yoshida's co-ordination. The panelist made following comments regarding current state of measures to avoid bicycle accidents, ways of effective bicycle safety education, and importance of bicycle insurance.



**Wakayama Prefecture Police Headquarters Counselor and Traffic Planning Section
Manager Yoshito Sakabe**

"To prevent accidents by the awareness that "Bicycles are also vehicles".

In Wakayama prefecture, the percentage of accidents related to bicycles is normally 10% or more. As the measures to prevent the bicycle accidents, targeting the pedestrians and bicycle users who perform dangerous acts, the police works on the use of safety cards issued at the time of on-the-spot guidance. We want to ask people to have the awareness that "Bicycles are also vehicles", follow the basic traffic rules and use helmets to reduce the damage at the time of accidents.



**Associate Professor, Department of Urban design and Engineering, Osaka City University
Nagahiro Yoshida**

"Enhancement of practical safety education according to the developmental stage"

In Japan the municipalities found difference in the utilization rate and accident rate. Specifically as age increases from elementary school children, junior high school children to high school children, the rate of bicycle casualties increases. In foreign countries, importance is given to improvement of bicycle skills (practice) according to the developmental stage at home and in school. In our country also, it is necessary to improve the education technique in such a way that rules and manners are taught and practiced in the actual traffic scenario.



Attorney at Law Fumiko Kishi "Signing -up for insurance if provided"

Since the bicycle can be a victim (vehicle) or also a perpetrator (Vehicle) of the accident, we want you to sign-up for the bicycle insurance since it is provided for both the cases e.g. if you or your family member is a perpetrator or a victim. However, insurance is just a provision, and it is necessary to implement safety education of the entire society starting from home and observe the traffic rules, so that especially the children don't become perpetrators or victims of the accidents.



Singer Toshimi Tagawa "Bicycle education from before the bicycle debut of the child"

I bought bicycle insurance because my mother fell off her bicycle while riding on it. Now, it is easy to sign in for insurance since the coverage provisions etc. can be easily checked on the internet. Though my child would be making their bicycle debut soon, their bicycle training has already been initiated riding with their parents. Considering this opinion, my awareness for traffic safety has changed.

[http : //www8.cao.go.jp/koutu/keihatsu/forum/h28/result.html](http://www8.cao.go.jp/koutu/keihatsu/forum/h28/result.html)