



***ESCAP-Takayama Congress on the Creation
of an Inclusive and Accessible Community
in Asia and the Pacific***



24-26 November 2009

Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture, Japan

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and
the Pacific (ESCAP)**

Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture, Japan

Let's engage in an international dialogue on an inclusive and accessible community in Takayama, Japan, a place famous for its promotion of accessibility for all !

Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture, Japan, has captivated minds of many around the world; the city started approximately around A.D. 400, has cultivated craftsmanship on art and woodwork, and enjoyed the outsiders' admiration for its refined products.

Since 1996, Takayama City has taken initiatives to transform itself into an accessible city as it recognized accessibility needs of aging population of its own people and travelers as well as persons and travelers with disabilities. As part of such initiatives, the city organized many "Monitoring Tour" in which travelers with different disabilities from other parts of Japan partook in accessibility audit of the City while being tourists.

As a result of the initiatives, Takayama City became one of the most accessible cities in Japan and now enjoys both international and national recognition, attracting ... tourists around the world. Accordingly, the City enjoys economic benefits as well.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Asia-Pacific regional secretariat of the United Nations, has been promoting the implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action, the regional policy guideline on disability, against the background of the Second Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (2003-2012). Improvement of accessible physical environment and information are priority areas of the Framework.

Moreover, ESCAP has been promoting the implementation of accessible tourism by convening regional forum on the theme in Bali, Indonesia in 2002, Hainan Island, China in 2006 followed by another meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2007.

Furthermore, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), for the first time in the history of international human rights law, recognizes a right of accessibility in it, and requests State parties to help realize the right for persons with disabilities.

Takayama City and ESCAP organizes "ESCAP-Takayama Congress on the Creation of an Inclusive and Accessible Community in Asia and the Pacific" with an aim to learn lessons from the experiences of the Takayama City and to assess current situations of accessibility in the region. In addition, the Congress aims at adopting the "Takayama Protocol," which lays out actions to be taken to regionally promote the improvement of accessibility.

Name of the Congress:

ESCAP-Takayama Congress on the Creation of an Inclusive and Accessible Community in Asia and the Pacific

Dates of the Congress: 24 to 26 November 2009

Venue of the Congress: *Hida Seikatsu Bunka Center* (Hida Earth Wisdom Center),

Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture, Japan

<http://www.hida-center.jp/english/html/guide.html> TEL: (+81)-577-37-6161

Organizers of the Congress:

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Takayama City, Gifu Prefecture, Japan.

Tentative agenda of the Congress

1st Day: Opening, Keynote speech and accessibility audit and field trip of Takayama City.

2nd Day: Sessions on progresses and challenges of accessibility in Asia and the Pacific?

3rd Day: Discussion and adoption of the "Takayama Protocol" and Closing Ceremony.

At the end of the Congress, participants will be able to:

- Better understand concepts and contents of international and regional instruments and initiatives on accessibility;
- Demystify concepts of "accessibility," "barrier-free" and "universal design";
- Know how to implement paradigm shift from a charity-based social welfare to a rights-based social welfare and to a community development approach to well-being of persons with disabilities;
- Identify actions and strategies from the Takayama experience, which communities in Asia and the Pacific can apply to the improvement and benefit of their own communities;
- Learn about good practices of community-level accessibility improvement initiatives and their challenges;
- Engage in discussion on and adopt the "Takayama Protocol," which lays out concrete actions to further promote accessibility in Asia and the Pacific.

Participants

The Congress will bring together local and central government officials, technical experts, academicians, advocates and professionals on disability, accessibility, tourism, urban planning and rural development.

The Congress welcomes "agents of change" who will take actions after the completion of the Congress.

How to register the Congress:

An Official website for the Congress will be launched in late August. Please contact the secretariat below. Registration will start at the end of September.

Snapshots from Takayama City



Accessibility Audit Tour in action



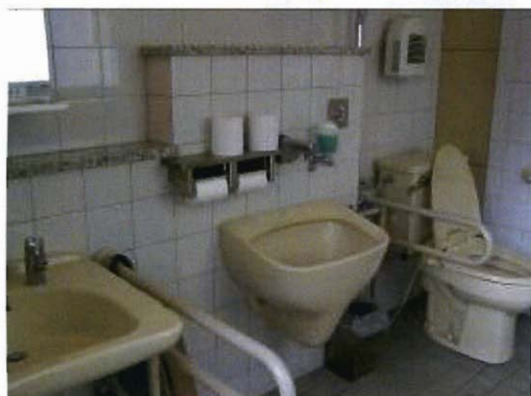
Old Private Houses



Accessibility training for tourism operators



High contrast hotel room for low-vision users



"Hospitality" (universal design) restroom



Grating and guidance blocks

Please contact

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* The content of the brochure is subject to change. The brochure was produced without formal editing.

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