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IATSS Research



IATSS 40th Anniversary Special Commemorative Issue On Publication of the Commemorative Issue



This special issue commemorating the 40th anniversary of the establishment of IATSS brings together papers on the topic of “Designing Mobility for the Coming Age” written by prominent experts from Japan and overseas, many of whom are involved with IATSS and its activities. The topic was selected to correspond with our 40th anniversary theme: “IATSS Mobility Design 2024: Designing the Ideal Mobility Society.”

What kind of thoughts and actions are involved in designing a mobility society? In recent years, “design thinking” has attracted much attention as a method of creative, cross-disciplinary problem solving. The essence of design, then, might be said to be purposiveness and cross-disciplinarity. In this context, and in light of our organization’s interdisciplinary grounding, our chosen themes are suitable for marking our 40th anniversary.

Mobility refers to how freely people and things move, and describes a capacity for utilizing a variety of resources. In designing the ideal mobility society, we believe it important to pursue mobility as something that increases this capacity for utilizing resources, that is, social usability. Raising the transportation systems now available to a level where they are easy to use both physically and physiologically, and then again to a level where people psychologically *want* to use them, will require comprehensive design covering modes of transportation (technologies and systems), infrastructure, spaces and institutions. To ensure that diverse transportation modes and users can utilize transportation spaces safely and equitably in urban areas, it is essential that there be a process for raising usability as a measure of social satisfaction, one that layers traffic spaces and speeds through design thinking guided by clear principles and priorities. Such an approach prioritizing usability offers the hope of realizing a next-generation mobility society with the following characteristics:

1. **Trans-modality**

Achieving seamless intermodal coordination through a diversity of transportation mode choices and advanced transportation nodal functions, and improved interactivity and circulation of people.

2. **Needs-responsive mobility**

Providing transportation services that respond instantly to the needs of users through the development of new technology such as ITS and the flexible management of spaces and institutions.

3. **Co-mobility**

Providing transportation systems and services, whether shared or unowned, that can enhance both individual mobility and a sense of community.

Most papers contained in this issue address the above-mentioned characteristics respectively. In addition to serving as a guidepost that points the way toward the future of the next-generation mobility society, we hope this issue will also suggest new research topics for young researchers to explore.

Kenji Doi
Editor-in-chief