

G7 Transport Ministers' Meeting in Karuizawa, Nagano

The G7 Transport Ministers' Meeting will be held in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture on September 23 - 25, 2016, as the last ministerial meeting related to the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, for which Japan is the host country. Discussions will focus on two issues of urgent priority as listed below. The meeting will address the pressing issues common to developed countries, such as early realization of automated and connected driving and finding solution for aging transportation infrastructure. A joint declaration of G7 transport ministers will be presented to launch the concerted direction of transport policies by G7 countries.

Members:

Transport Ministers in G7 countries (Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, UK, US) and European Commissioner for Transport

Theme 1 “Basic strategy for developing new transport infrastructure and renovating aging and deteriorated transport infrastructure”

Topics: Financing for developing transport infrastructure, strategic infrastructure development, and tactical approaches to upgrading transport infrastructure utilizing advanced technologies

While the developed countries have steadily accumulated stocks of infrastructure and increased these stocks in the course of economic growth, aging of infrastructure has also progressed. For this reason, reduction and leveling of maintenance costs and intelligent use of infrastructures as well as ensuring suitable financial measures for upgrading them are critical issues common to all developed countries, in order to assure investments for installation of new infrastructure while maintaining and upgrading the existing one.

Accordingly, the aim of this meeting is to share knowledge and look for ways of solving these problems among developed countries in regard to planned maintenance and upgrading of such infrastructure, and formulating policies for reducing and leveling costs, in particular, measures for upgrading transport infrastructure utilizing advanced technologies, or financial measures for infrastructure under the financial constraints.

Theme 2 “Development and widespread utilization of advanced technology for automobile and road”

Topics: Automated and connected driving, ITS, Next-generation vehicles such as fuel cell vehicles and electric vehicles

Today, the development of automated and connected driving has been accelerated. Enhancement of ITS technology is also in progress. When those technologies are put into practical use, various beneficial effects are expected to materialize, which include prevention of accidents resulting in increased safety, mitigation of traffic jam, support for easy movement of the elderly, and application in public transportation. In addition, deployment of the next-generation vehicles such as fuel-cell vehicles can help boost countermeasures against global warming.

International competition has been fierce in the development of those advanced technologies, however; international cooperation is also essential for the dissemination of those technologies. This convention, therefore, aims to work out a direction along which the developed countries will cooperate for the dissemination.