The Present Situation and Issues on the Development and Prevalence of the Equipment to Ensure Accessibility at Work Sites and in Daily Living

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1. Present situation of the research, development and manufacturing

1.1 National Agencies

1.1.1 Ministry of International Trade and Industry

- a. Research and development projects by Humanity Electronic Committee, Japan Electronic Industry Development Association

1.1.2 Medical and Welfare Equipment Technology Development Association

Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, MITI

- a. Research and Development project under development programme with the budget of several hundreds million yen

1.1.3 Ministry of Health and Welfare

- a. Techno-Aid Association established in 1987
- b. National Institute of Research and Development, National Rehabilitation Center

1.1.4 Ministry of Labor

- a. Comprehensive Vocational Center for the Disabled

1.1.5 Other agencies

- a. Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications
- b. Ministry of Transportation
- c. National and Public Universities
- d. Public agencies by some local authorities

1.2 private Entities

1.2.1 As to telecommunication devices, even major companies are involved in the research & development and manufacturing

1.2.2 As to equipments and products for mobility and daily living which has a small demand and a variety, mainly small companies are involved in the research & development and manufacturing

1.3 Development and improvement of machinery and tools by institutions for people with disabilities and its open to the public

2. Present situations of display and sales

2.1 34 prefectures (40 places) among 47 prefectures has some places for standing display of equipments and the number is increasing.

Those places usually located next to Social Welfare Council, Center for the Aged, Center for the Disabled and etc.

2.2 Mobile display

REIS'92

Trial programme supported by a private company

- 2.3 Display and sales network by some 1,000 private companies
- 2.4 Providing equipment by Self-help Devices Supply Programme under the law for the Welfare of the Disabled
- 2.5 Small scale displays at Community Assistance Support Centers

3. Issues

- 3.1 The lack of comprehensive plans and provisions for accessibility at work sites and in daily living
- 3.2 Mainly small companies are engaged in the research, development and prevalence (display and sales)
- 3.3 Differences between clients' needs and the motivation of development by professionals and research & development agencies
- 3.4 The establishment of appropriate information services for agencies in charge of evaluation for supplying self-help devices
- 3.5 The shortage of research and provision of support system for the work by people with severe disabilities

Professionals are not familiar with clients almost at all

- 3.6 To raise budget standard for equipments offered to people with disabilities
- 3.7 Quick service system in case of out of order