



Japan Local Government Centre

Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), London

Local Japan: Cycle Hire Schemes

As of 2012, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan has assessed the scale and presence of local cycle hire schemes in Japan, including an overview of their size and ubiquity.

1. Notable points about the pilot schemes

- According to MLIT, most of them are small in scale:
 - ✓ Nagoya City MEI CHARI: 300 bicycles
 - ✓ Toyama City CYCLOCITY TOYAMA: 150 bicycles
 - ✓ Okayama City COMMUNITY CYCLE: 100 bicycles
 - ✓ Hiroshima City NORIN-CYCLE HIROSHIMA: 150 bicycles
- In many areas, pilot schemes run over several years, starting with manned cycle hire stations, according to the ministry. They gradually move to “self-service” (unmanned) system after taking into consideration the popularity of the scheme. An increasing number of areas have launched long-term pilot schemes or formally implemented cycle hire schemes.
- MLIT found that various modes are being trialed in the pilot schemes:
 - ✓ 2010 Sapporo City POROCLE: unmanned system, original bicycles
 - ✓ 2010 Nagoya City MEI CHARI: unmanned system, original / recycled bicycles
 - ✓ 2009 Matsuyama City COMMUNITY CYCLE: cash payment system
 - ✓ 2009 Kitakyushu City COMMUNITY CYCLE: electrically assisted pedal cycles

2. Examples of major pilot schemes

2007-2008

Area	Programme	Date	Docking stations	Bicycles
Nagoya City	MEI CHARI Feasibility	2007	5	124

	Research			
--	----------	--	--	--

2008-2009

Area	Programme	Date	Docking stations	Bicycles
Chiyoda City	METROAD MARUNOUCHI	2008	5	
Nagoya City	MEI CYARI	2008	12	201
Matsuyama City	MATSUYAMA-CYCLE NETWORK	2008	12	60

2009-2010

Area	Programme	Dates	Docking stations	Bicycles
Sapporo City	POROCLE	Sep 2009	7	50
Koriyama City	COMMUNITY CYCLE	Feb 2010-Mar 2010	5	5
Edogawa City	e CYCLE	Sep 2009-	3	400
Kasukabe City	COMMUNITY CYCLE	Mar 2010	5	
Kashiwa City	KASHIWA NO HA SMART CYCLE	Dec 2009-Jan 2010	2	
Chiyoda City	DAIMARUYU CHIKU COMMUNITY CYCLE	Oct 2009-Nov 2009	5	50
Yokohama City	YOKOHAMA TOSHINBU COMMUNITY CYCLE	Oct 2009-Nov 2009	10	100
Chigasaki City	COMMUNITY CYCLE	Dec 2009-Feb 2010	19	51
Nagoya City	MEI CHARI	Oct 2009-Dec 2010	30	300
Hiroshima City	e-CYCLE HIROSHIMA	Nov 2009-Dec 2009	11	110
Kitakyushu City	KUROSAKI FUKUTOSHIN CHIKU	Nov 2009-Jan 2010	4	44

	COMMUNITY CYCLE			
Matsuyama City	MATSUYAMASHI COMMUNITY CYCLE	Nov 2009-Jan 2010	4	50

2010-2011

Area	Programme	Dates	Docking stations	Bicycles
Sapporo City	POROCLE	Jun 2010-Sep 2010	18	100
Sendai City	SENDAI COMMUNITY CYCLE	Nov 2010	10	100
Saitama City	SAITAMASHI COMMUNITY CYCLE	Sep 2010-Oct 2010	5	100
Inzai City	RENTA CYCLE	Aug 2010-Nov 2010	3	80
Kashiwa City	KASHIWA SMART CYCLE	Apr 2010-Mar 2011	5	30
Chiyoda City	CHIYODAKU COMMUNITY CYCLE	Oct 2010-Nov 2010	5	50
Chigasaki City	COMMUNITY CYCLE	Dec 2010-Feb 2011	19	51
Fujisawa City	BIKE SHARING	Sep 2010-Mar 2013	5	
Kanazawa City	MACHI-NORI RENTA CYCLE	Aug 2010-Oct 2010	10	100
Nagoya City	MEI CHARI	Oct 2010-Nov 2010	30	300
Kakogawa City	COMMUNITY CYCLE	Aug 2010-Dec 2010	4	50
Kobe City	KOBE MACHI-CHARI SHUTTLE	Oct 2010-Nov 2010	6	50
Okayama City	OKAYAMA RENTA CYCLE	Mar 2010-Nov 2010	7	80
Hiroshima City	NORIN-CYCLE KOIN CHAN (ITSUKAICHI)	Oct 2010-Nov 2010	9	50

Kumamoto City	KUMAMOTOSHI KANKOGATA RENTA CYCLE	Sep 2010-Nov 2010	10	50
---------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------	----	----

2011-2012

Area	Programme	Dates	Docking stations	Bicycles
Kashiwa city	KASHIWA SMART CYCLE	Apr 2011-Mar 2012	6	30
Fujisawa City	BIKE SHARING	Suspended		
Kobe City	KOBE MACHI-CHARI SHUTTLE	Oct 2011-Nov 2011	8	64
Okayama City	OKAYAMA RENTA CYCLE	Sep 2011-Mar 2012	7	100
Shimonoseki City	CHOINORI-CYCLE	Jul 2011-Aug 2011	5	50
Matsuyama City	DOGO MOBILITY CENTRE	Oct 2010-Dec 2010	4	10
Fukutsu City	FUKUTSU COMMUNITY CYCLE	Sep 2011-Aug 2012	2	32
Yamato City	COMMUNITY CYCLE	Oct 2011-Nov 2011	3	30
Kagoshima City	Eco CHARI	Oct 2011-Nov 2011	7	70

3. Examples of long-term pilot schemes or formal implementation of programmes

Area	Programme	Dates	Docking stations	Bicycles
Sapporo City	POROCLE	Apr 2011-Nov 2011	40	212
Edogawa City	E-CYCLE	Sep 2009-	5	590
Yokohama City	YOKOHAMA	2011-Mar 2014	21	150

	TOSHINBU COMMUNITY CYCLE			
Toyama City	CYCLOCITY TOYAMA	Mar 2010-	15	150
Kanazawa City	MACHI-NORI	Mar 2012-	18	155
Kyoto City	MACHIKADO MINAPORT	Apr 2010-	5	135
Sakai City	SAKAI COMMUNITY CYCLE	Sep 2010-	4	450
Hiroshima City	NORIN-CYCLE HIROSHIMA	Mar 2011-2013	11	150
Kitakyushu City	CITY BIKE	Mar 2010-	10	116
Naha City	SHINTOSHIN CHIKU RENTA CYCLE	2007-	6	50

4. Links to pilot schemes / formal implementation of programmes (in Japanese)

Sapporo City POROCLE: <http://porocle.jp/>

Edogawa City E-CYCLE: http://www.city.edogawa.tokyo.jp/e_cycle/index.html

Yokohama City YOKOHAMA TOSHINBU COMMUNITY CYCLE baybike:
<http://docomo-cycle.jp/yokohama/top>

Toyama City CYCLOCITY TOYAMA: <http://www.cyclocity.jp/>

Kanazawa City MACHI-NORI: <http://www.machi-nori.jp/>

Kyoto City MACHIKADO MINAPORT: <http://minaport.jp/>

Sakai City SAKAI COMMUNITY CYCLE: <http://sakai-c.net/>

Hiroshima City NORIN-CYCLE HIROSHIMA: <http://norin-cycle.jp/>

Kitakyushu City CITY BIKE: http://www.chocomo-club.com/citybike_lp.html

Naha City SHINTOSHINTIKU RENTA CYCLE: <http://shima.p-kit.com/>

Editor: Andrew Stevens

Design: Keith Kelly

Data: Keisuke Hamada and Marie Yoshikawa

Source: <http://www.mlit.go.jp/common/000189512.pdf> (Japanese)