

TOPIC Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games—Helping Transport Wheelchair Athletes

Team Hino helped provide safe and secure transport for athletes and Games-related personnel who participated in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

◆ Hino Motors Tackles Transportation Assistance for Wheelchair Athletes

The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee borrowed approximately 260 large tourist buses equipped with wheelchair lifts owned by bus companies throughout Japan to transport the roughly 2,000 athletes and Games-related persons in wheelchairs who participated in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. However, because standard large tourist buses are equipped to transport just two wheelchairs, initially there was concern over a shortage of vehicles to assist transporting athletes and Games-related persons requiring wheelchairs.

Team Hino launched an internal review team in 2019 to tackle this issue.

◆ Making Easily Attachable Anchors to Expand Wheelchair Space

We had to consider how to expand wheelchair space inside buses borrowed from bus companies without making large-scale modifications so that after the Paralympics the buses could be quickly returned to the bus companies in their original state. At the same time, we had to think of a way to increase the number of athletes and Games-related persons in wheelchairs who could be transported on the buses. Specifically, we manufactured easily-removable anchors that secured wheelchairs without drilling holes in the buses by utilizing existing affixed braces used for ordinary seats. This secured four additional wheelchair spaces (for a total of six) on each bus.

During the Paralympics, these anchors described above were fitted to 60 buses used to transport athletes and Games-related persons. People who used these anchors said they were very helpful because the wheelchairs could be easily, quickly, and securely anchored.

Team Hino members were also involved in helping wheelchair athletes to get on and off buses, and were able to gain the invaluable experience of hearing feedback directly from wheelchair users.

We believe that our endeavors will lead to the realization of a prosperous, livable, and sustainable society where people and goods can move freely, safely, and efficiently. The knowledge gained through this undertaking will be utilized in business endeavors in the future.



External view of a large tourist bus



Utilizing wheelchair anchors on the bus

Hino Motors is a company within the Toyota Group, which is a Tokyo 2020 Worldwide Paralympic Partner.