

Comments and Discussions

Shinichi NAGAO*

This paper treats the public transport policy of Japanese big cities, mostly inner-city passenger transport, with the view to the developments of environmentally sustainable transport policy. It has already been argued in early 1980s in Germany that Tokyo was succeeded in establishing the most efficient public transport system in the world and this contributed to Japanese economic model of resource and energy saving growth. Today climate change and the fast developments of Asian big cities made sustainable transport one of the urgent policy issues in environmental policy. Using first hand materials and interviews with Japanese officials and experts in the policy area, the author persuasively explained the historical background and causes, the success and limitations of Japanese transport policy of big cities. The importance of this paper also lies in the fact that it has a broad comparative perspective, not only of Japan and EU, but also of some other cities in Asia and the USA. With its rich information and solid arguments, the paper will contribute to the international discussion of sustainable transport.

* Professor, Graduate School of Economics, Nagoya University.