



JAPANESE EXPERIENCE IN TRAINING VEHICLE DRIVERS

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Annotation. *It is known that it is important to study the driver training system of developed countries and to analyze and put into practice the positive results achieved by them in the field.*

The article presents an analysis of the system of training drivers of motor vehicles in Japan and its uniqueness, as well as positive experiences achieved in this field.

Keywords: *driver's training schools, driving in urban conditions, temporary driver's license, motor vehicle driver, car, highways, traffic safety.*

Around 1,300,000 people worldwide die in road traffic accidents every year, which is 3,700 people a day or one person every 24 seconds. Also, up to 50 million people are injured to varying degrees. The risk group consists mainly of people aged 5 to 29 years [1].

According to the World Health Organization, it is not enough to make drivers responsible to reduce road deaths to zero. In this process, it is important that pedestrians know and follow the rules of the road, as well as the safety systems of the vehicles and the safe design of the roads.

The UN General Assembly aims to reduce the number of deaths and injuries in traffic accidents by 50 percent by 2030. Experts plan to achieve this by moving to roads and road networks that focus on human safety [2].

In Japan, cars drive on the left and are unified with international rules of the road.

It should be noted that citizens from other countries are limited in driving vehicles with international driver's licenses. Currently, the only way to get the opportunity to drive a vehicle in Japan is to obtain a Japanese driver's license. This provides for a simplified procedure for obtaining a Japanese driver's license for foreign citizens with a national driver's license.

In this case, passing theoretical exams according to a simplified scheme (10 instead of 100 questions on a computer) and studying at a Japanese driving school for several months will not be mandatory. You will also need to pass a theory test and a vision test.



In Japan, driving schools are licensed. Japanese driving schools are divided into institutions that conduct a full training course. There are also schools that provide education based on a shortened program. Full course training is held in specially equipped rooms, theory is taught by highly qualified lecturers. The tuition fee for the full program is definitely higher. Short course students prepare for the exams on their own, and accordingly, this option is more economical for the wallet. The minimum number of the theoretical part of hours (in the amount of 26 hours) is regulated. Blocks such as studying traffic rules, providing the necessary emergency medical care, teaching the structure of the vehicle, and navigation skills are included in the theory. Practical minimum - 31 hours. Car driving consists of training on the range and a block of practice on city streets [3].

The cost of studying for a full program is around 2-5 thousand dollars, which is quite expensive even for Japanese people.

Japanese law allows driving schools to take tests to obtain a driver's license without special training. This allows people with limited financial means to avoid going into debt. But the reality is that only 35% of self-taught students pass the tests the first time. In addition, they must pass a 6-step test to obtain a driver's license. A medical commission, a written test, driving a car at a test site - a self-taught candidate who successfully passes these three stages receives a learner's, that is, an intermediate driver's license.

With this invalid intermediate driver's license, the candidate must have driven for 10 hours within 5 days. This requires an instructor who can be anyone with 3 years of driving experience and a Japanese driver's license. After such training, the instructor signs a special form, after which the candidate goes to pass the theory, in which he must answer at least 90 out of 100 questions. Only after that it is allowed to pass driving practice in urban conditions.

Education in Japanese driving schools is carried out in two stages. At the first stage of the educational process, theory and practice are taught at the training ground - after which the relevant exams are passed. In the second stage, the continuation of theoretical training and practical driving of the car in urban conditions will be held - at the end of the stage, exams will be passed on the subjects of education.

In Japan, it is very difficult to pass practical exams in urban conditions. The test is conducted on the busiest streets, in conditions of maximum traffic, on very complicated routes. It is a big plus to be able to explain one's actions in such a complex situation (why did he stop, why did he turn right, why did he slow down, etc.). The first part of the exam, in which the student moves in a direction determined



by the examiner. In the second part, the student is given a map and has to get from point A to point B without the guidance of the instructor. After the directions are explained, the map is taken away and the car has to be driven by memory. This is the last and final step. If the result is successful, the learner will be issued with a valid green ribbon driver's license valid for three years on the same day.

Unlike driving schools in European countries, learning to drive in Japan costs about \$4,000 because the exams are taken directly at the driving school. If the driver does not commit any violations during this period, he will be replaced with a blue ribbon driver's license.

If the driver has a driver's license marked with a yellow tape, it means that he has not violated the traffic rules even once in five years. Japanese driving schools are very expensive even for Japanese people - the price of education here is equivalent to a month's salary, so many people even take out a loan for it.

Nevertheless, driving a car on Japanese roads is very pleasant, because high culture, safety and mutual courtesy await the driver here. It is interesting that the driver receives a message about this shortly before the expiration date of the driver's license. He will have to come to the center for issuing a driver's license, listen to a short lecture about the current changes in traffic rules, as well as watch an instructive film about an accident and pass a short test. Those who neglect this visit will have their driving license revoked and will be required to re-sit both the theory and practical tests. [4].

In Japan, there is a "Fundamental Law on the Development of Road Safety Measures", which was developed taking into account the Japanese national principles, according to which not only drivers, but all road users have the same privileges and responsibilities when driving a car. Drivers will not be issued a driving license until they prove they are sufficiently competent, and revocation of a driving license requires further mandatory training and passing a test. The driving course at the driving school directly includes at least 27 hours of practical training. After 30 hours of classroom training, there is a 100-question exam. The cost of training and education of one driver is on average 1000 dollars.

Driving schools in Japan are unique and privately run and funded. Both the vehicle owner and the instructor are required to pass a thorough training program and examinations by the prefectural traffic safety commission. Drivers applying to renew their driver's license must take courses in groups based on age and other criteria. Japan does not have a government system for renewing driver's licenses by stamping.



It is also illegal to drive a vehicle without insurance in Japan. Car insurance can be full or partial (like "CASCO" and "OSAGO"). The insurance policy is issued by any insurance company dealing with auto insurance.

There is a wide network of car rental companies in Japan. To rent a vehicle, a foreigner must have an international driver's license (recognized in Japan) or a driver's license issued in Japan, a passport or a foreigner's registration card. The cost of renting a medium-class car is around 10,000 yen per day. The rented car can be returned to the company or handed over to a representative of the leasing company at another location (for example, at the airport). In any case, a prerequisite for returning the car to the company is to fill the tank completely [5].

In case of a traffic accident, it is necessary to notify the insurance agent about the traffic accident, call the police to the scene of the accident, and, if necessary, an ambulance.

It is not allowed to drive a vehicle without insurance.

Thus, there are specific aspects of the driver training system in Japan that require serious training from candidates. Such an external examination system also consists of several stages and is accepted in the most congested areas of the city and with difficult traffic. Also, obtaining a driver's license requires a lot of money.

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