

The Awareness of Universal Design among Facility Managers in the United States and Japan

Abstract:

The progress of aging society requires companies to broaden the range of employment opportunities to be provided from “traditional” businessmen to more diverse workers including aged people and those with disabilities. Meanwhile, many successful companies take workforce diversity as a corporate strategy to survive recent intensive economic competitions. It is one of the important responsibilities of current facility managers to prepare workplaces that can accommodate the wider range of diverse workers as much as possible. The adaptation of universal design will support workplace diversity from the standpoint of facility management.

Japan Facility Management Promotion Association (JFMA) conducts a series of research regarding the effectiveness to adapt universal design to the workplace. As a part of its research, JFMA conducts two surveys regarding the awareness and practices of universal design among facility managers, one in Japan and the other in the United States. This session will present comparative analysis of these surveys and discuss problems and possible solutions for practices of universal design in the workplace.

Presentation Format: Lecture

Topic Area: Design/ Collaboration (We missed the category of topic area. Please suggest us the most suitable.)

Learning Objectives: By the end of this session, participants will be able to;

- 1) Learn the state of the awareness and practices regarding universal design among facility managers
- 2) Comparatively understand the differences and similarities of this issue between the United States and Japan
- 3) Have an opportunity to think about problems and possible solutions for practices of universal design for diverse workers.

Target Audience: Mid-level facility managers

<Primary Presenter>

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Background:

Yoko Saito graduated from Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, with Masters degree of Engineering in Architecture and Civil Engineering. As a first-class registered architect/building engineer in Japan and certified facility manager, she has been engaged in project management and programming/post-occupancy evaluation for workplace interior design. She is currently dedicating herself to research focusing on the effectiveness of universal design in the workplace at the University of Michigan.

Reference 1:

- Name: Mr. Dai Sogawa
- Company: Corporate Design Institute
- Phone: +81-3-5820-3541
- Fax: +81-3-5820-3113
- E-mail: soga@universal-design.co.jp
- Location of Presentation: International Conference for Universal Design in Japan 2002, Yokohama, Japan
- Subject of Presentation: Universal Design and the Workplace: Guidelines on how Universal Design contributes to Asset Value and Facility Function
- Date of Presentation: December 1, 2002
- Approximate audience size: 50

Reference 2:

- Name: Mr. Hiroyuki Inoue
 - Company: Comtec Inc.
 - Phone: +81-3-5419-5555
 - Fax: +81-3-5419-5561
 - E-mail: hinoue@ct-net.co.jp
 - Location of Presentation: Tokyo Business Show, Tokyo, Japan
 - Subject of Presentation: Development of Web-based Furniture and Facility Management Database
 - Date of Presentation: April, 2000
 - Approximate audience size: 200
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