The Creation of Standard Sign Templates for Evacuation Facilities and their Electronic Distribution System

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Japan is a country of frequent natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, and so on. People sometimes are forced to take shelter at schools, hospitals, entertainment facilities, department stores, hotels, restaurants, underground malls, or multi-purpose properties. In the worst cases, victims have to stay at evacuation facilities for several weeks or more. Thus the evacuation facilities should be places that not only shelter victims, but also put them at ease and allow them to live their daily lives to as carefree an extent as possible.

In evacuation facilities, evacuees frequently face problems with "forgetting their position", "displacement of spatial awareness", and "route mistake", and with suffering psychological depression by exposure to monotonous scenery.

In this study, we propose the creation of standard sign templates for evacuation facilities and their electronic distribution system. The method of designing signs is based on cognitive psychology and has already been adopted in the sign system of a public parking garage building that has six floors (Takashima and Nakagawa, 2014). Figure below shows a schematic image of signs printed out and a distribution system on the Internet.

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