



The 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mobility and Transport for the Elderly and the Disabled Persons  
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## **"Hands-On Evaluation of Environmental Barriers on Wheelchair Propulsion Accessibility"**

### **Workshop organizers:**

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Driven by the aim of making the environment more accessible to all, Governments and local authorities globally have issued guidelines on construction of pedestrian spaces. However, many of these standards and guidelines are based on little scientific evidence and thus are rather subjective. Objective evidence-based approaches are necessary to achieve accessible designs that promote better quality of life of elderly and disabled people.

The workshop aims to bring together the experiences gained both in Japan and England at measuring the impact of environmental barriers on wheelchair user accessibility. Over the past number of years both research teams have aimed to produce easy to interpret metrics of accessibility by measuring physical attributes of the wheelchair and the person as they try to get about the built environment.

The workshop will be divided into three sections: the first will consist of two presentations based on the experience of the researchers and also users of wheelchairs in both Japan and the UK.

The second part of this demonstration aims to help people understand everyday difficulties faced by wheelchair users by allowing them to negotiate simple tasks such as climbing up a small step, going over a step and going along a sloped walkway. The metrics which have been developed by both teams will be shown dynamically as people negotiate the different terrains.

The third part of the workshop will consist of a discussion where the following topics will be discussed:

- The differences in attendant and self-propulsion of wheelchairs
- The advantages and disadvantages of each metric
- How should we as an international community continue to develop wheelchair accessibility measures