1. Transportation Network

The means of transport in Japan consist mainly of railways and automobiles. Regular ship lines linking islands and air routes connecting major cities with local cities have also been developed.

The railways in Japan are generally classified into railways placed under the management of the Japan National Railways (national railways) and railways under private management (private railways). The operating kilometerage as of March 31, 1970, was 26,884 km for the national railways and 5,289 km for the private railways. The number of railway stations was 3,221, including passenger and freight stations for the national railways and 4,814 for the private railways. Most of the railways in Japan are narrow gauge (1,067 mm), whereas the Sinkansen and some of the railways in major cities and their outlying areas are standard gauge (1,435 mm). (Of the Japan National Railways' lines, electrified sections measure 4,690 km and multiple-track lines 3,484 km.

The roads based on the Road Law are classified into national expressways, national highways, prefectural roads, and local roads, as well as the Shibakamado and Mura roads. As of March 31, 1970, national highways (including expressways) totaled 26,884 km, prefectural roads 106,852 km, and Mura roads 679,225 km.

As of March 31, 1972, distances between airports, as classified by air routes, totaled 88,684 km. Airports and seaports totaled about 70 including privately managed airports.

As of April 1, 1971, there were about 473 regular service ship lines, and the ports for these regular lines totaled about 1,479 as of June 1, 1971.

1. Selected Points of the Legend and Map Compilation

This map shows railways, roads, air routes, and sea routes and their connecting railway stations, interchange airports, and ports and harbors. It also shows the outline of the domestic transportation network.

2. Air Lines with Foreign Countries

The airlines which had regular international passenger service routes and whose aircraft arrived and departed from airports in Japan as of March 31, 1970, include the Japan Air Lines (JAL) and foreign airlines.

The air routes traversed around Japan are generally classified into the Pacific Route, Southeast Asia Route, South-bound Europe Route, North-bound Europe Route, and Atlantic Route.

An international air route between Tokyo and Peking was opened in September 1971 under an aviation agreement between Japan and China. The U.S. opened flight services between Tokyo and Nantou on New Caledonia on November 1, 1974, and the IR between Tohoku and Tientsin via Peking on November 20, 1974. Practically every air route operated by the Japan Air Lines (JAL) is overlapped by those of foreign airlines.

The times required to reach major cities in the world from Tokyo are five hours 30 minutes to Sydney, 10 hours 40 minutes to London, 24 hours to Rio de Janeiro, 33 hours 25 minutes to Osaka, 36 hours 20 minutes to Jakarta, 38 hours to London (via the southern route), 71 hours 40 minutes to Paris (via the polar route), and 13 hours 40 minutes to Johannesburg.