



Singapore Spotlight

Tom Benner

毎月第1週掲載



近ごろシンガポールでは、歩く代わりにキックスケーターやホバーボード（地面から浮き上がって進むスケートボード）を使う人が増えている。だが、大勢の人が行き交う歩道での使用はトラブルの元になると筆者は考える。

11) Mindfully on the move

増え続ける1人用小型乗り物

■ 混雑する場所での使用は問題

More and more, Singaporeans are using personal mobility devices (PMDs) such as kick-scooters and hoverboards instead of walking. Singapore is trying to figure out what to do about the growing popularity of these PMDs on public sidewalks — should they be allowed or regulated? Should insurance be required?

Singapore is very rule-bound, and prides itself on its orderliness. The sidewalks are safe and clear of litter — you can't chew gum here, because lawmakers got tired of people spitting gum on the sidewalks and banned it. You never see bicycles on sidewalks — they're not allowed there.

Yet pedestrians on sidewalks are always bumping into each other and getting in the way, never staying to one side the way cars on the road do. Maybe half of the pedestrians are looking at their smartphones, so you need to be a defensive walker. The use

of bicycles, scooters, etc. would only make walking in Singapore even more disorderly.

Automobiles here drive on the left-hand side of the road. But there is no corollary for pedestrians on sidewalks. If people had their own side of sidewalks, the traffic would be smoother. People wouldn't bump into each other.

My thinking about applying some of the norms of the road to the sidewalk goes back to high school, where the corridors went from empty to congested whenever classes changed. We were specifically instructed to walk on the right, and we generally got to class on time.

I realize, of course, Singapore's sidewalks might appear orderly compared to those in other cities. In Hanoi, Vietnam, parked motorbikes make the sidewalks impassable for pedestrians. New York City sidewalks are so congested that pedestrians can almost get plowed down by reckless drivers. In my hometown of Cambridge, Massachusetts,



大勢の歩行者が行き交うシンガポール中心部のオーチャードロード

© Singapore Tourism Board

ホバーボード（左）とキックスケーター（中央）に乗る若者たち

© NTUC Income



homeless people often prefer sleeping on the sidewalks instead of in cramped shelters. Also, when it snows, some inconsiderate people don't shovel the sidewalks in front of their homes, rendering sidewalks impassable.

■ 歩道を安全に保つために

Always looking for ways to reduce a reliance on cars, Singapore wants to make it easier for people to get around on PMDs and has set up rules and guidelines.

Something called the Active Mobility Advisory Panel earlier this year submitted a plan for the orderly use of footpaths, cycling paths and shared paths to the Ministry of Transport.

Some of the rules and practices recommended by the panel are: speed limits of 15 kph on footpaths; always giving way to pedestrians on footpaths and shared paths; and dismounting and pushing bicycles at high

pedestrian-traffic areas.

Singaporeans are taking to social media to raise all sorts of concerns regarding the panel's recommendations.

“Make it mandatory for all (PMDs) to have a number plate,” writes one person.

“The next trend will be (people) jumping in front of PMDs to claim insurance,” writes another.

To me, allowing bicycles and other PMDs on sidewalks is asking for trouble. Are there going to be traffic tickets for violating the rules? Sidewalks are called “walks” for a reason. I say, keep them that way.

Tom Benner is a freelance journalist who moved to Singapore from Boston, U.S., in the fall of 2012. His recent journalism has appeared in Al Jazeera English, GlobalPost and Nikkei Asian Review.

KEYWORDS

mindfully 注意して

sidewalk (舗装した)歩道(後出 footpath は歩道、cycling path は自転車道、shared path は自転車歩行者専用道路)

rule-bound 規則に縛られた
orderliness 整然としていること(後出 disorderly は無秩序な、orderly は整然とした、規則正しい)

clear of litter ごみがない
lawmaker (国会)議員

pedestrian 歩行者
bump into ~ ~にぶつかる
get in the way 行く手をふさぐ(後出 give way to ~ は、~に道を譲る)

defensive 防御的な、身構えた
corollary (ここでは)相応す

る規範・規則
traffic 往来、人の流れ(後出 high pedestrian-traffic は往来が多い、traffic ticket は交通違反切符)

norm 規範、規準
corridor 廊下

congested 混雑した
impassable 通れない
plow down なぎ倒す
reckless driver 無謀な運転をする人

cramped 狭苦しい
inconsiderate 配慮のない

render ~ ... ~を...にする
reliance on ~ ~への依存
Ministry ... Transport 交通省
dismount 降りる
take to ~ ~に頼る
mandatory 強制的な
violate 違反する

多読チャレンジ

シンガポールの車は右側通行？ それとも左側？

[本文 - 500 words]

MACHIGAI! © Tim Young

毎週掲載



by Tim Young

ロールキャベツを食べませんか？

✗ Would you like to eat some roll cabbage?

Or, maybe you would like to roll a cabbage?

This dish is meat that is rolled up inside cabbage. By the logic of English speakers, the name of this kind of dish should have roll **last**, following the name of an ingredient of the dish! In Japanese, though, the two words are switched.

Also, “roll” is a countable noun, and a person usually eats more than one cabbage roll, so it should be plural:

○ Would you like to eat some cabbage rolls?



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米アイオワ州出身。イリノイ州オーガスタナ大学で英文学士号取得。1989年から日本在住。現在はスカイプでマンツーマンの英語レッスンをするほか、高校でのALT(外国人英語指導助手)やポッドキャストの製作など幅広く活躍。Twitter (@machigai) でもつぶやき中。



MACHIGAI Meter

How many of Tim's students made this mistake?



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