

Trends in Japan

Sci-tech

Japan is synonymous with groundbreaking inventions and scientific breakthroughs. From trains to robotics to fabrics to the increasingly important field of environmental technology, Japan leads the world. Be the first to discover the future of science and technology.

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Eco-Bike Stations Sport Solar Panel Rooftops

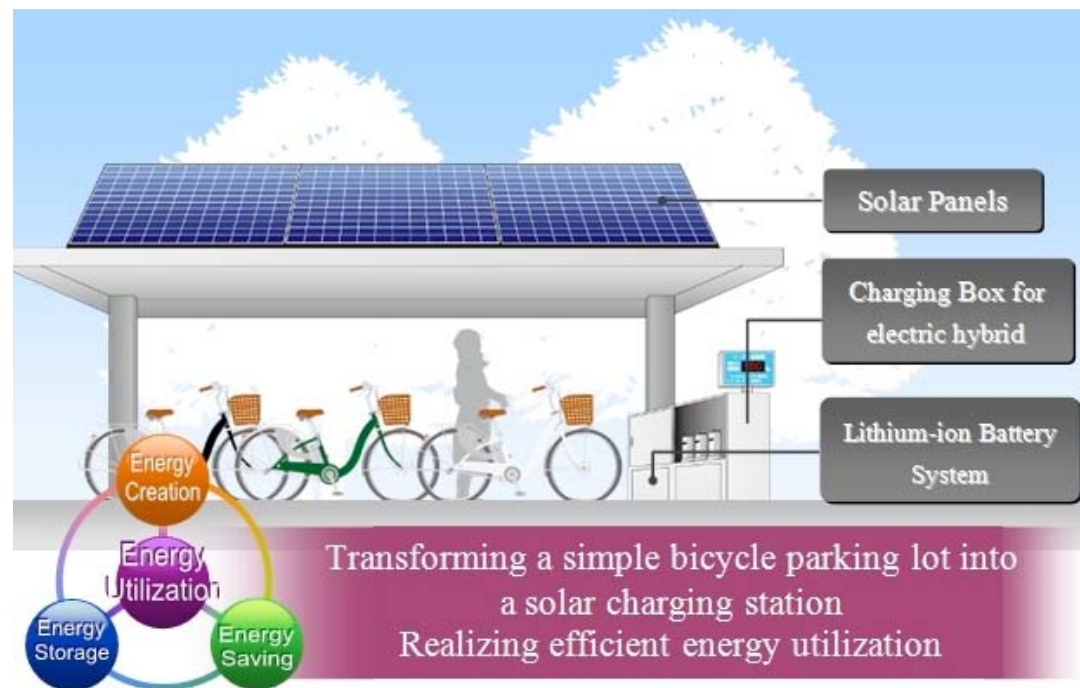
The city of Setagaya in Tokyo has long been active in supporting environmental conservation. It is now garnering attention for its introduction of eco-friendly electric bicycles and two Solar Parking Lots powered by solar cells and lithium-ion batteries. The initiative is part of the city's efforts to realize a low-carbon society.



An Enloop Bike.
(C)SANYO Electric Co.,Ltd.



An image of the bike park to be built at
Sakura-shinmachi Station.
(C)SANYO Electric Co.,Ltd.



An image of a solar bicycle station. (C)SANYO Electric Co.,Ltd.

Help for Those on the Front Line of Nursing Care

A wide variety of robots are under development in Japan, and caregiving robots are among those attracting particular attention. Given the aging of the population, public and private institutions are working to develop robots that can assist with nursing care. In recent months robots have been unveiled that are designed to help elderly and disabled people get in and out of bed and to assist with their transportation.



RODEM. (C)VEDA CENTER



RIBA the caregiving robot.



RIBA lifts a person.

(C)RIKEN-TRI Collaboration Center for Human-Interactive Robot Research

Soundglass System Enables People to "See" Noises



The Soundglass monitor.
(C)CHUBU Electric Power Co., Inc.



The NoiseCam real-time sound camera.
(C)CHUBU Electric Power Co., Inc.

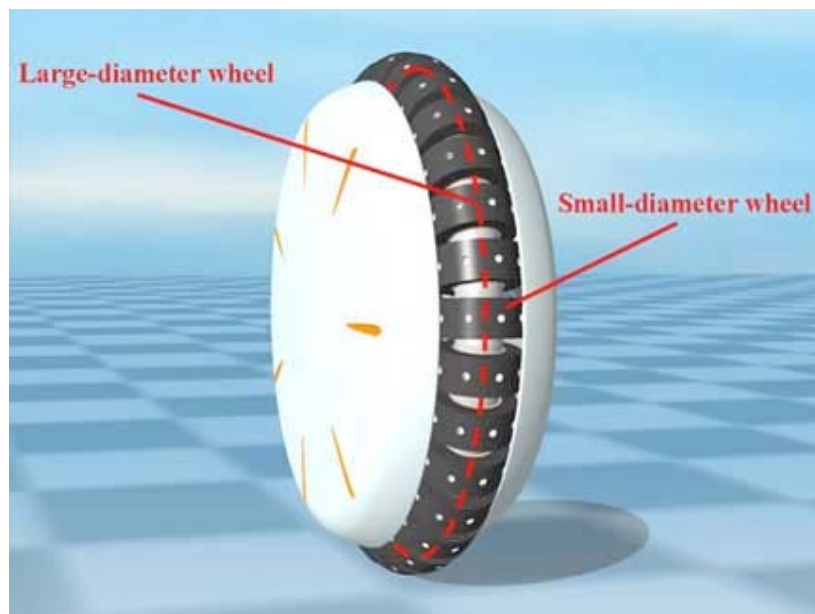
Japanese researchers have developed a revolutionary type of glass that can show visually how loud a sound is and which direction it is coming from on a transparent display. Unlike ordinary sound measuring instruments, the Soundglass shows information on sounds emanating from the area that can be seen through the transparent display. Its applications include monitoring noise at electric power plants and other facilities to check for anomalies.



The Soundglass device.
(C)CHUBU Electric Power Co., Inc.

New Devices Merge Car Technology with Robotics

Japanese carmakers are making big strides in the field of "personal mobility technology," or one-person devices for taking people from one place to another. Honda and Toyota have each unveiled machines that allow users to travel in whatever direction they choose simply by shifting their body weight. By combining their work in robotics development with their expertise in automotive technology, these two Japanese firms are establishing a growing presence in this burgeoning field.



How the U3-X works. (C)Honda Motor Co., Ltd.



The Toyota Winglet.
(C)Toyota Motor Corporation



Using the U3-X.
(C)Honda Motor Co., Ltd.