

## Philippines' brightly decorated jeepneys face an uncertain future

1) Saudi Arabia, Jesus Christ and Pokemon might make for an unlikely trio of design inspirations. But in the Philippines, don't be surprised to find all three adorning the side of a jeepney. (adorn 飾る、装飾する)

2) An unofficial national symbol, the converted jeeps-turned-public transport staples are tapestries of Filipino life. But amid longstanding calls to modernize, the jeepney is on the verge of a major transformation. (staple 主要産物、重要商品 on the verge of ~の瀬戸際に)

3) The Duterte administration is demanding that any jeepneys in violation of updated regulations -- including those built more than 15 years ago -- are taken off the roads by Jan. 1, 2018. New rules on size, accessibility and engine quality could take thousands of vehicles out of service, as well as potentially endangering the livelihoods of drivers and others in the jeepney industry. The changes could also effectively mean the end of a Filipino design icon. (livelihood 暮らしの手段、生計)

4) The sweeping changes have come as welcome news to many, however. Although the fleet reaches places where there is often no alternative, jeepneys contribute to pollution and crippling congestion in cities across the country. And while they are a visual feast of kitsch decoration, the vehicles are also notoriously challenging to board -- especially for those with mobility difficulties. (sweeping 広範囲に及ぶ fleet 全車両、congestion 渋滞 visual feast 目のごちそう kitsch 低級作品 notoriously 悪名高い)

5) So what will it take to reform a decades-old mode of transport that is entrenched not only in the daily lives of millions, but in the national psyche? (entrench 確立する、地位を守る psyche 精神)

### The 'King of the Road'

6) Born in post-war Manila, the jeepney offered a new way to get around after the city's street cable cars were destroyed by bombing. Local mechanics would fashion the vehicles from war jeeps abandoned by the Americans, customizing them to accommodate more passengers. (fashion 作り上げる)

7) But what began as a makeshift solution to a temporary problem now serves almost 40% of transport users in Metro Manila and the surrounding provinces. (makeshift 間に合わせの)

8) Today, official figures show that -- even before counting unofficial vehicles -- there are almost 180,000 franchised jeepneys on the country's roads.

9) Costing just 8 pesos (\$0.16) a ride -- compared to 12 pesos for a bus ride or 15 pesos for a train -- jeepneys provide an affordable alternative to Filipino commuters. In Metro Manila, which is home to 12 million people across 250 square miles, the vehicles' size and shape allows them to navigate streets untouched by the limited public transit system.

10) Known in the Philippines as the "King of the Road," jeepneys are also renowned for having designs as loud as their roaring engines. Embracing a "more is better" philosophy, owners use vibrant colors and busy ornamentation to decorate their vehicles. (embrace 採用する、受け入れる vibrant 力強い) 中略

11) A jeepney owner for 15 years, Efren Borela earns 2,500 pesos (\$48) per day. He has invested his savings into his vehicle and is unsure if he can recover the investment and buy a new roadworthy one.

12) Authorities say that owners like Borela will be offered financing to help meet the cost of upgrades or new vehicles. And officials, including undersecretary for road transport at the Department of Transportation, Thomas Orbos, remain confident that reform will ultimately benefit everyone in the industry.

13) "I'm sure when people see [the new system] on the road, and once people try it, the opposition will be lost," he said.

14) The jeepney does -- and will continue to -- represent the potential of re-invention. After all, images of horse-drawn carriages remain common in the vehicles' decorations, referencing a type of mass transit now reserved for a tourist trip around historic areas. This may prove to be the fate of the brightly colored jeepney too. But as the sign on the rear of one Manila jeepney muses: "Forever is just a word. There's no forever." (muse 考え込む、思いにふける) 【2017-11-12 | CNN】

### ★Icebreaker for active discussion

1. Given a chance to go to the Philippines, would you like to ride a jeepney?
2. If you were to decorate your car, what image will you have on it?
3. What can you say about the proposed jeepney modernization in the Philippines?
4. The last line of the article says, "Forever is just a word. There's no forever."

What are the things that you used habitually before but no longer useful now?

5. Make sentences using the following words: staple, livelihood, notorious, makeshift and embrace.

