ANA offers women-only lavatories

Kyodo News

All Nippon Airways Co. on Monday will begin introducing women-only lavatories on international routes for passengers who feel uncomfortable using the same facilities as men.

One lavatory will be designated for use by women only in all classes. Men will be restricted from using such toilets except in emergencies and when there are very few female passengers, ANA said Tuesday.

Korean Air has been offering similar facilities and Japan Airlines Corp. designates lavatories for priority use by women, an ANA official said.

The airline decided to designate women-only lavatories based on a 2007 online survey in which 90 percent of the women polled said they think women-only lavatories are "attractive."

The official said women do not like using shared toilets because men sometimes leave the seat up. She said demand for women-only toilets is especially high among passengers taking long flights.

Signs for the women-only lavatories will be installed on ANA aircraft by the end of April. The toilets will be designated on most international routes, excluding some flights linking Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya with Asian cities such as Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai, Qingdao and Mumbai, the official said.