

WORLD EXPO 2025 NEWS

「KIZUNA –絆– News letter」

“Kizuna” is the Japanese word for “bond.”

Issued October 9, 2024, Vol.24



Wanting to see the Expo venue with my own eyes as soon as possible following my appointment as Minister for the World Expo 2025, I visited Osaka on October 6 to inspect the Grand Ring and the Japan Pavilion. At the venue, I confirmed the progress of venue construction work in preparation for the Expo's opening, as well as exchanging views with members of the local business community. Moving forward, I will personally take the lead to generate momentum both in and outside Japan to ensure the Expo's success.

ITO Yoshitaka,
Minister for the World Expo 2025

*****_**** 【Contents of this week's report】 *****_****

1. Movements of Participating Countries
September 30: Luxemburg reveals interior of its pavilion under construction
October 3: Indonesia introduces its pavilion mascot TUMTUM as a friend of MYAKU-MYAKU on Instagram
2. This week /last week's main events
October 1: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition announced the rollout of tourism services that link blockchain technology-based digital stamps with specific prefectures and municipalities
October 2: Meitetsu Department Nagoya Flagship Store's Nana-chan doll decorated with Expo venue staff uniform
October 2: 5th Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Budget Monitoring Committee held
October 3: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition held its fourth general assembly meeting of the Momentum Fostering Committee
October 3: KAWASE Naomi, Thematic Project Producer, delivered a lesson at Nago City Municipal Omiya Elementary School (Okinawa Prefecture) as part of the Cabinet Secretariat's EXPO School Caravan project
October 4: Announced Expo-sponsored cycle racing event at Kawasaki Velodrome and Beppu Velodrome (October 11-14)
October 6: ITO Yoshitaka, Minister for the World Expo 2025, and MUTO Yoji, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, visited Osaka Prefecture
October 7: Sanyo Electric Railway wraps some trains in an Expo design (up to the end of the Expo)
October 9: Sumaura Ropeway wraps cabins in an Expo design (up to the end of the Expo)
October 12: Amemura EXPO – Six Months to Go to Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan! Event (October 12-14)
October 12: “Where fun exceeds your imagination! Six Months to Go! Special Drone Show” to be held on October 12-13
October 13: Six Months to Go Event to be held at Toranomom, Tokyo
October 13: Expo 2025 Six Months to Go Event in Dotonbori to be held
October 16: JR Yamanote Line trains to be wrapped in a special Expo design (up to October 31)
October 16: Tohoku Shinkansen and Hokkaido Shinkansen cars to be wrapped in an Expo design (up to the end of the Expo)
October 24: Expo Classroom at Kindai University vol. 2 to be held
3. Ticket Sales Update
Tickets sold: 6,051,278 (as of October 2)



Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Weekly Report (October 1- October 7)

~ 187 days to go!~



1. Official Participants

- September 30; Luxembourg has made public the interior of its pavilion under construction. By using standard steel materials for the floor, walls and ceiling and through unique assembly and dismantling procedures, the pavilion aims to ensure both quality and the ease of re-using the materials.



<https://www.instagram.com/luxembourg.expopavilion/>

- October 3; Indonesia introduced on Instagram the mascot of its pavilion, TUMTUM, a friend of Myaku-Myaku. TUMTUM is a character based on the *batik* pattern Tuluntum used in traditional Indonesian clothing. There are three types: green, red and blue. The green TUMTUM symbolises nature, the red TUMTUM symbolises culture and the blue TUMTUM symbolises the future.



<https://www.instagram.com/expo2025indonesia/>

Status of official participants as of October 3

- Of 161 countries and 9 international organisations participations:

Those with official participation agreements:

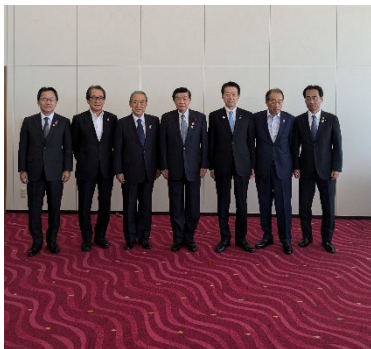
132 countries and 6 international organisations

Countries where construction has not yet started: 3 countries

Countries with no construction contractor: 2 countries

2. Reports from the past week and plans for the upcoming week

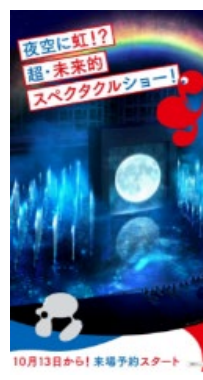
- October 6; Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yoji Muto and Expo Minister Yoshitaka Ito visited Osaka Prefecture on the weekend immediately after their appointments. They exchanged views with representatives of the Kansai business community, and joined by the governor and mayor of Osaka, inspected Yumeshima, the site of the Expo.



https://x.com/meti_nippon/status/1842798560737394768?s=46&t=5Qn-2LhLb1GEHGIQYAhIXw



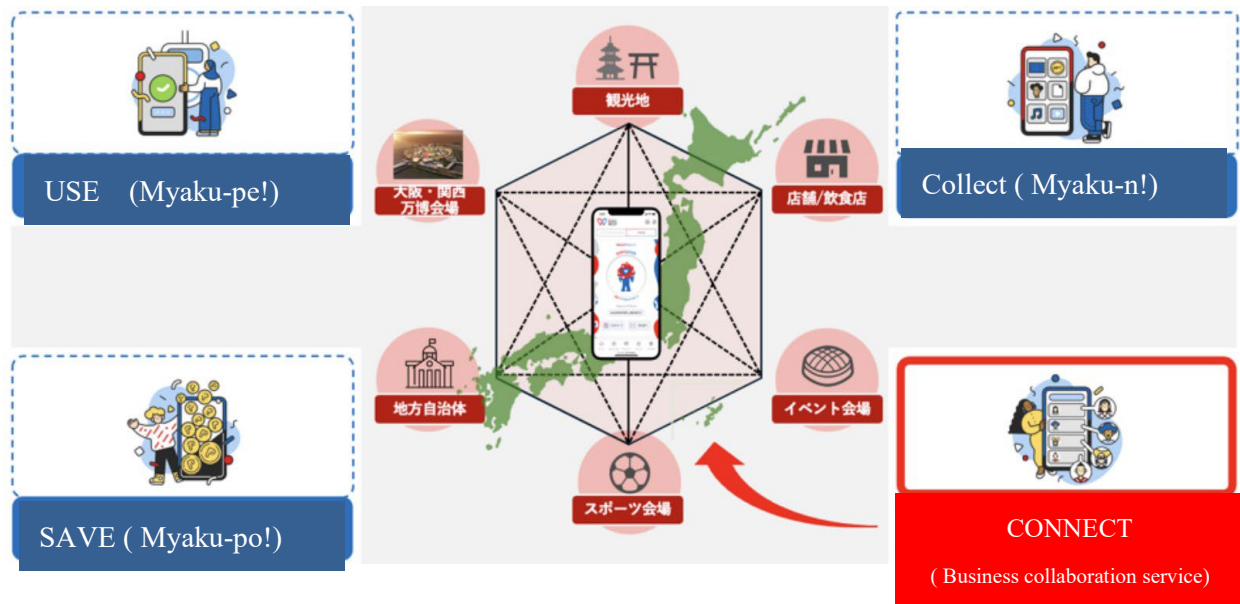
- October 3; The Association held the 4th General Meeting of the Momentum Building Committee. New digital signage and TV commercials videos to be rolled out from early October were introduced to the public.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241003-01/>



- October 2; The Association has announced that it will be developing new tourism services that utilise NFTs based on blockchain technology in collaboration with local governments and the EXPO 2025 Digital Wallet. It will be developing special NFT stamp rallies and other events that make use of the unique characteristics of local governments and tourist spots.



<Initiatives by local governments>

- The Expo is an encounter between the world and Shiga Prefecture
~ Shiga Prefecture × Expo NFT Stamp Rally
- The second NFT stamp rally around Nara Prefecture connected to the Expo in Nara Prefecture
- Hyogo EXPO Digital Stamp Rally
- Wakayama Pre-Expo, Osaka-Kansai Expo 100 days before the event

- Promotion of museums and art galleries using NFT

* Osaka City Museum Organisation

- Go around Osaka Hokusetsu! Hokusetsu Excursion Digital Stamp Rally

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20241002-01/>



- October 2 -15; The Association has decorated the Expo staff uniforms with the iconic Nana-chan manekin in front of the Meitetsu Department Store in Nagoya. At the commemorative event held on 2 October, Ms Mariko Hattori, the designer of the uniforms, took stage to promote the Expo with Myaku-Myaku.

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241003-03/>



- October 3; As part of the Cabinet Secretariat's EXPO School Caravan project, Ms Naomi Kawase, one of the eight Signature Pavilion producers, gave a class at Omiya Elementary School in Nago City, Okinawa Prefecture. The children learned about the importance of dialogue through a two-way conversation with producer Kawase,.



- October 4; The Association has announced that it will hold bicycle races sponsored by the Expo at Kawasaki Keirin Stadium and Beppu Keirin Stadium from October 11 to 14. A portion of the proceeds will be used for Expo projects.

- The 10th Osaka-Kansai Expo Sponsored Bicycle Race GIII.

Venue: Kawasaki Velodrome
(Kawasaki City, Kanagawa Prefecture)

<https://www.kawasakikeirin.com/>



- Osaka-Kansai Expo Sponsorship Beppu Bicycle Race GIII. Night Skiing

Venue: Beppu Velodrome
(Beppu City, Oita Prefecture)

<https://beppu-keirin.net/>



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241004-08/>



- October 2; The 5th meeting of the Expo 2025 Budget Execution Monitoring Committee was held at the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI). The Association and METI briefed committee members on the following:

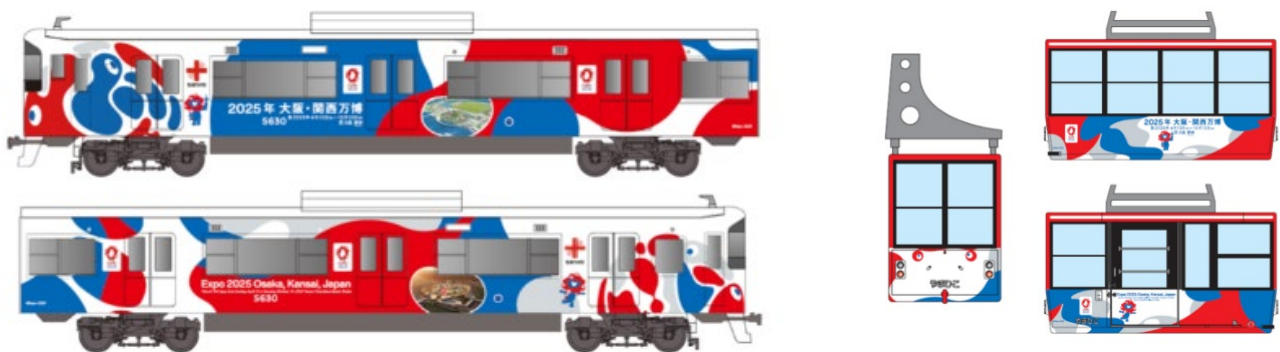
- use of unused Type X funds for venue construction and dealing with methane gas
- measures to promote ticket sales to secure operating costs
- management tables for the execution status of construction and operating costs

3. Upcoming events

- October 13; An event commemorating half a year before the opening of the Expo will be held in Tokyo. It will be streamed live on the official YouTube channel.



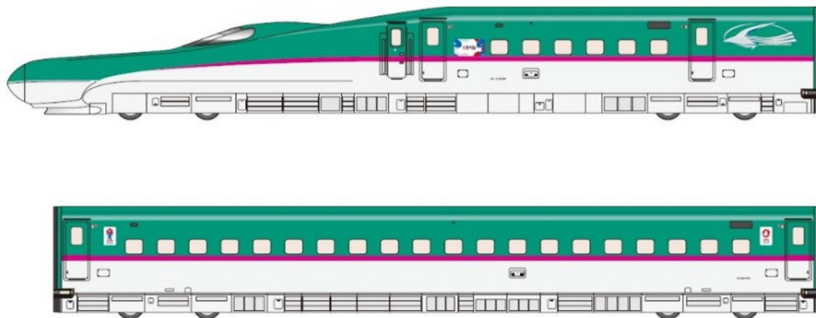
- October 7; Up until the end of the Expo, some of the Sanyo Railway carriages will be wrapped in Expo themes. The trains will run from Osaka westwards through Kobe towards Himeji, known for the eponymous Himeji Castle. From October 9 until the end of the Expo, Expo wrapping will also be applied to the gondolas of the associated Sumaura Ropeway.



- October 16 -31; Expo special wrapping will be held on the JR Yamanote Line.



- October 16 to early October 2025; Special wrapping of the Tohoku and Hokkaido Shinkansen is planned.



- October 12 -14; The event, Amemura EXPO - Osaka-Kansai Expo 6 months to go! is Scheduled at Shinsaibashi Big Step (Osaka)
- October 12 -13; The event, It's more than I could have imagined! 6 months to go ! Special Drone Show is schedule at ATC Umiere Square (Osaka)
- October 13; Osaka-Kansai Expo Half a Year Before the Opening of the Event in Dotonbori is Scheduled at Tonbori River Park Ebisubashi west side (Osaka)

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20241004-10/>



- October 24; Expo Classroom in University vol.2 is scheduled at Kinki University Osaka Campus (Osaka)

4. Ticket sales

Number of tickets sales: 6,051,278 as of October 2, 2024

5. O&As

There have been reports that construction of the Integrated Resort (IR) will begin on the land adjacent to the Expo site in Yumeshima, but wasn't the start of construction postponed?

- i. Regarding the IR construction work during the Expo, by postponing the piling work by about two months, the peak of the construction work has been shifted to after the closing of the Expo, and the amount of construction work during the Expo period will be greatly reduced. A liaison and coordination meeting has been newly established by the relevant parties, and it is planned to be implemented so that there will be no adverse impact on the Expo.
- ii. In addition, the JIR operators are currently coordinating to start the preparation work such as the installation of temporary fencing and construction offices. This preparatory work is already included in the IR Zone Development Plan.