

WORLD EXPO 2025 NEWS 「KIZUNA –絆– News letter」

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

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France has participated in World Expos ever since their inception. Just like the Olympic and Paralympic Games Japan and France hosted in 2021 and 2024, respectively, the World Expo is a unique opportunity that gathers people from around the globe under a common value. We are deeply attached to this event that gives us hope even in times of difficulty. France is committed to participating in the Osaka-Kansai Expo. The theme of the France Pavilion, which will welcome visitors just inside the east gate to the wonderful Ring surrounding the venue, is “Love” — loving yourself through health and growth, loving others through inclusion and good eating, and loving nature and protecting the environment. It also embodies our love for Japan.

I hope we can cherish this hymn to love with as many Japanese people as possible!

Philippe Setton, Ambassadeur de France au Japon

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

1. Movements of Participating Countries

November 26: Turkey unveils a concept image of its Expo pavilion for the first time

November 27: Singapore completes exterior construction work on its Expo pavilion

November 28: European Union unveils its official pavilion mascot “Europa”

November 28: Italy unveils its Expo pavilion

November 29: Thailand holds an unveiling event for its official pavilion mascot “BHUMI-JAI”

November 29: Ukraine’s participation and Greece’s withdrawal of participation announced on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan website

2. This week /last week’s main events

November 13: Osaka Prefecture enacts an ordinance for the regulation of drones, etc.

November 19: Mr. TSUYUKI, Commissioner General of the National Police Agency, visits the Expo site on an inspection tour

November 22: Mr. ITO, Minister for the World Expo 2025, delivers a speech at the general meeting of the Club Franco-Japonais in Tokyo

November 27: Cabinet Secretariat hosts a symposium in Gifu City, in which Mr. ITO, Minister for the World Expo 2025; Mr. MUTO, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry; Mr. FURUTA, Governor of Gifu Prefecture; and Mr. MURASE, Chairman of the Gifu Prefecture Federation of Chambers of Commerce, each deliver a greeting speech

November 27: Kansai business community’s delegation to China hosts an Expo promotion event in Beijing

November 28: Mr. FUKUOKA, Theme Producer, delivers a visiting lecture in the Cabinet Secretariat’s EXPO School Caravan project

November 29: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition announces the Medical Rescue Measures Implementation Plan

November 29: Cabinet Secretariat certifies five additional projects in the Expo International Exchange Program

December 1: Mainichi Broadcasting System announces it will hold 10000 Freude EXPO 2025 on April 13, 2025

December 7: EXPO PLAYPARK at Aeon Mall Kochi (December 7–8)

December 18 and 20: 2nd explanatory session on utilizing the Expo in school trips etc.



Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Weekly Report (November 26 - November 25)

~ 131 days to go!~



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1. Official Participants

- On November 26; Turkey has unveiled the image of its pavilion for the first time at an event hosted by its sponsor, Turkish Airlines. The design is inspired by the Turkish flag. The theme will be the Heyday of Civilizations. The exhibition is expected to showcase innovative solutions to the challenges faced by humanity.



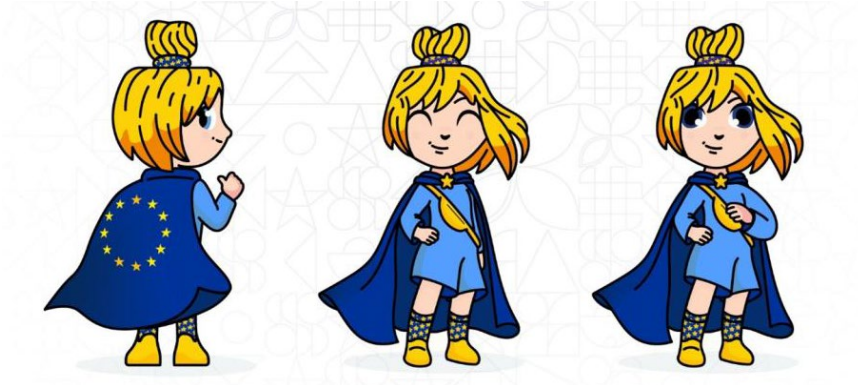
- November 27; Singapore announced the completion of the exterior construction of its pavilion. A distinctive feature is the red sphere installed at the front of the pavilion. The sphere is covered with approximately 17,000 red discs made from recycled aluminum.



<https://prtimes.jp/main/html/rd/p/000000001.000153582.html>



- November 28; The European Union announced its official pavilion mascot, Europa. This character embodies the spirit, values and vision for the future that the European Union emphasises such as solidarity, freedom, creativity and sustainability. It is named after the princess from Greek mythology, who is the origin of the term Europe. The contents and updates of EU pavilion are also on their official website.



https://eu-at-world-expos.europa.eu/news/introducing-europa-official-mascot-eu-expo-2025-osaka-2024-11-28_en

The URLs of the EU pavilion are as follows:

- https://eu-at-world-expos.europa.eu/index_en
- <https://www.instagram.com/euatexpo/>
- Hashtag: #EUatExpo



- November 28; Italy unveiled its pavilion in conjunction with a visit to the construction site by Governor Massimiliano Fedriga of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region. The Italian pavilion will be a wooden structure that modernly reinterprets the "ideal city of the Renaissance." Inside, a theater embodying Italy's rich creativity is planned to be installed.



https://www.instagram.com/p/DC6e5TYIR3Q/?img_index=6&igsh=bm1lNHl1YzkyaGJ4



- November 29; Thailand held an unveiling event for its official pavilion mascot, Bhumi-Jai. The four ears and five eyes represents the health and wellness focus of Thailand's pavilion, embodying compassion, happiness and wisdom. An overview of the Thai pavilion was displayed at Osaka Station for two days on November 30 and December 1.



<https://www.instagram.com/p/DC-0AcNvnlf/?igsh=dGVxdGNjdDNzbnVh>



- November 29; Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on its website that Ukraine will be an official participant to the Expo.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ecm/ec/page22_003546.html



Status of the 170 official participants as of November 29

- 161 countries and 9 international organisations:

Those with 144 official participation agreements:

138 countries and 6 international organisations

Individually-allocated pavilions (70): 67 countries and 3 international organisations

Shared pavilions (100) : 94 countries and 6 international organisations

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

- November 19; Yasuhiro Tsuyuki, the Chief of the National Police Agency, inspected the Expo site. The following day, he visited the Osaka Prefectural Police and instructed them to take thorough measures to ensure safety and security.



- November 27; The Cabinet Secretariat held a symposium on Expo 2025 in the City of Gifu in central Japan. Expo Minister Yoshihiko Ito and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yoji Muto contributed video messages, while Governor Hajime Furuta of Gifu Prefecture and the head of the local business federation delivered greetings as guests. A talk session featuring Expo special supporter Ai Haruna and an introduction to initiatives by Gifu Prefecture related to the Expo were also featured.



- November 22; Expo Minister Yoshihiko Ito participated in the Power of Sports and Culture session at the general meeting of the Club Franco-Japonaise held in Tokyo. He expressed his desire to deepen international exchanges through the Expo including with France. Signature Pavilion producer and film director Naomi Kawase also took the stage to introduce her pavilion.



- November 27; A delegation from the Kansai business community held a promotional event for the Expo in Beijing. After greetings from Vice Chairman Mototsugu Sato of the Kansai Economic Federation and Vice Chairman Li Qingshuang of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, representatives from the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) and the Association took the stage to outline the highlights of the Expo. There were also opportunities for commemorative photos with Myaku-Myaku and a lottery for Expo-related goods.



- November 29; The Association made public its Medical Emergency Response Implementation Plan. This plan builds upon the eponymous Basic Plan released in August 2023 and includes further details on medical facilities and response measures to injury and illness of visitors and staffs.

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241129-02/>



- December 1; Mainichi Broadcasting System announced that it will hold the annual Beethoven choral event Symphony No.9 by Ten Thousand on the morning of the opening day of the Expo, April 13, 2025. Expo Ambassador and globally renowned conductor Yutaka Sado will lead the event, which will link the Grand Ring and the Water Plaza. NTT Group's cutting-edge communication technology will be used to achieve low-latency remote choral singing.

Date and Time: April 13, 2025 (Sunday) from 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM

Performance: Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125, "Choral," 4th Movement

Official Website: <https://www.mbs.jp/daiku-expo/>



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https://www.mbs.jp/kouhou/news/log/20241201_6242.shtml



- November 29; The Cabinet Secretariat added five new certifications to the Expo International Exchange Program, which promotes exchanges between local governments in Japan and official participants. The newly registered local governments and their partner countries are as follows:

- Town of Rifu, Miyagi Prefecture - Ghana
- Shibuya Ward, Tokyo - Turkey
- City of Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture - Kenya
- City of Nishinomiya, Hyogo Prefecture - Solomon Islands
- City of Kashihara, Nara Prefecture - Burkina Faso

https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/expo_suisin_honbu/topics/pdf/09_touroku.pdf



- November 28; As part of the Cabinet Secretariat's Expo School Caravan project, Signature Pavilion producer Professor Shinichi Fukuoka held a lecture at the Ebara Fifth Junior High School in Shinagawa Ward, Tokyo.. The class provided materials that encouraged students to reconsider the meaning of life from the perspective of insects, using cockroaches and mosquitoes as subjects.



- November 13; Osaka Prefecture established an ordinance to regulate the use of drones and other devices in certain periods and areas deemed necessary for security to ensure the smooth preparation and operation of the Expo. The specific target area, shown below, was announced on November 28. The regulations are scheduled to take effect on January 19, 2025.



https://www.pref.osaka.lg.jp/o030010050/drone_jyorei2.html



3. Upcoming events

- December 7 to 8; More Than You Can Imagine! Experience It! EXPO PLAYPARK at Aeon Mall Kochi, Kochi Prefecture.

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241129-01/>



- December 18 and 20; Information sessions titled Utilisation of Expo 2025 in School Trips.
First Session; December 18, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Second Session; December 20, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241128-02/>



Schedule of the EXPO School Caravan

Date	Name of school / Organiser
December 3	Kakuda City Yokokura Elementary School (Akita) / Kura Sushi
December 4	Maibara City Kashiwabara Elementary School (Shiga) / IHI
	Ikoma City Tawarakuchi Elementary School (Nara) / Aoki Asunaro Construction
	Chiba Prefecture Tateyama Comprehensive High School (Chiba) / MOL
December 5	Oita Prefecture Nakatsu Support School (Oita) / Mitsubishi Research Institute
	Saitama Prefecture Todashoyo High School (Saitama) /Kajima Corporation
	Ehime Prefecture Imabari Kita High School (Ehime) / Kinden Corporation
	Kamiyama Town Kamiyama Junior High School (Tokushima) / Producer Prof Shincihi Fukuoka
December 6	Echizen Town Ito Elementary School (Fukui) / Maeda Road Construction
	Nara Women's High School (Nara)/ Producer Sachiko Nakajima
	Showa Gakuen (Tokyo) / Produce Prof Hiroshi Ishiguro
December 9	Sakata City Fourth Junior High School (Yamagata) / KDDI, Hitachi
	Ehime Prefecture Kitauwa High School (Ehime) /Kubota
	Hachioji City Takanaka Junior High School (Tokyo) / Olympus

4. Ticket sales

Number of tickets sold; 7,373,023 as of November 27, 2024

For further information on Expo 2025:

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/>



5. Q & As

- 1) In response to the methane gas explosion accident, the Association is in the process of adjusting a plan to allocate 6.2 billion yen from the contingency fund for safety measures and costs associated with changes in the types of overseas pavilions.
 - i. The utilisation of the contingency fund for site construction in response to unforeseen events including methane gas safety measures and changes in security measures was approved by the Board of Directors of the Association. This has also been discussed in the government's Expo 2025 Budget Execution Monitoring Committee. The latest estimates indicate that the costs associated with these measures are expected to be approximately 8.7 billion yen.
 - ii. Due to the recent stabilisation of price increases of construction materials as well as efforts by the Association on efficient cost management, approximately 2.5 billion yen in costs have been reduced. As a result, the current estimate for the execution of the contingency fund is about 6.2 billion yen.
 - iii. Furthermore, there is no change in the total venue construction cost of 235 billion yen, and the response will be managed within the scope of the 13 billion yen contingency fund.

https://www.pref.osaka.lg.jp/o030010050/bampaku_suishin/2025bampaku_suishin/banpakuhonbu12.html



- 2) Is there any increase in the Expo-related items in the supplementary government budget?
 - i. The costs for venue construction, the construction of the Japan Pavilion and support for the participation of developing countries have not changed from the total estimated national costs related to the Expo presented in February of this year.
 - ii. On the other hand, costs for nationwide momentum-building activities and ensuring thorough safety within the venue have been calculated and included as necessary items.
 - iii. Regarding the costs for nationwide momentum-building activities, it was stated in the February announcement that it would be approximately 4 billion yen plus future costs. As part of these future costs, approximately 2.9 billion yen has been included in this supplementary budget.

- iv. For the costs to ensure thorough safety within the venue, given the continued high demand for safety measures, approximately 24.9 billion yen has been allocated to ensure comprehensive safety measures.