

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

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

Issued January 8, 2025, Vol.36



Happy New Year. I would like to extend my greetings to all on the occasion of celebrating 2025. We have less than 100 days to go until the opening of the Osaka-Kansai Expo in April. Preparations for the Expo, including the construction of overseas pavilions, are steadily underway, giving us the sense that the opening is drawing ever closer. In addition to receiving updates from the secretariat, I would like to visit the Expo site again for an inspection tour in the upcoming days, if circumstances permit.

The Expo will serve as a golden opportunity for Japan to deepen exchange with the world and share its appeal with the global community. As I concurrently serve as Minister of State for Regional Revitalization, I believe the Expo will also serve as an opportunity for visitors from around the world to discover Japan's many regional charms, leading to the revitalization of our country as a whole.

Cooperation from all stakeholders is essential for making the Expo a success. I sincerely ask for your continued support as we approach the event's opening.

ITO Yoshitaka
Minister for the World Expo 2025

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

1. Movements of Participating Countries
 - December 26: Construction of the Philippine Pavilion completed
 - End of December: United States launched its official pavilion website
2. This week /last week's main events
 - December 24: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition unveiled the perovskite solar cells installed in the Expo site bus terminal
 - December 24: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition announced the details of “Under the Midnight Rainbow”
 - December 27: Issue 7 of the Japan Pavilion's online magazine *Monthly JP Pavilion* released
 - December 27: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition announced the holding of Brass Expo 2025
 - December 27: Tottori Prefecture and West Japan Railway Company's San-in Branch established a booth within JR Tottori Station for promoting Tottori Prefecture's Expo-related projects
 - December 31: EXPO2025 Digital Wallet service commenced reward redemption with MYAKU-PO! Points
 - January 1: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition released the latest footage from the Expo venue
 - January 3: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition announced the MYAKU-MYAKU Declaration
 - January 3: Yumeshima Fun Run held to commemorate 100 days to go until the opening
3. Ticket Sales Update
 - Tickets sold: 7,462,671 (as of December 25, 2024)



Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Weekly Report (December 24 - January 6)

~ 96 days to go!~



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1. Official Participants

- December 26; Building work for the Philippines Pavilion has been completed. The exterior is to be decorated with textiles by over 200 artisans from 18 regions of the Philippines. The pavilion will express the Philippines' rich traditions, diverse nature and creativity.



<https://phworldexpo.tpb.gov.ph/>



- The United States officially launched its pavilion's website. The site provides an overview of the pavilion and the official character Spark, as well as details on participating in its programmes, meeting space reservations and job information.

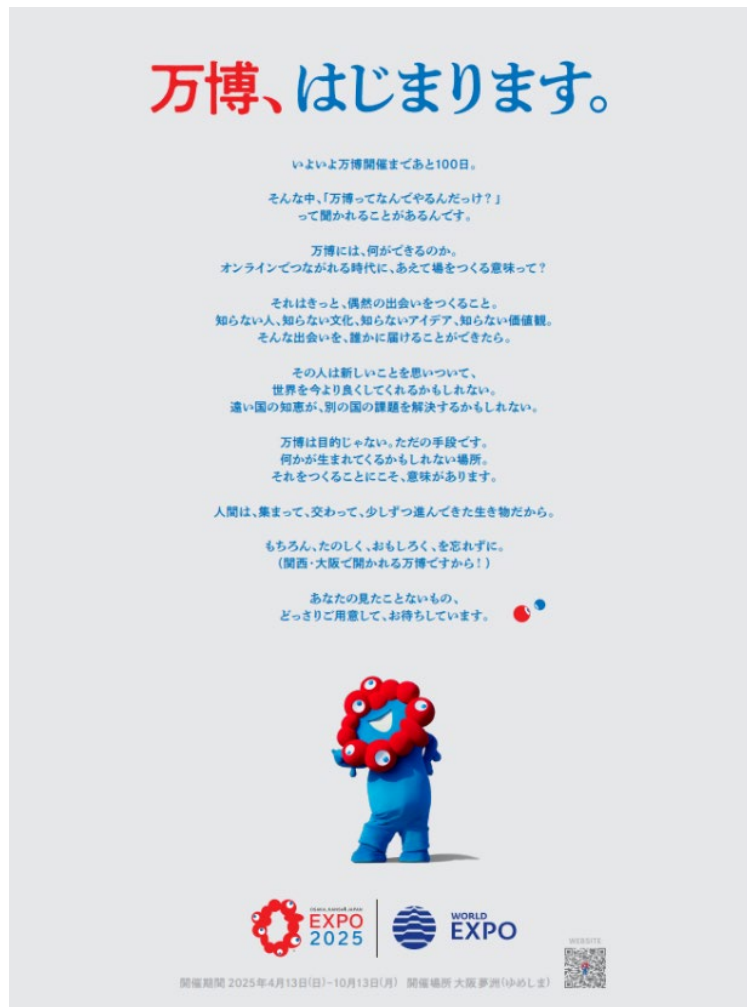


<https://usapavilion.us/>



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

- January 3; The Association released the Myaku-Myaku Statement to mark 100 days before the opening of the Expo. The statement was released in response to the question of why an Expo should be held in an era when people can connect online, conveying the significance of chance encounters.



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

- December 24; The Association, with support from Sekisui Chemical, released to the press perovskite solar cells to be installed at the bus terminal at the Expo site. The 257 film-shaped solar cells, which cover a rounded roof for a distance of about 250 metres, will provide power source for night-time lighting. This is the first time in Japan that such a large number of solar cells have been installed in a public facility.



- December 24; The Association has announced details of the Ao and the Night Rainbow Parade, to be held every day during the Expo. The details include the character design, voice actors and theme song. The event, which will be held by the Water Plaza, will include a water show linked to the parade and content making use of augmented reality (AR) technology.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241224-02/>

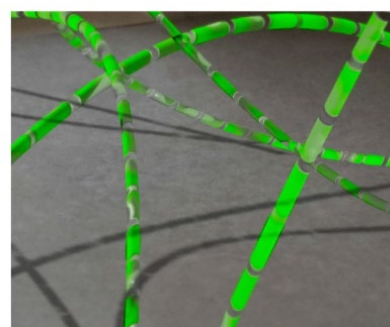


- December 27; The official web magazine of the Japan Pavilion, Gekkan Nihonkan (Monthly Japan Pavilion) No. 7 has been published. The edition features an article introducing the appeal and potential of algae, one of the materials on display at the Japan Pavilion.



01/02

おいしいワカメを守るため、味噌汁からはじまる藻類ストーリー



02/02

ワカメや昆布の仲間を活用した「藻類バイオマスエネルギー」ってなんだ？

<https://2025-japan-pavilion.go.jp/>



- December 27; The Association announced that it will hold Brass Expo 2025. On May 11, 2025, 12,000 students will participate in a variety of programs such as brass band and cheerleading on a special stage, breaking the Guinness World Record.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/20241227-04/>

<https://www.brassexpo2025.com/>

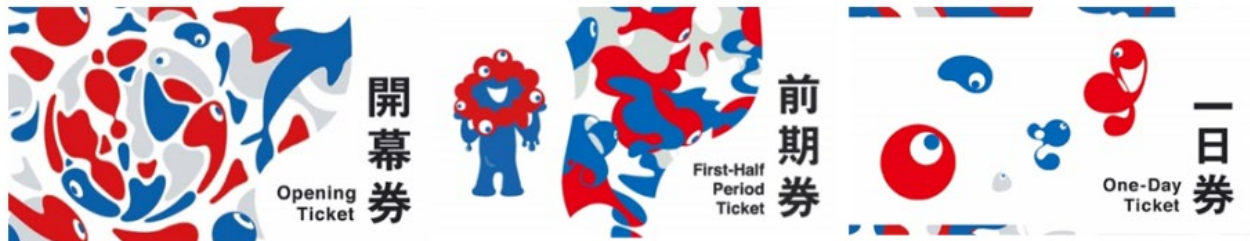


- December 27; Tottori Prefecture and JR West Japan Sanin Branch set up a promotional corner for Tottori Prefecture's expo-related initiatives at JR Tottori Station.



https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=998013295687431&id=100064363103020&_rdr

- December 31; The Association has started to exchange prizes for the point system of the EXPO 2025 digital wallet, Myakupo!. It is possible to exchange Myakupo! points accumulated at KITTE Osaka in City of Osaka for admission tickets (3 types). In addition, from January 2025, it is also planned to start exchanging Myakupo! points for original prizes (6 types).



店舗でミャクポ!と交換できる「入場チケット」のイメージ

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241227-09/>



- January 1; The Association released the latest video of venue. The main footage is taken by drone. It shows the progress of the construction of the venue.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3by4XcYfy9I>



- January 3; To commemorate 100 days before the opening of the Expo, the Yumeshima Fun Run was held to celebrate the Expo. Around 4,000 runners ran through the area around the venue, helping to build up excitement for the opening of the Expo.



3.Upcoming events

<Schedule of the EXPO School Caravan>

Time & Date	Name of school	Organisers
January 9, 2025 13:00-14:30	Gunma Prefectural Numata Special Needs School (Gunma)	Mitsubishi Research Institute DCS Corporation
January 10, 2025 13:30-15:05	Ishigaki Elementary School (Okinawa)	Canadevia Corporation
January 10, 2025 13:45-15:35	Nagayo Takada Junior High School (Nagasaki)	CP Concrete Consortium Representative Company Hazama Ando
January 10, 2025 14:30-15:20	Hiratsuka City Nakahara Junior High School (Kanagawa)	Sumitomo EXPO2025 Promotion Committee
January 10, 2025 13:30-15:00	Maehama Junior High School (Niigata)	Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Corporation

For further information on Expo 2025:

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



4. Ticket sales

Number of tickets sold: 7,462,671 as of December 25, 2024

5. Q&As

1) Attendance of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan at the Opening Ceremony

According to some media reports, arrangements are underway for Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress to attend the opening ceremony of the Expo in April together with Prince and Mrs. Akishino.

- i. We are aware of the news, but there are no comments to make.

2) Countries that have announced their participation

There are countries that have announced that they will not be participating, but what is the actual situation regarding the number of countries that have announced their participation in the current Expo?

- i. As of 6 January, 167 official participants (158 countries and 9 international organisations) have announced their participation in the Expo. On December 27, the list of participating countries on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website was updated to reflect Cape Verde's participation announcement and withdrawals by Botswana, El Salvador, Iran and South Africa.

Type of Exhibit	The Expo 2025 (As of January 6)	The Expo 2005 AICHI (reference)
Individual pavilions	64 countries 3 international organisations	58 countries 4 international organisations
Shared pavilions	94 countries 6 international organisations	62 countries
TOTAL	158 countries 9 international organisations	120 countries 4 international organisations