

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

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

Issued March 5, 2025, Vol.44

39 days to go until the opening of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan...



We are looking forward to the opening of the Expo in April 2025. Based on the theme of “nurturing tomorrow,” the European Union (EU) will contribute to the Expo’s success through a thought-provoking interactive pavilion, as well as diverse events and interesting activities. Inspired by the three guiding values of the New European Bauhaus (sustainability, aesthetics, inclusion), the EU Pavilion will showcase how the EU is helping make the world a more sustainable, connected, inclusive, and secure place for present generations and posterity alike. We look forward to welcoming a wide range of visitors to the EU pavilion during the Expo period.

Jean-Eric Paquet, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Japan and Commissioner-General for the EU at Expo 2025 Osaka

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3. Promotion Activities
- February 17-25: Diplomatic missions promoted the Osaka Kansai Expo at the Emperor's Birthday Celebration Reception and other events
- February 25: Prime Minister ISHIBA, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry MUTO, and Minister for the World Expo 2025 ITO had a meeting with President MURAI (Governor of Miyagi Prefecture), Deputy Chief YOSHIMURA (Governor of Osaka Prefecture, attended online), and Tottori Prefecture Governor HIRAI from the National Governors’ Association
4. Upcoming Events
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5. This Week’s 60-Second Commentary



EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Weekly Report (February 25 – March 4)

~ 40 days to go! ~



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1. Special Feature: Highlights of the Expo:

The Grand Ring was completed!!

This week's
topics

On February 28, the Grand Ring, the symbol of the Expo site and the world's largest wooden building, was completed and handed it over to the Association.

- The Grand Ring combines modern construction methods with non-nail *nuki* joints that have traditionally been used for shrines and temples in Japan.
- It will provide the main flow of pedestrian traffic in the venue while shielding visitors from rain, wind and sunlight.
- The rooftop will be a place for visitors to take in the view of the entire Expo venue, surrounded by the sea and sky, as well as cityscape of Osaka and the Seto Inland Sea bathed in the setting sun.
- On Tuesday, March 4, the Guinness World Records recognised the Grand Ring as the world's largest wooden building. A plaque commemorating the record will be installed at the venue.

< Overview of the Grand Ring >

- Building area (horizontal projection area):
61,035.55 square metres
- Inner diameter: 615m
- Outer diameter: 675m
- Total circumference: Approximately 2km,
Width: 30m, Height: 12m to 20m
- Approximately 70% domestic wood (cedar, cypress), 30% imported wood (red pine)



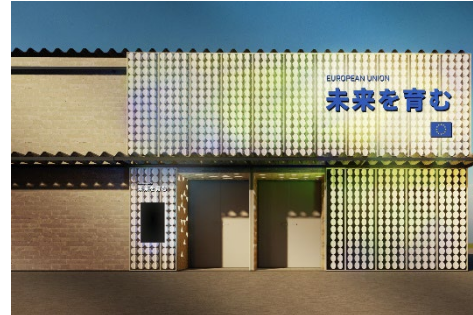
<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20250228-04/>
<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20250304-02/>



2.Introduction of pavilion exhibits

An introduction of official pavilions selected by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry at its own discretion.

1) EU



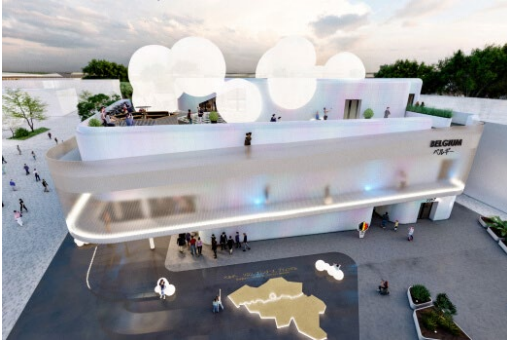
- The design of the pavilion is inspired by the three concepts of the New European Bauhaus: sustainability, beauty and inclusion. The interior will feature immersive installations and activities including sessions by prominent speakers. Visitors will be able to learn about the EU and Japan's progress towards the common goal of nurturing the future.
- The National Day is May 9.

2) Chile



- In the centre of the pavilion will be an installation of CLT construction, a material made of wood planks stacked vertically and glued together under high pressure, and a large Makūn tapestry woven by 200 artisans from the La Araucanía region. In addition to Chilean food, visitors can taste Chilean wine and pisco in the pavilion.
- On National Day, May 12, music and dance will be performed in the EXPO National Day Hall Rey Garden.

3) Belgium



- The pavilion embodies the three states of water: solid, gaseous and liquid. There will be a stage in front of the pavilion where performances take place. The museum will offer a tour of several exhibition rooms, a translucent façade and a spiral walkway leading up to the roof, where a bar and restaurant overlooking the Forest of Tranquillity can be reached.
- The National Day is September 14 and will feature concerts, shows and performances on several pop-up stages.

4) Bahrain



- The pavilion is inspired by traditional Bahraini vessels. Embodies the country's maritime traditions that have served as a gateway to the Gulf region. The pavilion, constricted with recycled materials and Japanese wood processing, will showcase the maritime heritage that has shaped Bahrain's identity through the ages.
- The National Day is 18 September. Live music will be held at the EXPO National Day Hall Rey Garden.

3. Event Information (May 25 -May 31)

The following are some of major events taking place in the week of May 25 -May 31, with a focus on events for which the two-month advance reservation lottery has started this week (noted with an *).

■ Sosei Kagura Stage "THE SAIVIOUR-The Age of Total Savior-"

- Date: May 26
- Venue: EXPO Hall Shine Hat
- The stage is based on a mythical story of the creation of the universe, with the theme of the bond of life, survival of the earth and the future of humanity. Graphics, animation and stage sets will be used for the direction of a *sosei kagura*, the modern, creative iteration of the ancient *kagura* stage.



■ Beyond 5G ready Showcase

- Date: May 26 - June 3
- Venue: EXPO Messe WASSE
- A large-scale exhibition will be held where visitors can experience the cities and lifestyles of the future realised by Beyond 5G (6G), the next generation of wireless communication technology after 5G, using the latest technology.

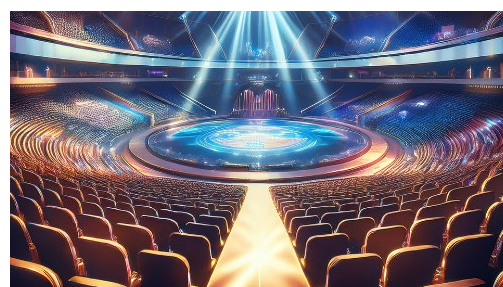


■ Feast! The World of Japan Beauty Performed by Takumi powered by MUFG Craft Project

- Date: May 27 – June 1
- Venue: Gallery EAST, Pop-up Stage South
- Young artisans, craftsmen, and creators who have inherited traditional crafts from all over Japan will gather to exhibit and market works of craftsmanships.

■ Metaverse (XR)/AI Awards

- Date: May 28
- Venue: EXPO Hall Shine Hat
- Commendation for initiatives such as metaverse, AI, and XR that solve social issues.



■ Yomiuri TV "Music Special Program in EXPO"

- Date: May 31
- Venue: EXPO Hall Shine Hat
- Special live music and talk shows from the Expo packed with the contemporary Japanese show business.

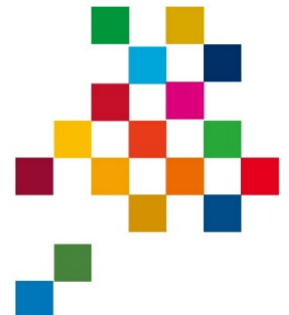
■ Illuminating the future from the island of the birth of nation

- Date: May 25
- Venue: Pop-up Stage South
- The island of Awaji, to the west of the Expo venue in the Seto Inland Sea, is known as the first island amongst the Japanese archipelago to be created by the deities.
- *Ningyo Joruri*, a doll opera, *Awaji Kokusai Sousei Kagura*, a creative dance performed by children, *Danjiri Uta* by *Goshikinohime*, a festive song, and *Takataya Taiko*, a drum performance, will together narrate the story of Awaji Island.



■ Hyogo Field Pavilion Festival (tentative)

- Date: May 26-30
- Venue: Gallery WEST, Pop-up Stage West
- Hyogo Field Pavilion stakeholders will gather to exhibit booths and stage events to disseminate the appeal of each Hyogo region and initiatives that embody the SDGs.



■ Nara Weaving the Future

- Date: May 27-29
- Venue: EXPO Arena Matsuri
- Combining the culture and traditional arts handed down in Nara, the ancient capital of Japan before Hyogo, Nara's attractions will be presented to the world in a new way. Exhibitions and hands-on booths are set up to enable visitors to experience the attractions of Nara's food, culture and industry through all five senses.



■ Regional Revitalization SDGs Festival ~ Discover the whole country Japan together with the friends of Momotaro Dentetsu!~

- Date: May 28- June 1
- Venue: EXPO Messe WASSE
- Attractive booths where visitors will be able to experience the unique characteristics of each region and all over Japan, collaborating with the nationally popular game Momotaro Dentetsu (Railway), discovering new destinations places in Japan you're your gaming friends. Have fun, play and learn, and experience the local SDG initiatives of each region.



■ Sakai Blues Festival in Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025

- Date: May 31
- Venue: Pop-up Stage, East Outside
- One of the largest blues festivals in Japan, held in Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture. Nearly 200 professional and amateur bands will perform. In recent years, musicians from all over Japan as well as from abroad have performed at this free live concert.



■ Riding on the Wind of the Andes in South America: Andean Traditional Music Concert-

- Date: May 28
- Venue: Pop-up Stage East Outside
- Traditional music from the Andes region of South America, famous for such songs as El Condor Pasa, will be performed using instruments such as *quena*, *sampoña* and *charango*. Visitors will also be able to touch the instruments. Let us all feel the wind of the Andes!



Music from Andes

■ [Poland] Concert by Leszek Moziżer

- Date: May 29- June 1
- Venue: Pop-up Stage, East Outside
- The outstanding pianist, composer and producer Leszek Moziżer is coming to Japan to perform three jazz concerts at the venue. One of the most outstanding names on the European jazz stage.

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



4. Promotion Activities

- February 25; At the Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishida, together with Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yoji Muto and Expo Minister Yoshitaka Ito, met with the National Governors' Association. Prime Minister Ishida requested cooperation from the governors in actively fostering momentum. The Governors' Association stated that it would work together with the national government to promote efforts to build momentum for the Expo, encourage visitors and publicise local attractions.



<https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/103/actions/202502/25menkai.html>



- February 17- 25; Diplomatic missions of Japan abroad have been promoting the Expo at the Emperor's Birthday Celebration Reception and other events.



Emperor's Birthday Celebration Reception on February 17.



The Consulate-General of Japan in Busan on February 20.



Embassy of Japan in Sweden on February 20.



Embassy of Japan in Colombia on February 20.



Consulate General of Japan in Hong Kong on February 20.



Embassy of Japan in Azerbaijan on February 21.



Embassy of Japan in Qatar on February 24



At the Embassy of Japan in Czech Republic on February 24



Embassy of Japan in China on February 25

5. Upcoming Events

- Schedule of the EXPO School Caravan

Time & Date	Name of school / Organisers
March 4, 2025	Yashiro City 7 th Junior High School, Kumamoto / NTT
	Koshiro Junior High School, Saga Prefecture / Coca-Cola
March 5, 2025	Kishimoto Junior High School, Tottori / Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine
	Kaisei Junior High School, Shimane / Coca-Cola
	Kyoto Kyoei Gakuen High School, Kyoto / CPCC
March 6, 2025	Ichiminato Elementary School, Kagoshima / Kanadevia
	Hyogo Prefectural Ikawadani High School, Hyogo / Kobe Steel
March 7, 2025	Itabashi Ward Tianjin Wakashio School, Chiba / Asahi GJ
	Mihara Junior High School, Tokyo / Sysmex
	Sakata City Toriumi Hachiman Junior High School, Yamagata / Kansai Electric Power Transmission and Distribution
	Kashiwa City Fusei Junior High School, Chiba / MOL Lines
	Soyou Elementary School, Kumamoto / Mr Hikichi
	Ryoso Mirai Gakuen, Hyogo / Kawasaki Heavy Industries
March 10, 2025	Miyawaka Higashi Junior High School, Fukuoka / KDDI & Hitachi

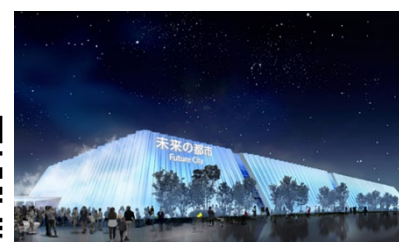
* Excerpts only from schools that agreed disclosure.

6. This Week's 60-Second Commentary

- February 25; **Don't forget the "City of the Future Pavilion" ~ How far will smart cities evolve? ~**

- The largest communal pavilion in the venue
- A place to experience the future Society 5.0.
- Exhibition of Japan companies' takes on the concept of the Future Society

<https://journal.meti.go.jp/p/37733/>



- February 26 ; **The amazing overseas pavilions (5)**

- Australia – feel the koaka in the eucalyptus forest
- UAE’s vision of sustainability amongst palm trees
- Monaco's fantasy gardens decorated with roses.

<https://journal.meti.go.jp/p/37795/>



- February 27; **This architectural design is amazing ~ Don't miss the future architecture that aims for the leap forward of young designers ~**

Young architects have made great strides at the Expo

- Architecture that embodies the ecosystem of the past and incorporates life
- Enjoy the architectural philosophy that design talks about.

<https://journal.meti.go.jp/p/37818/>

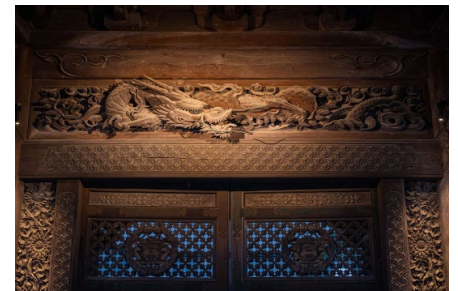


- February 28; **Introducing the local companies that support the Expo!**

~From the Hokuriku Bureau: 250 years of craftsmanship to the world~

- Sculptor dispatched to rebuild Zuisenji Templee
- A gathering of young local business owners "Jisou Lab"
- Bringing Japan's traditional technology to the world through the Expo

<https://journal.meti.go.jp/p/37802/>



- March 3; **An explosion of art in the expo arena**

- Vatican’s cherished Caravaggio; Mucha-inspired murals in the Czech Paviion, and "Mononoke Tapestry" by France.
- The globe at night, as expresse the Wajima lacquer artists.

<https://journal.meti.go.jp/p/37896/>



For further information on EXPO 2025:

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



For back issues of the < Weekly Report>

<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/exhibition/shuho.html>



7. Q&A's

1) **Timber used in the Grand Ring**

Unreliable sources in non-traditional media have reported that “most of the timber in the Grand Ring comes from Finland”. The facts are entirely wrong..

- i. The total volume of timber used in the Grand Ring is approximately 27,000 cubic metres, of which m3, of which domestic timber (cedar and cypress) accounts for approximately 70% and imported timber (red pine) for approximately 30%.
- ii. The imported timber is used for some of the pillars of the Grand Ring.