

WORLD EXPO 2025 「KIZUNA –絆– News letter」

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MYAKU-MYAKU with SAITO Ken, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry and JIMI Hanako, Minister for the World Expo 20250

Since my appointment as minister last September, I've talked with all the producers of the Signature Pavilions that represent Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai so as to be able to explain just how fascinating the Expo will be in my own words.

Even though the producers have very different backgrounds—from biologists and robotics engineers to filmmakers and animation directors—each of their takes on “life” strongly resonated with me.

All the producers have met for discussion in 24 meetings. I'm really looking forward to collaborations with other pavilions and events, too.

My sincere gratitude to everyone working on the ground.

From JIMI Hanako



Talk session with eight producers



MYAKU-MYAKU THE MIZUNO
ENERZY OSAKA EXPO 2025

【The week's report】

- Overseas Pavilions
 - April 17: USA Pavilion groundbreaking ceremony
 - April 16: Australia Pavilion groundbreaking ceremony
 - April 15: Announcement of Italian Pavilion's exhibition content
 - April 18: Announcement of Monaco Pavilion's exhibition contentOther Pavilions
- Last week's main events / Schedule for this week and beyond
 - April 16: One year to go reception in London
 - April 13: First issue of the online magazine *Monthly JP pavilion*
 - April 22: Unveiling of the volunteer uniform
 - April 17: Osaka Prefecture/Osaka City “Let's Go, Expo!” Festival
 - April 15: Groundbreaking of the Joint Pavilion Iida Group x Osaka Metropolitan Univ.
 - April 18: Let's stay in Nara! Let's go to Expo 2025!
- April 19: Causes of the flammable gas accident, recurrence prevention measures
- April 19: Third public notice regarding toilet facility construction by up-and-coming architects
- Applications / Sales
 - Volunteers recruited: 22,799 (as of April 19)
 - Tickets sold: 1,557,940 (as of April 17)
- Other
 - First ever video featuring MYAKU-MYAKU's voice



Hello!

Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai **Weekly Report** (16 April – 22 April)
 ~ 355 days to go! ~



1. International Participants

□ 4/17 The United States held a groundbreaking ceremony for the pavilion in Yumeshima, Osaka. Ambassador Rahm Emanuel and Governor of Osaka Yoshifumi Yoshimura attended. The official reception was also attended by Minister Hanako Jimi. The theme of the US Pavilion will be “Imagine What We Can Create Together.” Space-related exhibitions in partnership with NASA and immersive exhibitis using special effects from Hollywood are being considered.



Top left: Groundbreaking ceremony

(<https://jp.usembassy.gov/ja/us-breaks-ground-for-pavilion-at-expo-2025-osaka-ja>)

Top right: Image of the US Pavilion

(<https://jp.usembassy.gov/ja/ambassador-debuts-usa-pavilion-design-for-expo-2025-osaka-ja>)

Bottom: Reception for the groundbreaking ceremony of the US Pavilion

(https://twitter.com/expo2025_cas/status/1780593759765557403?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet)

- 4/16–18 Austria held a groundbreaking ceremony on 16 April and a pavilion presentation on 18 April. The theme of the pavilion will be “Compose the Future”. A spiral-shaped wooden object with the image of a staves with a height of about 12 meters will be installed in front of the building.



Left: Groundbreaking ceremony

(<https://www.sankei.com/article/20240416-FZTROMDPVLK3GIJRJORMM33UI>)

Right: Image of the Austria Pavilion

(https://www.advantageaustria.org/jp/news/20240416_EXPO_2025_Ground_Breaking_Ceremony_.en.html)

- 4/15, Italy unveiled its pavilion plans at Milan Design Week. Caravaggio’s famous 17th-century painting “The Burial of Christ” will be exhibited by the Holy See. In addition an Italian restaurant on the terrace, there will also be a dedicated area for designer handicrafts. Italy’s official mascot Italia-chan at the Osaka-Kansai Expo was also announced.



Left: Commissioner General Mario Vattani with Italia-chan

(<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/official-participants-index/italy>)

Right: Image of the Italy Pavilion

(<https://kyodonewsprwire.jp/release/202404189667>)

- 4/18, Monaco announced the contents of the pavilion. The exterior is inspired by a garden. The theme will be “Take Care of Wonder” . The aim is to share with visitors our efforts to nurture cities, nature, and oceans.



Image of the Monaco Pavilion
<https://twitter.com/JapanArchitects/status/1780392967322407219>

- This week, the following pavilion unveiling and groundbreaking ceremony will be held.

Groundbreaking Ceremony: France 4/23, Qatar 4/23
 Pavilion Presentation: France 4/24, India 4/24

[Status of participating countries as of 4/19]

- Number of countries with official participation agreements: 96 countries
- Countries with which construction companies have been decided: 38 countries
- Countries that have handed over the site: 34 countries
- Countries where construction has started: 15 countries

2. Last week's main activities / Schedule for this week and beyond

- 4/16 A commemorative reception was held at the Japan Embassy in the United Kingdom one year before the opening of Expo 2025. Approximately 160 people attended, including British government officials, members of the British Parliament and representatives of Japanese and British companies. Myaku-Myaku went to the UK for the first time.



(https://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/240416amb_00001.html)

- 4/13 The web magazine Japan Pavilion Monthly was launched. It covers monthly themes related to the exhibitions of the Japan Pavilion and disseminates information online. It aims to promote understanding and build momentum for the theme of the pavilion, "Between Life and Life." The progress of construction and exhibition preparations will also be updated monthly.



Above: Japan Pavilion monthly
(<https://2025-japan-pavilion.go.jp>)

□ 4/22 The official uniform for volunteer staff was made public. The colour tone is based on navy, the colour of one of the SDGs goals, “Achieving the goals through partnership”.



Left: Venue volunteer uniform

Right: Osaka volunteer uniform

(<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240422-03>)

<Reference> Official uniforms for venue staff, previously announced on 4/13



Venue service attendant uniform

- Unexpected balance, by combination of fabrics
- Express a different sense of excitement than before.
- Can freely choose the color of the inner and the combination of the bottom,
- Can also cope with temperature differences.
- Inner layer uses plant-derived fibers and uses SDGs colours that are universally recognised.
- Some shoes made of sugarcane-derived materials.
- After the exhibition ends, it will be collected and transformed into cutlery.



Association staff formal



Management staff uniform



Cleaning and medical staff uniforms

(<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240413-02>)

□ 4/17, Osaka Prefecture and the City of Osaka hosted the Ikuzo Expo (Let's Go to the Expo) Festival to mark one year before the opening of the Expo. Minister Hanako Jimi took stage and addressed approximately 2,500 visitors, stating that “At the Osaka-Kansai Expo, producers and various countries are planning attractive exhibitions under the theme of life, and I hope that many people will come to the Expo.”

Reference: Exposition Association website (<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240328-08/>)

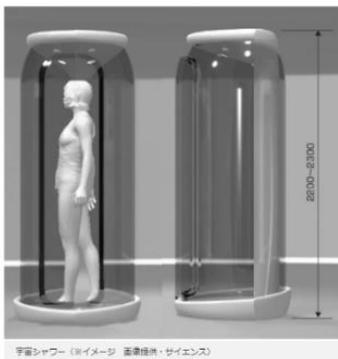


◇ As part of the series of regional conferences held in the three cities to build momentum for the Expo, a talk session was held with the Governor of Osaka Prefecture and the Mayor of Osaka, as well as the Governor of Chiba Prefecture and the Mayor of Fukuoka.

◇ On the occasion of the above event, Science Co., Ltd. introduced “Space Shower”, and Japan Life Insurance Company introduced “Life Game REBORN in 2050”, as contents of the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion.

~Space Shower~

A shower that can be used in outer space and can remove dirt with a small amount of water even in spaces with limited water resources.



Source: Science Co., Ltd.
<https://i-feel-science.com/expo2025/>

~Game of Life REBORN in2050~

In the format of the popular board game “Game of Life”, we introduce the future of medical care and health services.



Japan Life Insurance Company
<https://www.nissay.co.jp/news/2023/pdf/20231122.pdf>

- 4/15, Iida Group and Osaka Metropolitan University started the construction of their pavilion. The exterior design of the building is based on the theme of fusion of the future and tradition, and the building will be overlaid by a huge Nishijin textile, a traditional fabric from Kyoto. The surface area of the Nishijin-woven exterior wall will be approximately 3,500 square meters.



(<https://www.ighd.co.jp/lp/expo2025.html>)

- 4/18 Myaku-Myaku and Nara Prefecture mascot character Sento-kun collaborated to announce the key visual "Soon, there, Expo! Nara Tomari × Expo" campaign. On Saturday the 20th, the event NARA YOUTH EXPO was held in Nara City.



(<https://www.pref.nara.jp/63926.htm>)

- 4/19 The Association announced the cause of the accident and measures to prevent recurrence of the flammable gas accident that occurred on 3/28 at the venue. Construction work resumed 4/22.
- 4/19 A new public notice was issued for one of the toilet facilities designed by young architects, which had twice failed to attract bids in the prescribed price range. The scale of toilets will be reduced (60 seats to 46 seats), and the planned price will be reduced from approximately 170 million yen to approximately 150 million yen. Bidding closes on 5/30.

3. Volunteers and ticket sales

- ◇ Number of registered volunteers: 22,799 (as of 4/19)
- ◇ Number of tickets sold: 1,557,940 (as of 4/17)