

WORLD EXPO 2025 NEWS

「KIZUNA 一絆」News letter」

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Dimitri S. Kerkentzes, The Secretary General of the BIE and JIMI Hanako, Minister for the World Expo 2025 in BIE

Approximately 160 countries are slated to participate in Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai. They are passionately preparing for the Expo in a concerted effort with ministers and ambassadors from other countries, construction companies, and many other stakeholders.

In April, I attended ceremonies for the USA Pavilion, with the theme of “Imagine what we create together,” the France Pavilion, with the theme of “A Hymn to Love,” and the UK Pavilion, with the theme of “Come build the future,” among others. These are very attractive pavilions, representing love, the future, and bonds. Moreover, the UK will reuse materials from the London Olympics to create an environmentally friendly pavilion.

Volunteer applications were closed at the end of April. The number of applications received greatly exceeded our target, which shows the growing excitement for the Expo.

Various countries will be announcing the details of their fantastic exhibitions and projects as we head into the fall and winter. We will do our best to reliably meet the expectations and enthusiasm of participating countries.

My sincere gratitude to everyone working on the ground.

From JIMI Hanako



Groundbreaking Ceremony for the U.S. Pavilion in Osaka, April 17
From right: Rahm Emanuel, Ambassador for the United States of Japan / YOKOYAMA Hideyuki, Mayor of Osaka / YOSHIMURA Hirofumi, Governor of Osaka Prefecture / JIMI Hanako, Minister for the World Expo 2025



Groundbreaking Ceremony for France Pavilion in Tokyo, April 24
From right: Philippe Setton, Ambassador for the France of Japan / Franck Riester, Minister attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs / JIMI Hanako, Minister for the World Expo 2025 / HIMENO Tsutomu, Ambassador in charge of Kansai region / Jacques Maire, President of COFREX, Commissioner General for France OSAKA 2025



Discussion with Lord Offord of Garvel CVO, Minister for Exports, United Kingdom in London, May 2

【The week's report】

1. Overseas Pavilions Construction Status
April 23 and 24: France Pavilion groundbreaking ceremony and presentation
April 23: Qatar Pavilion groundbreaking ceremony
April 24: India Pavilion presentation
2. Last week's main events / Schedule for this week and beyond
April 23: Announcement of commemorative 500-yen coin
April 26: An official store opened in Maruzen & Junkudo Sapporo store
May 1: Announcement of the Expo International Exchange Programme's participation registration plan
May 7: Expo volunteer applications exceed the quota
3. Application
Tickets sold: 1,664,129 (as of April 24)



Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai Weekly Report (23 April – 6 May)

~ 341 days to go! ~



1. Official Participants

- 4/23-24 France held a groundbreaking ceremony and pavilion presentation. The theme of the pavilion will be “Hymn of Love”. The pavilion will feature a pink copper slope and an upstairs garden. The sides of the structure will be covered with cloth, inspired by the legend of the little fingers tied with a red thread.



Left: Groundbreaking ceremony

(<https://www.franceosaka2025.fr/ja>)

Right: Image of the France Pavilion

(<https://www.franceosaka2025.fr/ja>)

- 4/23 Qatar held a groundbreaking ceremony. The theme of the pavilion is “sustainability”. Architect Kengo Kuma is in charge of the design, which is based on the motif of the traditional Qatari wooden ship, the dhow.



Left: Groundbreaking ceremony

(https://www.moci.gov.qa/en/mec_news/qatar-lays-the-foundation-stone-for-its-pavilion-at-expo-2025-osaka-kansai-japan/)

Right: Image of the Qatar Pavilion

(<https://twitter.com/bieparis/status/1782786908617159095>)

- 4/24 India held a pavilion presentation. The theme of the pavilion is “saving lives”, and will be inspired by the Himalayas. The exterior will be decorated with the figure of Hanuman, the monkey god. Exhibits are planned in the industrial fields that India is focusing on, such as space development and pharmaceuticals.



Image of the India Pavilion

(https://www.indiatradingfair.com/tenders/offline_tender)

[Status of participating countries as of 4/25]

- Number of countries with official participation agreements: 99 countries
- Countries with which construction contractors have been decided: 39 countries
 - Countries where the site was handed over: 35 countries
 - Countries where construction has started: 17 countries

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

- 4/23 The Ministry of Finance released the design of a commemorative 500 yen coin with Myaku-Myaku emblazoned. It will be available at financial institutions around the country from April next year. There are a total of five types of commemorative currencies to be issued in connection with the Expo. Two types of 1,000 yen silver coins have already been announced. The designs of 10,000 yen gold coins and a third set of 1,000 yen silver coins will be announced at a later date.

図柄	(表面)	(裏面)
	 <p>「ミヤクミヤク」</p>	 <p>「2025年日本国際博覧会 ロゴマーク」</p>
額面	五百円	

Ministry of Finance

(https://www.mof.go.jp/policy/currency/coin/commemorative_coin/expo_2025/20240423.html)

- 4/26 The first official Expo 2025 store in Hokkaido opened in MARUZEN & Junkudo Bookstore Sapporo. There are currently 11 physical stores throughout Japan, and the number is gradually increasing.



<Reference> Official Store

- Abeno Harukas store, Daimaru Umeda store, Maruzen Marunouchi OAZO store, JR Shin-Osaka Station Eki Marche store, MARUZEN & Junkudo Sho Umeda store, Maruzen Kyoto BAL store, Junkudo Shoten Fukuoka store, Takashimaya Osaka store, Osaka Nanko ATC store, Shinsaibashi PARCO store, MARUZEN & Junkudo Shoten Sapporo store

(<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240401-03>)

- 5/1, more than 55,000 people applied for Expo volunteers, far exceeding the 20,000 originally planned. (Registration closed on 4/30.) The Association plans to assign the volunteers to guide and guide visitors, support beautification activities in the venue, hospitality of foreigners using foreign languages (= volunteers at the venue), providing information on the World Expo / tourist information in the city, and provide transportation information at major stations and airports (= volunteers outside the venue).



- 5/1, 11 projects from 8 local governments (5 municipalities and 3 prefectures) were announced as participants in the “Expo International Exchange Programme”, a framework for international exchange between local residents and officials from countries and regions participating in the Expo. Combined with the first round of registrations, 60 exchange plans have been registered so far from 37 municipalities (31 municipalities in 6 prefectures).

(https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/expo_suisin_honbu/topics/topics_r6_0119koubo.html)

3. Ticket sales

- ◇ Number of tickets sold: 1,664,129 (as of April 24, 2024)