

WORLD EXPO 2025 NEWS

「KIZUNA —絆— News letter」

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

Issued August 28, 2024, Vol.18



National ambassadors and local government heads who attended the host town meeting held on August 26

In order from the left side of the front row: Mr. Ismayilzada, Ambassador (Republic of Azerbaijan); Mr. Osoev, Ambassador (Kyrgyz Republic); Ms. Nakajima, Thematic Project Producer; Ms. Jimi, Minister for the World Exposition 2025; Mr. Sawai, Mayor of Matsubara City; Mr. Tanaka, Mayor of Nanto City

The momentum-building project event held on July 26 was comprised of three parts: a study meeting, inspection tour of the Grand Ring, and international exchange/social gathering. Around 100 local government heads attended it from all over Japan—from Hokkaido in the north to Kyushu in the south. The event demonstrated that anticipation for the Expo is growing nationwide. The Expo is a golden opportunity for regions across Japan to play a leading role in regional revitalization. However, simply waiting for it to happen will change nothing. Japan's treasures are found in its regions: each region can contribute to regional revitalization by actively thinking about what they can do and act accordingly. Utilizing our nationwide network, we will continue to boost excitement for the Expo as well as energize Japan!



Hirofumi Sawai (Mayor of Matsubara City),
Chairman, Mayoral Alliance for Expo 2025

On July 26, local government heads from all over Japan who are members of the Mayoral Alliance for Expo 2025 visited the Grand Ring on an inspection tour. Seeing is believing: we were surprised to see that venue preparations had progressed beyond our expectations.

From tangible to intangible. Although there are many challenges related to management and other aspects, this is also an opportunity for Japan's regions to garner attention in areas such as tourism, culture, and industry. We in Toyama and other Hokuriku regions will ramp up our efforts to make it a great event, so stay tuned!

Let's work together nationwide to give a boost to the EXPO—a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Mikio Tanaka (Mayor of Nanto City),
Deputy Chairman, Mayoral Alliance for Expo 2025



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1. Overseas Pavilions Construction Status
August 22: Portugal holds groundbreaking ceremony
August 24: The five Nordic countries post an update on pavilion construction on social media
August 22: The Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in Japan introduces the nation's pavilion at the National Day Reception of the Republic of Singapore

2. Last week's main events / Schedule for this week and beyond
August 21: Construction of the wooden structure of the Grand Ring is completed
August 19: Collaboration campaign between the EXPO2025 Digital Wallet and JAL's mileage service is announced
August 21: Hanshin and Yakult play in an “Expo night game”
August 23: Data on methane gas emitted from some landfill areas is released
August 25: Parliamentary Vice-Minister Ishii and MYAKU-MYAKU participate in the TICAD Ministerial Meeting
August 26: Implementation of a pilot experiment for mitigating congestion during the Expo announced for September 30-October 5
3. Sales / Applications
Tickets sold: 4,501,596 (as of August 21)

**Advancing international
exchange through the Expo!**



Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Weekly Report (August 20– August 26)

~ 229 days to go!~



1. Official Participants

- August 22; Portugal held a groundbreaking ceremony. The theme of the pavilion, designed by Kengo Kuma, one of Japan's leading architects, will be "Ocean: The Blue Dialogue", with a focus on sustainability and circular economy.



<https://www.instagram.com/portugalexpo2025/>



- August 24; The joint pavilions of the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden), the Nordic Circle, released its construction status on Instagram. The five countries will be working together to prepare for the pavilion, which will highlight the creation of an innovative and sustainable future.



<https://www.instagram.com/nordicexpo2025osaka>



<https://www.thenordics-exposaka.com/>



- August 22; The Embassy of Singapore in Tokyo introduced the pavilion at the Singapore National Day Reception. The theme of the pavilion will be "Dream, Connection, and Future", aiming to explore the infinite possibilities of dreams and to inspire action for the future.



Singapore National Day Reception @ Imperial Hotel



Minister Hanako Jimi and Ambassador
Eng Chuan Ong

Status of official participants as of August 26

- Of 161 countries and 9 international organisations participations:

Those with official participation agreements:

125 countries and 5 international organisations

Individual pavilions (Type A and Type X) :

52 countries (47 Type A, 5 Type X)

Those with construction partners secured: 43 countries

Those who have started construction: 40 countries

Independent pavilions provided by the Association (Type B) : 17 countries

Shared pavilions provided by the Association (Type C) : 92 countries

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

- August 21; The construction of the wooden structure of the Grand Ring, a symbol of the Expo site, was completed. The large roof, which will be one of the world's largest wooden structures, boasts a circumference of approximately 2 km and has been connected into one. Elevators and escalators will be installed by the opening of the Expo to allow visitors to go up to the green rooftop.

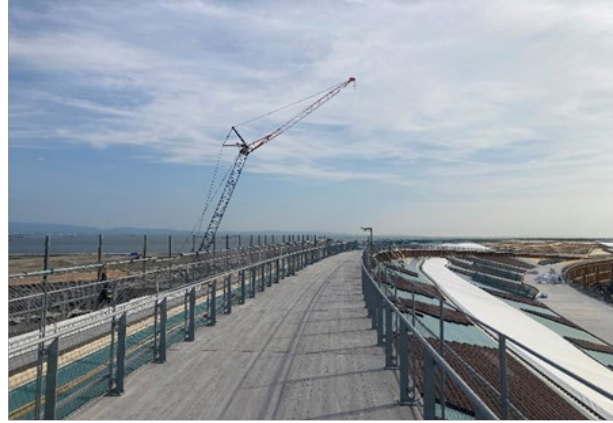


Photo taken on August 9, 2024



Perspective view of Grand Ring on August 20, 2024

< Overview of Grand Ring >

- The Grand Ring is the symbol of the Expo site. When completed, it will be one of the world's largest wooden structures.
- It has been constructed combining modern and traditional methods, featuring traditional timber joints used in the construction of Japanese shrines and temples.
- It will be used as one of the main flow-through routes around the venue, providing smooth access to crowds as well as a comfortable space to stay out of the rain, wind, and sun. The entire venue of the Expo can be seen from the rooftop; visitors can also enjoy the attractions of the Expo site, seeing the sunset in the Seto Inland Sea as well as the vista of Osaka.
- The inner diameter of the Ring is 615m, with a height of 12m.
- The outer diameter of the Ring is 675 m, with a height of 20m.
- The width of the skywalk on the roof is 30m.

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20240821-01/>

- August 19; The Association announced a new collaboration project with Japan Airlines (JAL) that links cashless service for the Expo and the JAL frequent flyer service.

- Various benefits will be granted to JAL Mileage Club members who download the EXPO 2025 Digital Wallet app. The applicable period is from August 15 to October 15, 2024.
- The benefits are as follows.
 - 1) All those who download the app will receive a special NFT
 - 2) 33 winners will be selected by lottery to receive JAL miles.
 - 1st prize: 50,000 miles for 3 winners
 - 2nd prize: 2,000 miles for 10 winners
 - 3rd prize: 500 miles for 20 winners



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240819-01/>



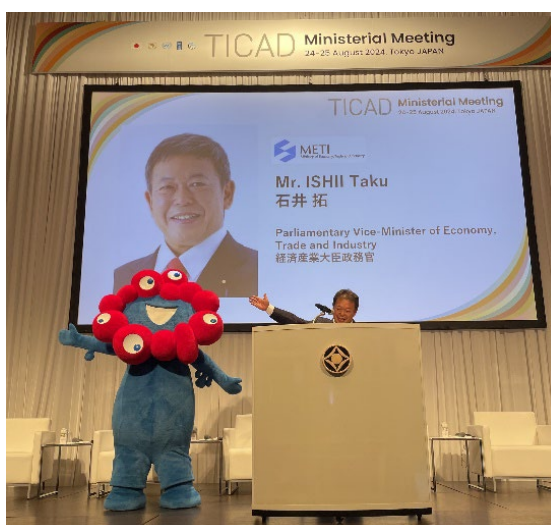
- August 21; Official professional baseball league game Hanshin Tigers vs Yakult Swallows was held at Kyocera Dome Osaka as an EXPO 2025 Night Game. Myaku-Myaku, together with members of the popular hip-hop group DOBERMAN and INFINITY, showed up the first pitch ceremony and a gift presentation ceremony.



- August 23; The Association compiled and released detailed concentration measurement results of methane gas generated in some of the landfills, with data for June 2024 and earlier. This was part of the provision of information as part of measures announced on June 24.

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240823-05/>

- August 25; Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Taku Ishii took the stage together with Myaku-Myaku at the ministerial meeting of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) held in Tokyo. He called on the ministers of the participating African countries to come to the Expo. A PR booth for the Expo was also set up at the venue.



- August 26; Osaka Prefecture, the City of Osaka, the Association and regional business groups led by the Kansai Economic Federation have agreed upon conducting a social experiment to confirm the effectiveness of congestion alleviation measures during the Expo. The experiment will be held for 5 days between September 30 to October 4, 2024. Businesses will voluntarily promote staggered working hours and working from home on a trial basis. Osaka Prefecture, the City of Osaka and the Association aim to reduce commuting by 70% during the morning congestion hours (8 am to 10 am). The result will be verified afterwards.



https://www.expo2025.or.jp/wp/wp-content/uploads/siryoushou_240826_TDMkaigi_set.pdf

3. Ticket sales

Number of tickets sales: 4,501,596 as of August 21, 2024

4. Q&As

1) Heat concerns regarding artificial turfs for former Type A plots

With regards to plans to install artificial turf on some of the former Type A plots, would it be too hot for visitors to take a break, given that artificial turfs can heat up to over 60 degrees Celsius during the summer?

- i. It is true that artificial turf is planned to be installed for resting area in the some plots.
- ii. However, the artificial turf to be used will be special, heat-resistant versions with greater water retention rates, unlike the ordinary artificial turf referred to in some articles.
- iii. In addition, as a countermeasure against heat, tent and air-cooling machines will be installed in the rest areas to make it more comfortable for visitors to rest.

2) Admission of pets to the Expo venue.

What of the reports stating that the admission of pets will not be allowed in the Expo?

- i. This issue will be discussed at the board meeting of the Association to be held on September 13. Currently, there has been no decision yet on the admission of pets.

3) Budget related to the Expo

There have been reports that the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry will allocate a further 31.2 billion JPY for the Expo in its budget request for FY2025.

- i. The budgetary process for FY2025 is underway in each government agency.
- ii. No comments on specific figures can be issued at this point.
- iii. In any case, the figure being report is within the scope of the total cost of the Expo that has already been announced. There is no increase in the budget or new expenses.