

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

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

Issued November 6, 2024, Vol.28



As Ambassador of Canada to Japan and Special Envoy for the Indo-Pacific, I was pleased to welcome representatives of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai team and Canada's National Arts Centre to our Embassy today. A special curated collection of Canadian artists, that reflect our rich cultural diversity from coast to coast to coast, will keep you entertained with stellar performances throughout the Expo period. Canada and Japan, have a rich history of Expo collaboration and I am confident that, as in Expos past, 2025 will be another great success!

Ian McKay,
Ambassador of Canada to Japan and Special Envoy for the Indo-Pacific

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

1. Movements of Participating Countries
October 28: Vatican City unveils “Luce,” the official mascot for its pavilion
November 1: Grenada and Chad announce their participation. Afghanistan and Niger cancel their participation
2. This week /last week's main events
October 30: Pasona Group announces that it will exhibit beds that allow visitors to experience the “Future of Sleep” in its pavilion
October 30: Ceremony held for presentation of donations from Japan Post to the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition
October 31: Osaka Metro unveils to the press the facilities of Yumeshima Station, the nearest station to the Expo venue
November 1: MYAKU-MYAKU appears in Japan Post's “New Year's Postcard Sales Launch Event in Osaka”
November 1: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition runs an Expo promotion booth at the 2024 Taipei International Travel Fair (November 1 to 4)
November 2: Toyota-backed Joby Aviation unveils its air taxi to the press for the first time
November 3: Waseda University holds the “Expo Classroom” at the Rikoten (Waseda Festival)
November 3: Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City hold Midosuji Runway 2024 and promote the Expo
3. Ticket Sales Update
Tickets sold: 7,284,033 (as of October 30)



Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Weekly Report (October 29- November 4) ~ 159 days to go!~



1. Official Participants

- October 28; The Vatican announced that the Catholic Church's official character for 2025, Luce, meaning “light” in Italian, will also represent the Vatican at Expo 2025.



<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/260129/meet-luce-the-vatican-s-cartoon-mascot-for-jubilee-2025>

- November 1; Grenada and Chad were announced as official participants for Expo 2025; Afghanistan and Niger will not be participating. This was updated on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ecm/ec/page22_003546.html

Status of the 170 official participants as of November 1

- 161 countries and 9 international organisations:

Those with official participation agreements:

138 countries and 6 international organisations

Countries where construction has not yet started: 1 country

Countries with no construction contractor: 1 country

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

- October 30; Pasona Group, together with MinebeaMitsumi, announced that it will be exhibiting a bed that allows visitors to experience the sleep of the future in the Pasona Group Pavilion.



<https://www.pasonagroup.co.jp/english/expo/>

- November 2; The electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft under development by Joby Aviation, partially funded by Toyota, was unveiled to the media for the first time. The aircraft, with a total length of 6.4 m and a wingspan of 11.9 m, a cruising range of 160 km and a capacity of 5 people including the pilot, is planned to put on demonstration flights at the Expo.



<https://global.toyota/en/newsroom/corporate/41788284.html>



- October 30; Japan Post held a donation ceremony in Osaka. It will donate to the Association parts of proceeds from the sale of special stamps featuring Myaku-Myaku, which began sales this spring.



- November 1; Japan Post held events promoting New Year's postcards for at six venues in the Kasai region. Myaku-Myaku appeared alongside the Japan Post official character Posukuma at the Osaka event.



- October 31; Osaka Metro held a media preview of the premises of Yumeshima Station, which will serve as the main access point to the Expo venue. The station is scheduled to open on January 19, 2025. Interior work of the station is near completion. Up to 130,000 visitors per day are expected to use the station during the Expo.



- November 3; Waseda University held an Expo Classroom at its Science and Engineering Campus Festival. Representatives from companies sponsoring the Future City Pavilion (Hitachi, KDDI, Kansai Electric Power Transmission and Distribution, Aoki Asunaro Construction, Komatsu, CPCC), the Association, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry took to the stage to present on the Expo to a total of around 200 participants.



- November 1-4; The Association exhibited a PR booth at the 2024 Taipei International Travel Expo (ITF 2024), with Myaku-Myaku encouraging tourists to visit the Expo.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20241029-02/>



- November 3; Osaka Prefecture Governor Hirofumi Yoshimura took the lead in holding the Midosuji Runway 2024. Singer duro Kobukuro performed the Expo theme song "Continuation of this Earth". A support desk was set up to support visitors in purchasing tickets to the Expo.



3. Upcoming events

- The Association has been holding promotional events at AEON Malls nationwide, titled "Experience more than you can imagine! Turn! EXPO PLAYPARK". Attractions such as giant boardgames introducing the Expo's main attractions will be featured. AEON Malls are Japan's largest shopping centre Giant Sugoroku EXPO Sugoroku Tour where can experience network. The inaugural event will be held at AEON MALL Mall Rinku Sennan, just off Kansai International Airport, on November 9 and 10.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241101-03/>



- The Association is promoting the Expo at following overseas events:

- November 4 – 7: Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition Conference (ADIPEC2024) @ Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- November 5 -10: 7th China International Import Expo 2024 @ National Exhibition and Convention Centre in Shanghai, China
- November 8 – 10: Bangkok, Thailand 16th Visit Japan FIT Fair @ Siam Paragon 5th floor in Bangkok, Thailand
- November 22 – 24: China International Tourism Mart (CITM2024) @ National Exhibition and Convention Centre in Shanghai, China

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20241029-02/>



4. Ticket sales

Number of tickets sold: 7,284,003 as of October 30, 2024

5. O&As

There is a report that the construction of the Malta Pavilion is set to begin on 4 November, and with this, the construction of all the pavilions is set to begin, but is this true?

- i. The start of construction for all pavilions is now in sight. The Association and the Japanese government will refrain from commenting on the preparations for individual official participants.
- ii. The Association and the Japanese government will continue to work together with the official participants to ensure that construction proceeds smoothly in preparation for the opening of the Expo.