

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

“Kizuna” is the Japanese word for “bond.” Issued December 11, 2024, Vol.33



As Ambassador of Australia to Japan, I was pleased to meet Expo Minister Ito recently and discuss Australia’s preparations. Australia is committed to the success of the Expo, and to our partnership with Japan, especially the Kansai region.

Australia’s unique landscape and culture have inspired our Pavilion’s theme, “Chasing the Sun”. It captures our diverse and warm people, talent and creativity, and stunning natural environment. Our pavilion will showcase Australia through an immersive visitor experience and entertainment precinct.

We will also host a comprehensive business program with events that highlight Australian capabilities in areas like renewable energy, innovation, medtech, and space. We look forward to welcoming you to the Australia Pavilion.

Justin Hayhurst, Ambassador of Australia to Japan

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

1. Movements of Participating Countries
 - December 3: USA unveils its Expo mascot, Spark, as well as a display area for experiencing cutting-edge technology
 - December 4: Santa Claus visits the Nordic Circle, the joint pavilion of five Nordic countries
 - December 5: 30 Manga Barcelona held in Barcelona, Spain (December 5–8)
 - Consul General SHIKATA, MYAKU-MYAKU, and others promote the Expo in the opening ceremony
 - December 9: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition confirms that construction of all overseas pavilions has begun
2. This week /last week’s main events
 - December 4: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition fully launches the MYAKU-MYAKU Rewards Programme
 - December 3: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition holds the 3rd presentation session for the Future City pavilion
 - December 5: Pasona Group unveils the “flying operating room” in its pavilion
 - December 4: Bandai Namco unveils the concept image, staff uniform, interior, etc. of its pavilion
 - December 5: Theme Producer FUKUOKA holds the EXPO School Caravan at Kamiyama Junior High School in Tokushima Prefecture
 - December 6: Theme Producer ISHIGURO holds the EXPO School Caravan at Showa Gakuen in Tokyo
 - December 6: Theme Producer NAKAJIMA holds the EXPO School Caravan at Nara Girls’ High School
3. Ticket Sales Update
 - Tickets sold: 7,405,134 (as of December 4, 2024)



Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Weekly Report (December 3 - December 9)

~ 124 days to go!~



1. Official Participants

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- December 9; The Association confirmed that construction work had started on all official participant pavilions. It will continue to support the official participants towards the completion of interior design and display towards the opening on April 13, 2025.



- December 3; The United States unveiled its official mascot, Spark, who will serve as a guide in the US pavilion. As announced by the State Department, an exhibition space named the Innovation Realm will allow visitors to experience cutting-edge technologies that will shape the future.



<https://jp.usembassy.gov/deputy-secretary-campbell-previews-usa-pavilion-and-mascot-for-expo-2025-osaka/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ExpoUSAPavilion/>



- December 4; Santa Claus visited Nordic Circle, the joint pavilion of the five Nordic countries, namely Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Santa Claus participated in the Christmas tree lighting ceremony alongside Finnish Ambassador Tanja Katriina Jääskeläinen,



<https://thenordics-exposaka.com/en/news/press-releasethe-magic-of-nordic-christmas-comes-to-life-at-expo-2025-osaka>

- December 5-8; Japanese culture festival Manga Barcelona was held in Barcelona. At its opening ceremony, Myaku-Myaku took the stage alongside Consul General Akiko Shikata and the official character of Manga Barcelona, Ona-chan. Quiz competitions and Bon Odori dance were performed to promote the Expo.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20241122-00/>



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

- December 4, the Association announced the Expo 2025 digital wallet Myaku-Myaku Rewards Programme. The benefits will include guided tours by the eight Signature Pavilion producers and priority seating for events, depending on the status achieved.

* Status rises with experience points, which can be gained through using the Expo digital wallet (Myakupe! Myakupo! and other partner services), purchasing Expo tickets and face authentication.

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20241204-02/>



The Association announced the following additional events to be held at the Expo site:

- Special stage by Takarazuka alumni (One Step to the Future! -Singing of Love Connecting the World)

- Date & Time: April 29 - May 1, 2025
- Venue: Expo Hall “Shine Hat”
- Content: Alumni of the Takarazuka Revue will perform famous scenes and famous songs from the participating countries.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20241203-06/>

- Mezamashi Classics Special Concert (featuring Chisako Takashima)

- Date: June 29, 2025
- Venue: Expo Hall “Shine Hat”
- Content: A brilliant performance by violinist Chisako Takashima and a light-hearted talk by Fuji TV anchorperson Shinichi Karube resonate
- Organiser: Fuji Television
- Sponsored by: Bourbon
- Reservation: Advance reservations available (to be announced from January 2025)



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241209-02/>



● Poka Poka Presents! SHOW-WA & MATSURI Special Live

- Date: May 18, 2025
- Venue: Expo Arena “Matsuri”
- Content: Appearing on Fuji TV's noon live broadcast variety show "Poka Poka"! A special performance by SHOW-WA and MATSURI featuring songs from the Showa era to the present day.
- Reservation: Advance reservations available (to be announced around the end of January or early February 2025)



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241205-02/>



● Sasuke Junior's course reproduction

(TBS Kids Attraction)

- Date: April 13 - 20, 2025
- Venue: Expo Messe “WASSE”
- Contents: Children will be able to challenge for themselves to navigate obstacles from Sasuke, known abroad as Ninja Warrior, which inspired one of the disciplines of the Modern Pentathlon to be adopted from Los Angeles Olympics 2028.



(C) TBS



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241206-02/>



● Public recording of Radio Osaka's program (Yui Mishima's Miracle Happy)

- Date & Time: April 13, 2025 12:00~13:00 (tentative)
- Venue: Pop-up Stage South
- Contents: Various guests will be invited to experience Earth-friendly radio connects life from Osaka to visitors.
- Reservations: Not required



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<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241207-01/>



- December 3, the Association held the third presentation of the City of the Future Pavilion. The full story will be on the official website of Cities of the Future.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241203-04/>

<https://www.expo2025-futurecity.jp/en/>



- December 5; The Pasona Group announced that it will hold an exhibit on future medicine at its pavilion, Pasona Natureverse, in collaboration with Asahi Intec. Visitors will be able to experience cutting-edge medical technology such as the Flying Operating Room that could be operated remotely.

(Main exhibits)

- Today's technology – surgical guidewire operation experience
- Technology in the near future – catheter surgery experience
- Technology of the future – concept exhibition of endovascular treatment using self-propelled microbots
- Technology of the future – Concept exhibition of telemedicine using the flying operating room



▲PASONA NATUREVERSE 『未来の医療』展示イメージ

<https://www.pasonagroup.co.jp/news/index112.html?itemid=5284&dispmid=798>



- December 4, Bandai Namco Holdings released the main images of its Gundam Next Future Pavilion, including staff uniforms and interior images of the pavilion.



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<https://www.bandainamco.co.jp/en/gundam-next-future-pavilion>

- Lectures from the Cabinet Secretariat's Expo School Caravan Project:

- December 5; At Kamiyama Junior High School in Town of Kamiyama, Tokushima Prefecture, Signature Pavilion producer Prof Shinichi Fukuoka gave a lecture on the theme of life. Myaku-Myaku and Tokushima Prefecture's official character Sudachikun took a commemorative photo with the students.



- December 6; Signature Pavilion producer Prof Hiroshi Ishiguro held a dialogue with students at Showa Gakuen in Nakano-ku, Tokyo, alongside an android resembling Prof Ishiguro. He briefed the students on the future of telemedicine through robots and the realisation of a symbiotic society with avatars.



- December 6; At Nara Girls' High School in Nara Prefecture, Signature Pavilion producer Sachiko Nakajima held a dialogue with students on the theme The Brilliance of Life.



https://x.com/expo2025_kurage/status/1865954569920135602?s=46&t=5Qn-2LhLb1GEHGIQYAhIXw

- December 4; The Association released English and French versions of the Disaster Prevention Implementation Plan, which was released in Japanese on September 2. The Disaster Prevention Implementation Plan serves as the detailed version of the Basic Disaster Prevention Plan released in December 2024, and outlines the organisational structure of the Expo in event of a disaster and preparations on a day-to-day basis, with response measures for individual types of disasters.

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20241204-01/>



Schedule of the EXPO School Caravan:

Date	Name of school / Organiser
December 10, 2024	Mizuho Elementary School / Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan
December 11, 2024	Touma Elementary School / Japan Gas Association
	Kumamoto Prefectural Aso Chuo High School / Kinden
	Maehama Elementary School and Junior High School /MOL
December 12, 2024	Fukushima Prefectural Kitakata Kirisakura High School / Kinden
	Aichi Prefectural Inazawa Higashi High School / Kajima Corporation
	Oyama Elementary School / Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan
	Kumamoto Prefectural Ushifuka High School / Producer Koyama
December 13, 2024	Kyoto Prefectural School for the Deaf / Producer Nakajima
	Saiki City Kirihata Elementary School /Aoki Asunaro Construction
	Urayasu City Takasu Junior High School / Sumitomo EXPO2025 Promotion Committee
December 16, 2024	Tsuda Gakuen Junior & Senior High School /KDDI, Hitachi
	Minami-Awaji Municipal Numajima Junior High School / Kobe Steel

3. Ticket sales

Number of tickets sold: 7,405,134 as of December 4, 2024)

4. Q & As

1) Bringing in large luggage

It has been reported that the Association has indicated that it will charge 10,000 yen per piece for large luggage to be deposited at the venue.

- i. The Association is currently formulating plans for dealing with large items brought to the Expo venue, including the price for storing large items. No price has been decided yet.
- ii. The Association considers it important to limit the number of large items brought onto public transport to ease congestion on routes leading to the Expo venue, given that the Expo is expected to attract up to 200,000 visitors per day.
- iii. For this reason, the Association is preparing a service to store luggage at transfer stations – Sakurajima and Bentencho – at a moderate price of 1,000 yen per item.
- iv. Visitors will be encouraged to make arrangements in advance to store their luggage at their hotel, transfer station or airport locker.