

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

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

Issued January 22, 2025, Vol.38



From the left: TOKURA Masakazu, Chairperson of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition; Dimitri Kerkentzes, Secretary General of the BIE; ISHIBA Shigeru, Prime Minister; ITO Yoshitaka, Minister for the World Expo 2025



From the left: YOKOYAMA Hideyuki, Mayor of Osaka City; YOSHIMURA Hirofumi, Governor of Osaka Prefecture; MIYATA Hiroaki, Producer; ISHIBA Shigeru, Prime Minister; ITO Yoshitaka, Minister for the World Expo 2025



Prime Minister ISHIBA (to the left) and Minister for the World Expo 2025 ITO (to the right) on the Grand Roof (Ring) at the Expo site

On January 17, Prime Minister ISHIBA and I had the pleasure of meeting BIE Secretary General Mr. Kerkentzes at the Prime Minister's official residence. Then, on January 19, the prime minister and I visited the Expo site again for an inspection tour of the Signature Pavilions, Japan Pavilion, Grand Roof (Ring), and Osaka Healthcare Pavilion, among other facilities. I previously visited the Expo site last October, on the weekend just after my appointment as minister. My most recent visit confirmed that preparations are well underway for the Expo's opening in April this year.

Under the prime minister's leadership, the Japanese government will continue to work as one to ensure the completion of preparations for the Expo's opening and to share the appeal of the Expo to reach as many potential visitors as possible.

ITO Yoshitaka, Minister for the World Expo 2025

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4. Promotion Activities
 - January 14: Details of the Japan Pavilion's Plant Area and Mars Rock unveiled
 - January 14: Japan Pavilion's “Hello Kitty Appearing as Different Types of Algae,” collaboration with BE@RBRICK, and other content released on YouTube
 - January 15: International Participants Meeting (IPM 2025) held (January 15-16)
 - January 17: Prime Minister ISHIBA appointed as Honorary Chairperson of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition
 - January 17: BIE Secretary General Kerkentzes paid a courtesy visit to Prime Minister ISHIBA
 - January 18: Opening ceremony of Yumeshima Station
 - January 19: Prime Minister ISHIBA, Minister for the World Expo 2025 ITO, Governor of Osaka Prefecture YOSHIMURA, and Mayor of Osaka City YOKOYAMA visited the Expo site on an inspection tour

5. Upcoming Events



MYAKU-MYAKU
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Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Weekly Report (January 14 - January 20)

~ 82 days to go! ~



1. Special Feature: Highlights of the Expo

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This week's topics

~ Expo as a testing ground for new government policies ~

- In 2021, the Japanese government designated Expo 2025 as a testing ground for Japan's vision of future society, featuring on-site projects from various ministries and agencies. The Action Plan for the Expo 2025 is an evolving blueprint for to this end.



- Examples of projects showcased: symbiosis with robots and AI, cutting-edge mobility, future healthcare, space development, carbon neutrality, Cool Japan, disaster recovery:

<https://journal.meti.go.jp/p/36680/>

Further information

From METI website “60-second commentary”



- What is an Expo? (Posted on January 15)
 - Based on the BIE Convention. Japan host for first time in 25 years.
 - Registered Expo - once every 5 years.
 - A global festival with a long history from mid-19th century.
 - Expectations of the world and the responsibility of Japan.

<https://journal.meti.go.jp/p/36609/>



- How is Japan preparing for the Expo? (Posted on January 16)
 - Grand Ring completed. Overall construction progressing at a rapid pace.
 - Official participants pavilions, with original designs.
 - Shift from construction to interior / display and events.
 - Conceiving the Expo from a global perspective.

<https://journal.meti.go.jp/p/36614/>



2 .Introduction of pavilion exhibits

This week's selection

An introduction of official pavilions selected by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry at its own discretion.

1) Turkmenistan



- Theme: Inspire Better Tomorrow
- The rounded triangular design of the ceiling symbolises Circulation, Sustainability and Life Flow. The exhibits will have visitors experience Turkmenistan's culture and history, as well as its economic development with an emphasis on sustainability.
- On the National Day, April 14, an poetry-themed event will be held, offering songs and dances from Turkmenistan.

2) Austria



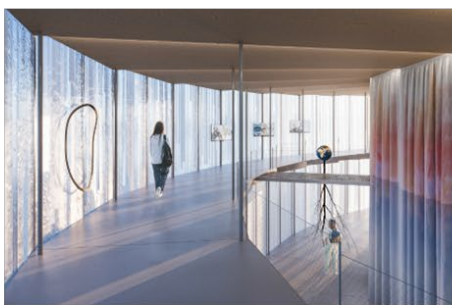
- Theme: Composing the Future.
- The pavilion features a unique musical score motif. Inside, visitors can experience composing music using AI and remote piano performances from Austria. It will also showcase the latest Austrian technology, with contributions from its corporations and research and educational institutions.
- On the National Day, May 23, a concert by the Vienna Boys' Choir will be held.

3) Italy and the Vatican



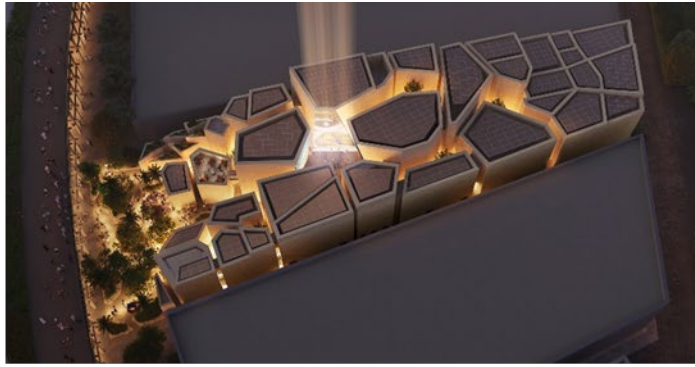
- Theme: Art Regenerates Life.
- The pavilion will promote high-quality Made in Italy events and exhibits, with a combination of latest technology. The majestic Farnese Atlas will be a key attraction. Visitors can enjoy Italian cuisine from the rooftop garden; gelato will also be on sale.
- The Vatican will be bringing The Burial of Christ, a painting by Caravaggio, in a rare foray from its Vatican Museum collection.
- The National Day is on September 12

4) Czech Republic



- Theme: Talent and Creativity for Life.
- The pavilion will feature artistic Bohemian crystal glass panels in the exterior, with state-of-the-art CLT (cross-laminated timber) for structure. In the cloister, contemporary artists will paint Alphonse Mucha's unfinished work The Three Ages. A restaurant and a multi-purpose hall for music concerts will be provided for cultural enjoyment.
- The National Day is on July 24.

5) Saudi Arabia



- Theme: Together for a Better Future. It presages the central theme of Expo 2030 Riyadh namely, The Era of Change: Together for a Foresighted Tomorrow:
- The pavilion will provide an immersive audio-visual setting while creating a spatial experience that explores the towns and cities of Saudi Arabia.
- On the National Day, September 23, a live concert event at the EXPO Arena Matsuri will be held, celebrating Saudi talent and culture.

* There was an error in the contents of the weekly report issued on December 24.

The correction is as follows:

Original: The official mascot of the Jordan Pavilion has been decided.

Corrected: The winning entry in the Jordan Pavilion's official mascot selection contest.

<https://www.instagram.com/expo2025jordan/>



3. Event Information (April 13- 19)

The following are some of major events taking place in the opening week, April 13-19, with a focus on events for which the two-month advance reservation lottery has started this week (noted with an *).

- **Physical Twin Symphony - The Future of People and Technology in Harmony** *

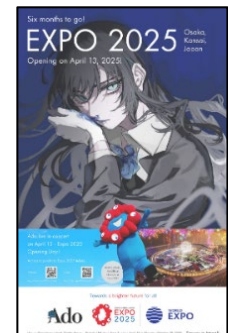
- Date: April 13-20
- Venue: EXPO Hall Shine Hat
- First-of-the-kind live performances, created by Expo Events Producer Kenji Kobashi, where human skills and technology will combine to unlock physical constraints to put together a performance as no one has ever seen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1Pxla3xcRE>



- **Ado Opening Special Live** *

- Date: April 13
- Venue: EXPO Arena Matsuri
- Singer-songwriter Ado will hold a special live session to mark the opening of the Expo.



- **Water and Air Spectacle Show “Ao and Night Rainbow Parade” presented by SUNTORY | DAIKIN** *

- Dates: Every day during the Expo
- Location: Water Plaza
- A spectacle themed on water and air, employing 300 fountains as well as water screens, images, music, lasers, flames and other multimedia devices.



- **Expo Sauna Sun Bud** *

- Dates: Every day during the Expo
- Location: Future Life Zone
- The sauna is covered with a membrane material that transmits natural light. The view of the Osaka Bay, which changes with seasons and time of the day, will provide a co-creation space that embodies a soft and warm future society.



- Beethoven's Ninth by 10,000

- Date: April 13
- Location: Water Plaza and on the Grand Ring (south side)
- Experience the one and only Beethoven's Ninth with 10,000 singers at the Expo, joined by contributors from all over the world, connecting hearts and voices.



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- The Roots of Ikebana - Ikenobo Exhibition

- Date: April 13-20
- Venue: Gallery EAST
- The Iemoto Ikenobo, the headmaster of the Ikebana school of flower arrangement, and Senior Advisor to Expo 2025, will present her masterpieces on-site. The exhibition will express the transition of ikebana that has continued uninterrupted from the 14th century.



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- TBS Kids Attraction - Experience SASUKE & Tokyo 2025 World Athletics Championships

- Date: April 13-19
- Venue: EXPO Messe WASSE
- The obstacles set used in the SASUKE Junior CUP will be reproduced at the Expo. A track and field corner from the Tokyo 2025 World Athletics Championships will also be set up.



(C) TBS



WORLD ATHLETICS
CHAMPIONSHIPS
TOKYO 2025

- 200 Years of Braille: Experiencing the World of the Visually Impaired

- Date: April 19 - 23
- Venue: Gallery WEST
- Work with visually impaired people to experience the invisible and hard to see world. Introduction and experience of the history of Braille, guided walking experience in the absence of sight and para-sports experience.



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- FUTURE OF LIFE Opening Performance

- Date: April 19
- Venue: EXPO Arena Matsuri
- Special performances of Noh and Bunraku - traditional performing arts representing Japan and live events featuring contemporary popular music artists *m-flo*.



- One World, One Planet

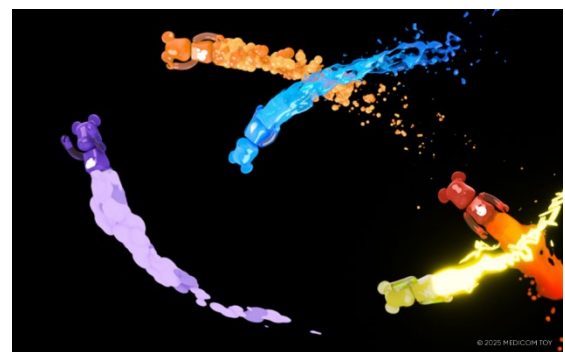
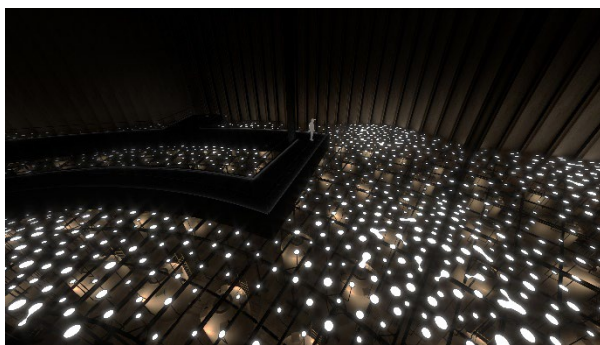
- Date: Every day during the Expo at twilight
- This is a moment of hope that connects thoughts from all over the world, where the sound and video equipment of the entire venue will interact with handheld devices held by visitors, lighting up like the cells of a single large living creature.

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/event-20241011/>

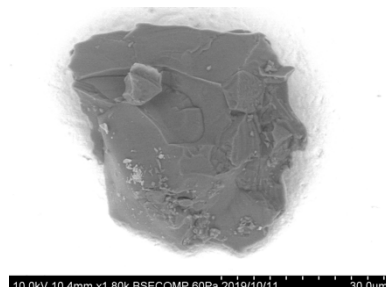
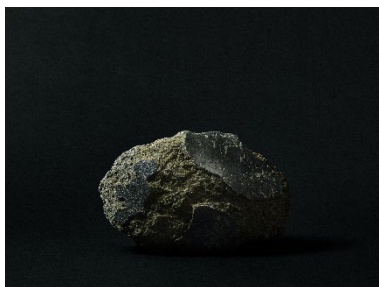


4. Promotion Activities

- January 14; The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) released the outline of the Manufacturing Zone of the Japan Pavilion. In this zone, the work of invisible micro-organisms are represented by a myriad of light installations and BE@RBRICK.



- The world's largest Mars Rock, as well as sand from asteroids Itokawa and Ryuguu, brought back by the explorers Hayabusa and Hayabusa2, will be displayed in the Japan Pavilion.



<https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2024/01/20250114001/20250114001.html>



- January 14; METI has released a primer video for the Japan Pavilion, packing together the attractions of the pavilion, including Hello Kitty dressed as algae, collaboration with BE@RBRICK and a Martian rock. The video is now available on YouTube.



https://2025-japan-pavilion.go.jp/news/250114_03/



- January 15 -16; The Association held the International Participants Meeting 2025 (IPM 2025) in Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture. Information and progress sharing was provided to those responsible for international expositions from countries, regions and international organisations prior to the implementation of the Expo. Around 600 participants from around 160 countries and international organisations attended.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20250120-07/>



- January 17; Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba was appointed as the Honorary Chairperson of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. At the Cabinet meeting on the same day, all Cabinet members wore the Myaku-Myaku pin badge. In past expositions in Japan, the incumbent prime minister has been appointed as the honorary chair.

https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/expo_suisin_honbu/topics/topics_20250117.html



- January 17; Secretary-General Dimitri Kerkentzes of the BIE paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. The two leaders exchanged views on strengthening efforts and building momentum for the success of the Expo.



<https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/103/actions/202501/17hyoukei.html>



- January 18; The opening ceremony of Yumeshima Station (Konohana-ku, City of Osaka) on the Osaka Metro Chuo Line was held inside the underground station. The ceremony was attended by Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Hiromasa Nakano, Governor of Osaka Prefecture Hirofumi Yoshimura, Mayor of the City of Osaka Hideyuki Yokoyama, amongst others, and included a test ride. On the following day, January 19, commercial operation began, and passengers packed in early in the morning.



- January 19, Prime Minister Shigetu Ishiba visited the Expo site for the first time, alongside Expo Minister Yoshitaka Ito. After visiting the State Guest House, the Better Co-Being Pavilion by producer Prof Hiroaki Miyata, the Japan Pavilion and the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion, he had a discussion with Governor Hirofumi Yoshimura inside the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion.



<https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/103/actions/202501/19oosaka.html>



5. Upcoming Events

- January 25 - 26; One of the largest travel expos in North America Travel & Adventure Show 2025 at New York, U.S.A

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20250117-09/>



- January 30 - February1; OTM 2025, a travel expo business meeting for the Indian travel industry ay Mumbai, Inidia

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20250117-09/>



- January 26; Japan Pavilion Press Preview

For further information on Expo 2025:

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/>

