

Remarks by Mr. Kentaro Sonoura
State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan
at the Briefing Session for EXPO 2025 OSAKA
19 June 2017

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for joining us at this briefing session for Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome many of diplomatic corps.

Japan has run for the 2025 World Expo to host in Osaka. We gave the first presentation in the BIE general assembly taken place in Paris last month. In the presentation, Mr. Sakakibara, the chairman of KEIDANREN, and Mr. Matsui, the governor of Osaka prefecture, strongly promoted the concept of the Osaka Expo and the attractiveness of Osaka. Today, we organize this briefing session to deepen the understanding of the Osaka Expo for ambassadors and diplomatic corps in Tokyo.

In 1970, 77 countries participated in the World Expo in Osaka, the first-ever Expo held in Asia. This event attracted over 64 million visitors from both overseas and Japan and closed amid favorable reputations.

The theme of the previous Osaka Expo was “Progress and Harmony for Mankind”. This theme meant to consider how we resolve the various problems stemming from advancement of technology since the industrial revolution and how we realized harmonized progress.

Nearly half a century has passed since then. In 2025 Osaka Expo, Japan will design “Future Society for Our Lives”. By offering an opportunity for creating “a way of healthy life both physically and mentally” and “sustainable social and economic system” along with our global partners including your country, we would like to contribute to finding resolutions of global challenges.

By making the most of the 2025 Osaka Expo, let's work together and create the future society where everyone enjoys the benefit from development in not only Japan but also the whole world.

Currently, Japan is actively engaging in promotion of the Expo 2025 Osaka, under close cooperation among politicians, the government and business community. I am a head of the World Expo Taskforce in MOFA. I would like to say that this is not an honorary title. As an Osaka Expo salesman, I visited seven countries in Latin America and Asia in May, seven countries in Europe, Middle-East and Africa last month, and three countries in Europe and Middle-East last week to promote Osaka Expo.

Let me express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have already announced your support to Osaka as the host city of the 2025 World Expo. Those of you who are in the middle of consideration, after watching today's presentation, I strongly hope that you will positively report to your head-quarters and recommend about Osaka Expo. Again, I am wishing your warm and strong supports.

Japan is unified under Prime Minister Abe and we will work together to host the 2025 World Expo in Osaka. I strongly believe that our passion will reach you and we will be able to make the successful Expo with your support.

Thank you very much for your attentions