

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN AND
THE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES EXPOSITIONS
REGARDING PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES RELATED TO
THE EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN

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The Government of Japan and the Bureau International des Expositions,

Taking into account that Japan is a member of the Bureau International des Expositions and a party to the Convention relating to International Exhibitions signed at Paris on 22 November 1928 and supplemented by the Protocols of 10 May 1948, 16 November 1966, 30 November 1972 and the Amendment of 24 June 1982 and the Amendment of 31 May 1988, which entitles the Bureau International des Expositions to conclude with states and international organisations agreements relating to such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the exercise of the functions entrusted to it by the Convention,

Considering that Japan will host the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan from 13 April 2025 to 13 October 2025 under the theme "Designing Future Society for our Lives", registered by the Bureau International des Expositions at the 167th session of the General Assembly of 1 December 2020, and

Desiring to regulate the affairs regarding the privileges and immunities related to the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan in the territory of Japan,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For the purpose of this Agreement:

- (a) the term "Exhibition" means the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan which will take place in Osaka, Japan from 13 April 2025 to 13 October 2025;
- (b) the term "Official Participant" means any State or international organisation that has accepted the formal invitation from the Government of Japan to participate in the Exhibition;
- (c) the term "Section Commissioner-General" means the representative appointed by each Official Participant for the functions provided in Article 13 of the Convention;

- (d) the term "Office of the Section Commissioner-General" means any individual, corporation or other body designated in advance as Office of the Section Commissioner-General by each Official Participant through the One Stop Shop referred to in Article 13 of this Agreement;
- (e) the term "staff of the Office of the Section Commissioner-General" means the Section Commissioner-General, the Section Deputy Commissioner-General, the Pavilion Director and direct employees of each Office of the Section Commissioner-General;
- (f) the term "Convention" means the Convention relating to International Exhibitions signed at Paris on 22 November 1928 and supplemented by the Protocols of 10 May 1948, 16 November 1966, 30 November 1972 and the Amendment of 24 June 1982 and the Amendment of 31 May 1988;
- (g) the term "BIE" means the Bureau International des Expositions;
- (h) the term "representatives of the BIE" means the Secretary General of the BIE, the President and Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly of the BIE and the officials of the BIE Secretariat;
- (i) the term "Organiser" means the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition;
- (j) the term "non-commercial activities connected with the Exhibition" means activities related to the preparation, operation and publicity of the Exhibition and other activities pertaining to the Exhibition and excludes the sales of foods and beverages, the sales of merchandise, the organisation of events with entrance fees and other activities for profit; and
- (k) the term "dependants" means the spouse of the staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General and the representatives of the BIE and his/her children below the age of 20 and includes children aged 20 and above if they are mentally or physically incapacitated and thus incapable of self-support.

Article 2

1. In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 25 of the Convention, the BIE shall be responsible for supervising and ensuring the application of the provisions of the Convention in relation to the Exhibition.
2. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 10 of the Convention, the Government of Japan shall guarantee the fulfilment of the obligations of the Organiser and ensure that the Organiser carries out tasks relating to the preparation and operation of the Exhibition.
3. In accordance with Article 12 of the Convention, the Commissioner-General of the Exhibition represents the Government of Japan for all purposes of the Convention and in all matters concerning the Exhibition.

Article 3

1. The Government of Japan shall take all measures necessary to facilitate the entry into and stay in Japan of the following persons in accordance with the laws and regulations of Japan. Their visas with reference to the Exhibition shall be granted free of charge and as promptly as possible:
 - (a) staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General and their dependants;
 - (b) personnel of providers of services to the Official Participants;
 - (c) personnel of exhibitors of the Official Participants;
 - (d) persons involved in artistic and cultural events organised by the Official Participants within the site of the Exhibition;
 - (e) journalists accompanying the delegations of the Official Participants who cover events organised by the Official Participants at the Exhibition;
 - (f) persons involved in commercial activities by the Official Participants within the site of the Exhibition with authorisation from the Organiser; and
 - (g) representatives of the BIE and their dependants.

2. A competent immigration authority of Japan shall issue a residence card to the staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General who are eligible to stay in Japan for more than three months. A residence card, however, will not be issued to those who are eligible to stay under the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor", "Diplomat" or "Official".

3. The One Stop Shop referred to in Article 13 of this Agreement will prepare certificates relating to the entry, stay, residence and work of persons listed in paragraph 1 of this Article.

4. The Offices of the Section Commissioners-General should in each case and without delay notify the Government of Japan through the One Stop Shop of the names of the staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General, the names of their dependants, and the duration of their stay in Japan, together with other relevant information.

5. The Offices of the Section Commissioners-General should in each case and without delay notify the Government of Japan through the One Stop Shop of the names of the persons referred to in subparagraphs (b) to (f) of paragraph 1 of this Article as well as the duration and the purpose of their stay in Japan, together with other relevant information.

6. The BIE shall in each case and without delay notify the Government of Japan through the One Stop Shop of the names of the representatives of the BIE, the names of their dependants, and the duration of their stay in Japan, together with other relevant information.

Article 4

1. Within the scope of non-commercial activities connected with the Exhibition of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General, the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General which are corporations not having their head or main office in Japan and their property, assets and income shall be exempt in Japan from all direct taxes except those which are, in fact, no more than charges for public services.

2. Within the scope of non-commercial activities connected with the Exhibition of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General, the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General shall be exempt from customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of articles imported by the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General in accordance with the laws and regulations of Japan. Notwithstanding such exemption, articles imported under such exemption shall be subject to the prohibitions or restrictions imposed under the laws and regulations of Japan on grounds of public morality or order, public security, public hygiene or health, or for veterinary or phytopathological considerations, or relating to the protection of patents, trademarks, copyright and the right of reproduction. It is also understood that articles imported under such exemption will not be sold in Japan except under conditions agreed with the Government of Japan.

3. The Offices of the Section Commissioners-General may receive a refund of the consumption tax and the local consumption tax paid in the procurement of the following goods and services in Japan under certain conditions and procedures in accordance with the laws and regulations on the consumption tax and local consumption tax of Japan:

- (a) goods and services procured for the construction, installation and dismantlement of their pavilions in the Exhibition; and
- (b) goods and services procured for the operation of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General.

Article 5

1. Within the scope of non-commercial activities connected with the Exhibition of the BIE, the BIE and its property, assets and income shall be exempt in Japan from all direct taxes except those which are, in fact, no more than charges for public services.

2. The BIE may receive a refund of the consumption tax and the local consumption tax paid in the procurement of goods and services for the operation of the BIE in Japan under certain conditions and procedures in accordance with the laws and regulations on the consumption tax and local consumption tax of Japan.

Article 6

The Offices of the Section Commissioners-General and the BIE may receive, acquire, hold and dispose of freely any kind of funds, gold, currencies or securities in accordance with the laws and regulations of Japan.

Article 7

The Offices of the Section Commissioners-General may use, free of charge, radio stations for which neither licence nor registration is required for their establishment under the laws and regulations of Japan.

Article 8

1. Within the scope of non-commercial activities connected with the Exhibition of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General, the staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General who visit Japan for the purpose of the Exhibition shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities in Japan:

- (a) exemption from taxation on the salaries and emoluments derived in respect of an employment or other activity that is exercised in Japan for non-commercial activities connected with the Exhibition of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General;
- (b) the right to import free of customs duties their furniture and personal effects, including one motor vehicle each, at the time of first taking up their post in Japan in accordance with customs laws and regulations of Japan; and
- (c) exemption from all direct taxes relating to the vehicle referred to in subparagraph (b) of this paragraph.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply to the staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General who are nationals of, or permanently resident in, Japan.

Article 9

1. Within the scope of non-commercial activities connected with the Exhibition of the BIE, the representatives of the BIE who visit Japan for the purpose of the Exhibition shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities in Japan:

- (a) exemption from taxation on the salaries and emoluments derived in respect of an employment or other activity that is exercised in Japan for non-commercial activities connected with the Exhibition of the BIE;
- (b) the right to import free of customs duties their furniture and personal effects, including one motor vehicle each, at the time of first taking up their post in Japan, in accordance with customs laws and regulations of Japan; and
- (c) exemption from all direct taxes relating to the vehicle referred to in subparagraph (b) of this paragraph.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply to the representatives of the BIE who are nationals of, or permanently resident in, Japan.

Article 10

1. The staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General, the representatives of the BIE and their dependants who hold a valid driving licence issued by a Prefectural Public Safety Commission of Japan may drive motor vehicles in Japan with that licence without any further obligation.

2. The staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General, the representatives of the BIE and their dependants who hold a valid driving licence conforming to the model contained in Annex 9 or Annex 10 of the Convention on Road Traffic, adopted at Geneva on 19 September 1949, may drive motor vehicles in Japan with that licence for a period not exceeding twelve months following their arrival in Japan.

3. The staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General, the representatives of the BIE and their dependants who hold a valid driving licence issued by a foreign country or region which does not issue a driving licence referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, and which has a driving licence system recognised as being at the same level as that of Japan as stipulated by the laws and regulations of Japan, may drive motor vehicles in Japan with that licence without any further obligation for a period not exceeding twelve months following their arrival in Japan, provided that such licence is accompanied by a translation created by the organisations stipulated by the laws and regulations of Japan.

Article 11

1. The staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General and the representatives of the BIE who visit Japan for the purpose of the Exhibition and are not nationals of, or permanently resident in, Japan shall not be required to participate in any social security scheme established by the laws and regulations of Japan. The Offices of the Section Commissioners-General and the BIE shall be exempt from all compulsory contributions to any social security scheme established by the laws and regulations of Japan for these staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General and representatives of the BIE.

2. In case that the staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General and the representatives of the BIE are not required to participate in any social security scheme established by the laws and regulations of Japan in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, their accompanying dependants who are not nationals of, or permanently resident in, Japan shall also not be required to participate in such social security scheme, except for employment insurance and workers' accident compensation insurance.

Article 12

The dependants of the staff of the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General shall be allowed to enroll in public elementary schools and junior high schools in Japan in accordance with their ages.

Article 13

A One Stop Shop will be established in Osaka, Japan to provide the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General and the BIE with all necessary information relating to privileges and immunities provided for in this Agreement and participation in the Exhibition. It will also provide facilities to the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General, the BIE and persons concerned for their applications relating to the privileges and immunities that must be submitted to the Japanese authorities.

Article 14

1. The privileges and immunities accorded under this Agreement are provided solely for the Exhibition and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves.
2. In any case where the Government of Japan considers that an abuse of any of these privileges or immunities has occurred, the Government of Japan shall have the right to withhold from the Offices of the Section Commissioners-General, the BIE, or persons concerned, the benefits of the privileges or immunities so abused in accordance with the laws and regulations of Japan.
3. No provision in this Agreement shall affect the right of the Government of Japan to take all precautionary measures in the interests of its security.

Article 15

1. Any dispute between the Government of Japan and the BIE concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled through consultation.
2. If any dispute cannot be settled in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, it shall be submitted, at the request of either the Government of Japan or the BIE, for decision to an arbitral tribunal which shall be constituted for each individual case in the following manner:
 - (a) the Government of Japan and the BIE shall appoint an arbitrator no later than sixty days after the date on which either the Government of Japan or the BIE has notified the other of the request for arbitration. The two arbitrators shall agree to appoint a third arbitrator as chairman of the arbitral tribunal who shall be appointed no later than sixty days after the date when either the Government of Japan or the BIE which was the later to appoint its arbitrator has notified the other of the appointment; and
 - (b) if either the Government of Japan or the BIE fails to appoint an arbitrator, or if the two arbitrators do not agree upon a chairman within the respective periods referred to in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph, either the Government of Japan or the BIE may request the President of the International Court of Justice to make the necessary appointments.

3. The decision of the arbitral tribunal, which shall be final and binding upon both the Government of Japan and the BIE, shall be by majority vote.

Article 16

At the request either of the Government of Japan or of the BIE, consultations shall take place with respect to the amendment of this Agreement. Any amendment shall be made by mutual agreement.

Article 17

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date on which the Government of Japan and the BIE exchange notes indicating their acceptance of this Agreement, and shall remain in force until one year after the closing date of the Exhibition unless terminated pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Article.

2. This Agreement may be terminated by agreement between the Government of Japan and the BIE.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

Done at Dubai, in duplicate, in the English language, on this fifteenth day of February, 2022.

For the Government of
Japan:

磯俣秋男

For the Bureau International
des Expositions:

D. Kerkentzes