

Opening Special Feature

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✧ Opening Special Feature ✧

“Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan” Diplomacy

— 184 Days of the World Gathering in Osaka
to Co-Create the Future —



Photo: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition ©Expo 2025

1 Osaka to the World — Designing Future Society for Our Lives



▲Opening ceremony (April 12, Osaka; Photo: Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan)

Under the theme “Designing Future Society for Our Lives,” Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan was held for 184 days, from April 13 to October 13, on Yumeshima in Osaka City, Osaka Prefecture.

Following the Japan World Exposition 1970 (Expo'70) held in Osaka in 1970 and the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan (Expo 2005) held in Aichi in 2005, Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan was the first “International Registered Exhibition” (formerly known as a “General Exhibition”) hosted by Japan in 20 years. With the official participation of 158 countries and regions

and seven international organizations,⁽¹⁾ it marked the largest number of participants in any international exposition held in Japan, with the number of visitors exceeding 29 million.

People from across the world engaged in dialogue and co-creation and saw their cultures resonate with each other, united in diversity. They co-created the Expo together and brought forth their messages toward the future society for our lives.

	Japan World Exposition Osaka 1970 (1970)	Expo 2005, Aichi, Japan (2005)	Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan (2025)
Period	3/15 – 9/13 (183 days)	3/25 – 9/25 (185 days)	4/13 – 10/13 (184 days)
Theme	“Progress and Harmony for Mankind”	“Nature’s Wisdom”	“Designing Future Society for Our Lives”
Total visitors	Approx. 64.22 million	Approx. 22.05 million	Approx. 29.02 million
Participating countries/ regions International organizations	77 countries (including Japan) 4 organizations	121 countries (including Japan) 4 international organizations	158 countries/regions 7 international organizations

(1) Of these, the United Nations (UN) comprises a total of 35 UN entities.

In the lead-up to Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) engaged proactively in activities to invite the international community to participate in the Expo, playing a significant role in securing a record-high number of Official Participants. Prior to the opening of the Expo, MOFA also actively conducted momentum-building activities at numerous diplomatic missions overseas, making full use of receptions and events.

Furthermore, in connection with exhibitions by developing countries, the Government of Japan provided comprehensive and tailored support to enable these countries to participate in the Expo without

difficulty, and to make their exhibits attractive and in keeping with the theme. As a result of providing broad and attentive support covering installation work and operations, accommodation for personnel, and the holding of National Day celebrations, a wide range of countries, including those in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific, were able to fully showcase the appeal of their respective nations through exhibitions and events.

In this way, participation from all parts of the world was realized, and Osaka became, in the truest sense, a stage upon which the world gathered.



▲ Reception for Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan at the Embassy of Japan in Austria (March 24, Embassy of Japan in Austria)



▲ Exterior view of Commons-A (Osaka; Photo: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition ©Expo 2025)

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“Japan-Jordan Relations Woven Through Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan and Into the Future”

At the Expo, Jordan, under the pavilion theme “Weaving Possibilities,” transported approximately 22 tons of sand from the iconic Wadi Rum desert to Japan to recreate it on site, captivating the hearts of visitors. The Jordan Pavilion, where visitors could take off their shoes and walk on the cool sand, won the Gold Award in the Theme Development category for Module pavilions at the Official Participant Awards. A special bond of friendship also emerged through this shared connection to sand, as a “Sand Alliance” was formed with Tottori Prefecture, which had recreated the Tottori Sand Dunes at the Expo site.

On May 7, Jordan’s National Day, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II visited Japan. Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, who has built close ties with the Jordanian Royal Family, welcomed H.R.H. Crown Prince Al Hussein in Osaka, and the deepening of their friendship symbolized the development of Japan-Jordan friendly relations through the Expo. H.R.H. Crown Prince Al Hussein also visited Tokyo, where Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince and Crown Princess Akishino, Her Imperial Highness Princess Kako of Akishino, and His Imperial Highness Prince Hisahito of Akishino invited the Crown Prince to dinner at the residence of Prince Akishino. H.R.H. Crown Prince Al Hussein also met with Prime Minister Ishiba and engaged in in-depth discussions on the further development of bilateral relations and on various issues in the Middle East, including the situation in Gaza. Additionally, Ayman Al Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, who also visited Japan, held separate meetings with Chief Cabinet Secretary HAYASHI Yoshimasa and Foreign Minister Iwaya.

Japan has built multifaceted relations with Jordan, which continues to play a role as a linchpin for the stability of the Middle East, as a strategic partner and as a good friend. Japan-Jordan diplomatic relations marked their 70th anniversary in 2024. The year 2025 became a year of “Weaving the Future,” as Japan and Jordan reaffirmed their bonds through Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.



▲ Jordan Pavilion featuring a recreation of the Wadi Rum desert (Osaka; Photo: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition ©Expo 2025)

3 Days of Building Friendship and Trust — National Days and Special Days

Throughout the period of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, National Days (for countries and regions) and Special Days (for international organizations) were held on a daily basis with the aim of honoring the participation of countries, regions, and international organizations, deepening understanding of their respective cultures, and contributing to the promotion of international goodwill. In conjunction with the National Days and Special Days, MOFA invited representatives of the participating countries, regions, and international organizations as official guests of the Expo, and played a significant role in hosting the delegations of these guests throughout the day within the Expo site.

State Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Parliamentary

Vice-Ministers for Foreign Affairs, along with other senior MOFA officials, attended the official ceremonies and official events (cultural events), luncheons, and dinners on a daily basis, and accompanied visiting delegations on tours of the Japan Pavilion and other countries' pavilions. At the official ceremonies and official events, MOFA deepened exchanges not only with the Official Participants from countries, regions, and international organizations, but also with general visitors. Furthermore, on the National Days of countries and regions, individual pavilions frequently held their own events, and through these occasions, friendship and trust between Japan and people from around the world were nurtured.



▲ Viet Nam National Day (September 9, Osaka; Photo: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition ©Expo 2025)



▲ Tour of the Tanzania Pavilion by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa and State Minister for Foreign Affairs FUJII Hisayuki on the occasion of Tanzania's National Day (May 25, Osaka)

4 Tackling Global Challenges — The Expo 2025 and the SDGs

The year 2025 was a pivotal year in which only five years remained until 2030, the target year for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the UN, making it an extremely important year for accelerating efforts to realize the SDGs. Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, held at this milestone moment, served as a platform for confronting global challenges as well.

The Japan Pavilion showcased Japan's world-class technologies and culture to many guests and visitors from both Japan and abroad, under the theme “Between Lives,” expressing diverse forms of “circulation.”

In addition, at the opening of the SDGs symposium “OSAKA JAPAN SDGs Forum”⁽²⁾ held within the Expo site, Foreign Minister Iwata delivered a video message, emphasizing that the Expo is a platform for intellectual exchange and for sharing the knowledge that forms the basis of the SDGs with the international community.



▲ The “water basin” in the Japan Pavilion, filled with water reclaimed from waste (Osaka; Photo: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)

⁽²⁾ OSAKA JAPAN SDGs Forum: Until 2024, this forum was held under the name “SDGs National Forum.” In 2025, it was hosted by Osaka Prefecture in conjunction with Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. Its objectives are to address regional challenges and achieve regional revitalization through the promotion of the SDGs, to share leading practices related to the SDGs, and to promote partnerships including public-private collaboration.

5 Outcomes of High-Level Visits from Around the World — Expo Diplomacy

Since the opening of the Expo, many dignitaries from countries around the world visited the Expo site on their National Days and Special Days and other occasions. The dignitaries who visited the Expo include approximately 90 heads of state and government leaders and approximately 50 foreign minister-level officials. Seizing these opportunities, Prime Minister Ishiba held approximately 50 meetings, while Foreign Minister Iwaya held approximately 40 meetings, enabling them to further strengthen cooperation while maintaining close communication with various countries on bilateral relations and challenges facing the international community.

The opportunity for the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister to exchange views at length on bilateral relations and the international situation, including with countries that they would otherwise rarely have the chance to visit on official trips, was an outcome made uniquely possible by Japan's hosting of the Expo. The dignitaries who visited Japan on the occasion of the Expo must have gained an overall sense of the Japan embodied in the Expo's theme "Designing Future Society for Our Lives," and Japan

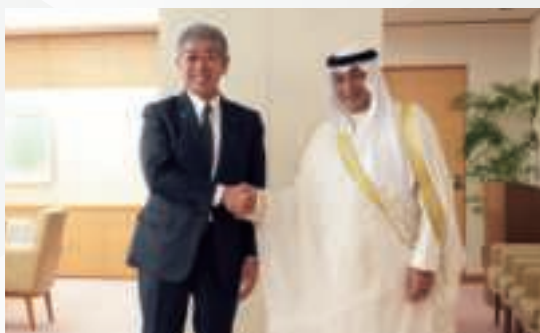
has successfully built a robust network that will underpin its future diplomacy.

The Expo also served as an opportunity to bring overseas vitality to Japan. Foreign dignitaries' visits to Japan often included business-related events in their itineraries, generating significant synergistic effects. Furthermore, many visited regions outside Osaka, which also contributed to regional revitalization.

In addition, through the Expo, not only government officials but also many Japanese citizens, including those from the business, academic, and cultural communities, deepened their exchanges with those from around the world, broadening the scope of Japan's diplomacy and offering a valuable opportunity to widely showcase Japan's charm to the international community.



▲Thumbnail of "Banpaku Tsushin (Expo Updates) FINAL," distributed via MOFA's official social media



▲Meeting between Foreign Minister Iwaya and Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Al Budaiwi (July 7, Tokyo)



▲Courtesy call on Prime Minister Ishiba by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent and other members of the U.S. Presidential Delegation (July 18, Tokyo; Photo: Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan)



▲Japan-Latvia Foreign Ministers' Meeting (September 18, Tokyo)

6

184 Days of Co-Creating the Future – A Legacy to Be Passed On to the Next Generation

On October 13, the closing day, the “Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Declaration Forum” was held, and the “Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Declaration” was announced in order to share the outcomes of the Expo with the world. The following is an excerpt from the Declaration.

Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Declaration

For 184 days, participants and exhibitors from around the world gathered in Osaka, Kansai for a World Expo, under the theme “Designing Future Society for Our Lives,” welcoming over 28 million visitors in total.

Overcoming various constraints and challenges, from the construction of pavilions and preparation of exhibits to daily operation during the event, stakeholders maintained close collaboration and continually improved their offerings, successfully bringing the Expo to its completion. At a time when the international community faces diverse challenges and growing uncertainty about the future, the 165 official participants and their host country celebrated each other’s National Days and Special Days, powerfully expressing their unique cultures and agendas. They, and the visitors from around the world, co-created the Expo, conveying the message of “Unity in Diversity” as embodied by the Grand Ring.

(...)

At Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, participants and visitors engaged in dialogue and co-creation and saw their culture resonate with each other, united in diversity in bringing forth their messages towards the future society for our lives. Through this declaration, we express our hope that these discussions and practices will be carried forward to upcoming Expos and contribute to efforts around the world in designing our future society.



▲Flag Parade on the closing day (October 13, Osaka; Photo: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition ©Expo 2025)

✧ Opening Special Feature ✧

TICAD 9

Co-create Innovative Solutions with Africa

What is TICAD?

Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) is an international conference on African development launched by Japan in 1993. It supports African development based on the fundamental principles of “ownership” by Africa and “partnership” with the international community, including Japan.



▲Commemorative photo of leaders attending TICAD 9 (August 20, Yokohama; Photo: Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan)

1 TICAD 9 – Theme and Overview

TICAD 9 (the Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development) was held in Yokohama from August 20 to 22, 2025. It was attended by 49 African countries (including 33 heads of state), as well as co-organizers (the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank,

the African Union Commission (AUC)), international organizations, private companies, Diet members, and members of civil society, among others.

At TICAD 9, discussions were held under the theme “Co-create innovative solutions with Africa.”



▲Prime Minister Ishiba co-chairing the opening ceremony with President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço of Angola (August 20, Yokohama; Photo: Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan)



▲Plenary session in progress (screen shows former Prime Minister Kishida serving as Acting Co-chair) (August 21, Yokohama)

2 Plenary Sessions and the Yokohama Declaration

At TICAD 9, plenary sessions were held on the three pillars of economy, society, and peace and stability. Active discussions were held with a particular focus on private-sector-led sustainable growth, youth and women, and regional integration and connectivity within and beyond the region, as cross-cutting priorities.

The outcomes of the three days of discussions were compiled into the leaders' declaration, the “TICAD 9 Yokohama Declaration,” which was adopted on the final day. At the joint press conference held after the conclusion of the conference, Prime Minister Ishiba stated that Japan will work to continuously develop TICAD into something better, while building upon the original concept of TICAD.



▲Prime Minister Ishiba adopting the outcome document at the closing ceremony (August 22, Yokohama; Photo: Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan)



▲Theme and key priorities of TICAD 9

3 Japan's Initiatives

At TICAD 9, Prime Minister Ishiba announced that Japan will accelerate its efforts in the following seven areas: (1) promoting investment in Africa; (2) promoting the mobilization of private capital; (3) strengthening industrial cooperation, including the use of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and DX (Digital Transformation) and

strengthening the resilience of mineral resource supply chains; (4) enhancing connectivity within and beyond Africa; (5) strengthening health policies; (6) human resource development and exchanges focusing on youth and women; and (7) progressing efforts toward peace and stability in Africa.

The following introduces some of the specific initiatives announced at TICAD 9.

▷ **Economic Region Initiative of Indian Ocean-Africa**

This initiative aims to contribute to Africa's regional integration and industrial development by collaborating with countries across the Indian Ocean and supporting the strengthening of inter-regional connectivity and the building of a free and fair economic region.

▷ **Region-wide Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative⁽¹⁾ for Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia: "Strengthening the Global Supply Chain through Nacala Corridor Development"**

A region-wide co-creation for common agenda initiative was launched to improve and strengthen transportation infrastructure and promote industrial development in the Nacala Corridor, which connects the landlocked countries of Zambia and Malawi to the Indian Ocean via Nacala Port in Mozambique.

▷ **Establishment of the Study Group on Strengthening of Japan-Africa Economic Partnership**

A committee is to be established to hold discussions among relevant institutions and experts from both Japan and Africa on cooperation toward the realization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), an important policy of the African Union (AU), and on the possibilities for future economic partnership.

▷ **Investment Promotion Package for Sustainable Health in Africa**

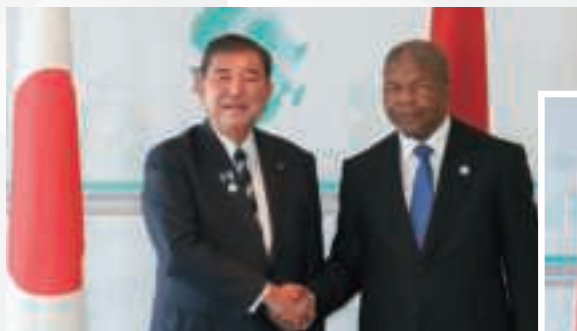
African countries themselves need to work on improving governance, enhancing their investment environment, and mobilizing domestic resources as an investment in their future. To support such efforts, the "Investment Promotion Package for Sustainable Health in Africa" was launched.

4

Meetings with African Countries and International Organizations

On the occasion of TICAD 9, Prime Minister Ishiba held 34 meetings and Foreign Minister Iwaya held 30 meetings with representatives of African countries and international organizations. State Minister for Foreign Affairs FUJII Hisayuki, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs MATSUMOTO Hisashi, and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs ERI Arfiya also met with various counterparts.

Through the effective use of these extensive diplomatic opportunities, Japan was able to exchange views with a wide range of stakeholders on cooperation in line with the needs of African countries, as well as cooperation in the international arena, including UN Security Council (UNSC) reform. In addition, many representatives from countries and organizations expressed their gratitude for Japan's support.



▲ Summit meeting between Prime Minister Ishiba and President Lourenço of Angola, who served as co-chair (August 20, Yokohama; Photo: Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan)



▲ Meeting between Prime Minister Ishiba and UN Secretary-General António Guterres (August 20, Yokohama; Photo: Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan)

⁽¹⁾ Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative: A measure in which Japan proactively proposes to developing countries attractive cooperation packages that leverage Japan's strengths and combine ODA, Other Official Flows (OOF), and private sector funds in the areas that should be strategically addressed from a foreign policy perspective.

5 Business Promotion

Since the concept of “From Aid to Investment” was put forward at TICAD V in 2013, interest among Japanese companies in Africa has been growing steadily. At TICAD 9, a total of 324 business-related cooperation documents were signed, more than three times the number recorded at TICAD 8. In addition, the number

of exhibitors from companies and organizations reached a record high at the TICAD Business Expo & Conference, a thematic event organized by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), and approximately 10,000 participants from both Japanese and African companies attended the event.



▲Signing ceremony for cooperation documents (August 21, Yokohama; Photo: Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan)



▲Prime Minister Ishiba visiting company booths at the “TICAD Business Expo & Conference” (August 21, Yokohama; Photo: Official Website of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan)

6 Youth Engagement

It is projected that by 2050, African countries will account for more than one-third of the world's youth population.⁽²⁾ Against this backdrop, TICAD 9 placed particular emphasis on “youth,” and announced that it would promote efforts related to human resource development and people-to-people exchanges for youth.

From the perspective of incorporating the voices of youth from both Japan and Africa, numerous youth-led events were held during TICAD 9. At the Youth Forum 2025, held as the Youth Edition of TICAD and attended by approximately 400 participants from Japan

and Africa, the youth policy proposal “Youth Agenda 2055: The Future We Want” was presented, outlining a vision for the future of Africa and Japan.

Furthermore, the Model African Union in Japan, based on the Model United Nations, was also held during TICAD 9, in which students and youth from Japan and Africa formed teams, debated over themes of economy, politics, and science and technology as representatives of AU member states, and adopted three Assembly resolutions.



▲Scene from the Youth Forum (August 20, Yokohama)



▲Scene from the Model African Union in Japan (August 20, Yokohama; Photo: UNDP)

⁽²⁾ Source: International Labour Organization (ILO), Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024, p. 56