

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

KIZUNA means bonds in English

Issued June 26, 2024, Vol.10



Dimitri S. Kerkentzes, the Secretary General of the BIE, in a conference with Prime Minister KISHIDA and TOKURA Masakazu, Chairman of the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren)/Chairperson of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition



Dimitri S. Kerkentzes, the Secretary General of the BIE, in a conference with SAITO Ken, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry



JIMI Hanako, Minister for the World Expo 2025 with  Dimitri S. Kerkentzes, the Secretary General of the BIE, and   YAMASHITA Makoto, Governor of Nara



The One Stop Shop launched at the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition on June 24

## 【The week's report】

- Overseas Pavilions Construction Status  
June 17: Activity announcement of the Netherlands Pavilion  
June 21: Groundbreaking ceremony of the Romania Pavilion
- Last week's main events / Schedule for this week and beyond  
June 24: Dimitri S. Kerkentzes, the Secretary General of the BIE, makes a courtesy visit to Prime Minister KISHIDA and has a conference with SAITO Ken, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry  
June 24: Full-scale operation of the One Stop Shop  
June 19: The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition and the Payments Japan Association enter into a partnership agreement for promoting cashless payments  
June 20: Additional announcement of National Days/Special Days

June 20: MYAKU-MYAKU invited to perform in the Yoshimoto Shinkigeki show  
June 19: Third issue of the online magazine *Monthly JP pavilion* published  
June 22: Official store no. 12 launched at JUNKUDO Namba Store  
June 24: The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition announces safety measures related to methane gas, etc.

- Sales / Applications  
Tickets sold: 2,800,949 (as of June 19)



**IPM held with great success in Nara!**

**Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Weekly Report (June 18 - June 24)**

~ 292 days to go ! ~

**1. Official Participants**

- June 17; The Netherlands announced the five main themes for its participation in Expo 2025: 1) life science and health, 2) energy, sustainability and circular economy, 3) sustainable food production and horticulture, 4) high-tech and digitalisation and 5) culture.



<https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/landen-en-gebieden/japan/expo-2025-osaka/programmering-5-sectoren-tracks>



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/official-participant/netherlands>



- June 21; Romania held a groundbreaking ceremony of its pavilion, which will be constructed with recyclable materials. Events featuring Romania's cultural diversity through music and dance are planned to take place during the Expo. Romania's National Day, scheduled for June 26, 2025, will host a business forum and a large-scale cultural and artistic event.



Photos provided by the Romanian Expo team

June 18; The Ministry of Foreign Affairs updated the list of official participants. Argentina and Niue will not participate due to domestic circumstances, while Sierra Leone and Barbados newly announced their participation. The total number of participating countries remains the same at 161.

**Status of participating countries as of June 19**

- Number of countries with official participation agreements: 102 countries
- Countries where have been decided their construction companies: 40 countries
- Countries where already handed over the site: 43 countries
- Countries where construction has started: 32 countries

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

- June 24; The Secretary General of the BIE, Mr. Dimitri Kerkentzes, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Kishida.
- Prime Minister Kishida conveyed the significance of the Expo as a place where people from all over the world can meet and gain unexpected new experiences and confirmed that that all parties involved will work together to make the Expo a success.
- Secretary General Kerkentzes paid tribute to Prime Minister Kishida's leadership in preparing for the Expo and mentioned that the IPM to be held in Nara from May 25 will be an opportunity to promote the event throughout Japan.



Left: Prime Minister Kishida and Secretary General Kerkentzes

Right: The BIE delegation including Secretary General Kerkentzes, Prime Minister Kishida, Mr. Tokura as Chairman of the Association, Ambassador Haneda as Commissioner General of the Expo and Mr Ishige as Secretary General of the Association

- June 24; Prior to the courtesy call on Prime Minister Kishida, Secretary General Kerkentzes held a meeting with Mr. Saito, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry.
- Secretary General Kerkentzes stated that participating countries were positive and supported Japan's efforts. Both sides agreed to continue to work closely together to build momentum and support the preparation of official participants.



<https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2024/06/20240624002/20240624002.html>



- June 24; The One-Stop Shop (OSS) has officially opened on the 47th floor of the Sakishima Government Building in Osaka, in the same building as the Association.
- On the first day, June 24, approximately 120 people from 30 countries and international organisations visited to consult the OSS. The number of consultation categories has been expanded to a total of 26. In addition to online support, it provides consultations in person as well for administrative services in terms of permits and licenses.



- June 19; The Association and the Cashless Promotion Council signed a partnership

agreement on the promotion of cashless payments. The agreement encompasses promotional activities for cashless operations in the venue.

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240619-01/>



- June 20; The Association announced that further 31 National Days and Special Days have been set. Japan's National Day will be held on July 3, 2025. In addition, 86 new events to be held during the Expo were announced, bringing the total to 202.

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240620-01/>



- June 20; The official character Myaku-Myaku made a guest appearance in a long-running comedy play by Yoshimoto Corporation, one of the largest entertainment agencies and Japan that will be exhibiting a private-sector pavilion at the Expo. This was the first time Myaku-Myaku conversed with a living person.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240620-05/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDqjWONimKE>



- June 19; The third issue of the web magazine Monthly Japan Pavilion was published. The topic of this issue is the Power of Microorganisms and Fermentation.



## Let's Go Visit the World-Famous, "Fermentation Restaurant."

醤油も、味噌も、ワインも、チーズも。  
おいしい食卓に、「発酵」あり。  
小さな料理人・微生物たちの厨房を覗いてみよう。

Scroll



<https://2025-japan-pavilion.go.jp/>

- June 22; A new Osaka-Kansai Expo Official Store opened in the Junkudo Bookstore Namba store. This brings the total number of physical official stores nationwide to 12.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240614-04/>

- June 24; The Association made a media briefing on the details and new measures to be taken regarding the explosion accident which occurred on March 28 and the detection of low-concentration methane gas in the pavilion zone. Safety measures to be taken by the Association and its contractors for methane gas release has been published on the official website.

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20240624-02/>



### **3. Ticket sales**

- Number of tickets sales: 2,800,949 as of June 19