

3.3 Prosperity (Supply chain and value chain)

The Expo fosters knowledge about society and the environment that enriches not only tangible commodities but also livelihoods. This knowledge expands the scope of possibilities and shall be passed on to the next generation as a legacy.

【Direction to pursue】

(a)The Expo shall establish a supply chain in compliance with the Sustainable Procurement Code and take account of sustainability throughout the value chain, including the process of cyclical use and disposal of resources.

【Background】

To enrich all aspects of "life," which are the foundation of "life's" activities, the realization of a sustainable society is essential. And to achieve a sustainable society, many stakeholders need to implement feasible and optimal sustainable procurement. Specifically, in addition to conventional purchasing standards such as price, quality, and delivery time, the Expo Association aims to establish procurement standards and operational methods through the hosting of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, taking into account the positive impact on the environment, society, and economy at each stage of the value chain, from raw material procurement to product use and disposal. Furthermore, it aims to build a supply chain that adheres to these standards and to consider sustainability throughout the entire value chain, including the cyclical use and disposal of resources.

Given the growing consumer interest in sustainability and the strengthening demands for sustainability from global suppliers and business partners, engaging in sustainable procurement will lead to securing business trust and maintaining and expanding trading opportunities, forming an indispensable foundation for supporting future medium- to long-term competitiveness and stable growth. Businesses and procurement entities need to address challenges from a broad perspective, encompassing not only their own direct business activities but also those of their business partners, local governments, and individuals.

Therefore, leading businesses are strengthening their information gathering and communication systems with suppliers, as well as management systems such as environmental management systems, and these efforts are spreading to second and third-tier suppliers.

Furthermore, strengthening management systems in supply chains is becoming a requirement for "sustainable procurement" in public procurement by the Japanese government. The Japanese government published the "Guidelines for Respecting Human Rights in Responsible Supply Chains, etc." as a guideline for human rights due diligence in September 2022, and announced in April 2023 that it would require bidding companies to respect human rights in public procurement, indicating growing attention to sustainable procurement within Japan.

At the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, which creates an opportunity for the world to gather in

one "place," incorporating sustainability perspectives into procurement by all entities, including participants, can provide an opportunity to encourage behavioral change among businesses on a global level.

【Major implementation items】

Based on the above background, the Expo Association also implemented the following measures to promote sustainable procurement through the hosting of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. These measures include formulating and implementing rules to enable all businesses that procure goods and services related to the Expo, not just those directly procured by the Expo Association, to practice sustainable procurement. The aim is to make sustainability considerations clear to businesses procuring goods and services and to contribute to promoting sustainable efforts throughout society.

◆Formulation and dissemination of procurement codes

wood and paper, the second edition published in July 2023 introduced individual standards for agricultural, livestock and fisheries products and for palm oil. These standards apply to product groups where, in recent years, there has been increasing expectation for reduced environmental impacts at the production stage, improved occupational safety and consideration for human rights.

Certification schemes are presented as complementary tools to confirm compliance. At the same time, procurement standards are defined for situations in which certified products cannot be sourced, enabling practical implementation by a wide range of businesses, including small and medium-sized enterprises. To ensure effectiveness, reporting to the Association is required for the procurement of fresh agricultural, livestock and marine products, endangered marine species and palm-oil-based frying oil, soaps and detergents.

In May 2024, the third edition of the Code was published, incorporating amendments following the establishment of the Association's Human Rights Policy and the impact of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake. This ensured coherence with the Association's approach to human rights.

As more companies adopt supply-chain sustainability policies and as the Government of Japan publishes Guidelines on Respect Human Rights in Responsible Supply Chains, there has been increasing domestic momentum to promote sustainability in supply chains. Taking account of lessons from past major international events and expert advice from the Procurement WG, the Association formulated procurement rules that are both practically achievable and aligned with a high standard. These include strengthened provisions on human-rights protection, efforts to reduce food loss and measures based on animal-welfare considerations.

The Procurement WG continued to meet after publication of the third edition to confirm the status of implementation, ultimately holding 14 meetings. By publishing the full record of these deliberations on the Association's website, the Association ensured shared awareness of the issues under consideration and a high level of transparency.

As the Procurement Code extends to 35 pages, supplementary explanatory materials were also prepared and published. Dissemination required careful planning due to the wide variety of



stakeholders involved in Expo procurement—ranging from Official Participants (foreign governments, international organisations and other bodies) and Unofficial Participants (private-sector companies) to their suppliers—and the wide spectrum of procurement items, from food-and-beverage services to pavilion construction. The limited preparation period and the six-month duration of the Expo added to these challenges.

To avoid imposing unilateral burdens on businesses, the Association focused on promoting understanding of the principles of the Procurement Code and encouraging proactive engagement. Explanatory sessions were held for staff across the Association and for participating businesses. Additional outreach was conducted via the Private Pavilion Exhibitors’ Meeting, the International Participants’ Meeting (IPM), Association-hosted events, industry seminars, lectures and media engagement. Local governments and other organisations also provided explanations to producers and industry groups. Individual interviews were conducted both online and within the Expo site.

Table 3-3-1 Key points strengthened from past large-scale domestic events in terms of sustainability

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added pavilion operators and other relevant entities to the scope of eligibility. • Clarified the perspectives on human rights and environmental due diligence. • Awarded procurees that demonstrate a high degree of compliance with the procurement code.
Individual criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish standards that take into account respect for human rights and animal welfare, consider the handling of endangered species, and clearly state the need to reduce food waste • Collect procurement plans and results reports for some items subject to individual standards.

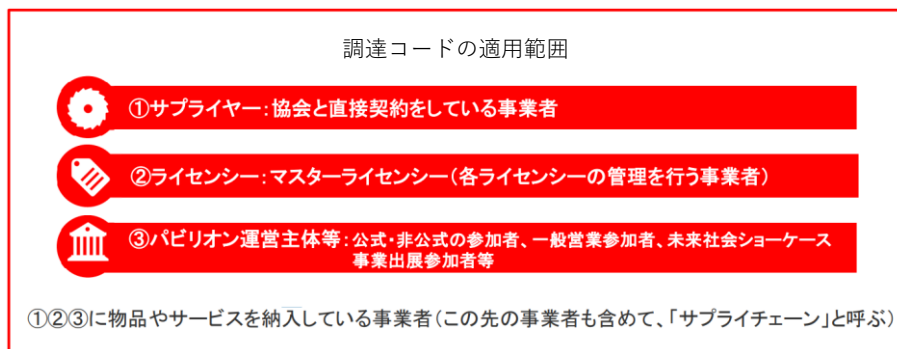


Figure 3-3-1 Scope of application of the “Code of Sustainable Procurement”

◆ Operation of the Procurement Code

- The Association required suppliers, licensees and Pavilion Organisers to comply with the Procurement Code in relation to the manufacture, distribution of procured goods. For example, for goods procured by the Association, the Association included information regarding compliance with the Procurement Code in relevant procurement documents such as bidding notices, by incorporating contractual clauses requiring compliance with the Procurement Code, and by requiring each business to submit a written pledge and a compliance checklist at the time of bidding or when providing quotations for discretionary contracts.



< Submitting the checklist >

Through these dialogues, a greater number of businesses were provided with opportunities to understand and improve the status of their own initiatives through the submission of checklists and other materials. As a result, participation in the Expo served as an opportunity for businesses to review new procurement sources for certified products, confirm the appropriateness of existing suppliers and proactively engage in higher standard, sustainability conscious procurement, with such initiatives gaining wider momentum.

For projects ordered by the Association, the status of sustainability related initiatives confirmed through the checklist was utilized as information for comprehensive evaluations when selecting contractors, taking into account not only price but also factors such as legal compliance and consideration for human rights and the environment. In addition, to ensure transparency, objectivity and the proper execution of contracts (the prevention of corruption), the Contract Administration Review Board was established to investigate and deliberate on contracts exceeding specified thresholds.

Approximately 3,000 checklists submitted to date were comprehensively reviewed to confirm, at a minimum, that all items were marked as “Understood” and, where past illegal acts were indicated, appropriate measures to prevent recurrence had been described. In addition to confirming conformity with the Procurement Code, the Association also encouraged businesses, from a risk mitigation perspective, to avoid procurement where possible in high risk countries or regions and requested confirmation of the audit status of manufacturing facilities.

Under the Procurement Code, responsibility for managing procurement throughout the supply chain beyond Tier 2 was assigned to the Association’s direct contractors (Tier 1) from whom pledges and other documents were collected. However, in practice, the entities directly involved in procurement, such as those procuring food and beverages or engaging in construction work, were not always Tier 1 contractors, making it difficult in some cases to grasp specific procurement details. In light of this, as a reference for future initiatives, the Association recorded the consideration of establishing a more comprehensive and effective mechanism under which all parties involved in Expo related procurement, not limited to Tier 1 contractors, would be required to pledge compliance with the Procurement Code at the time of initial document exchange with the Association or upon the issuance of admission pass.

< Interviews >

Interviews were conducted with suppliers, etc to confirm the status of initiatives related to compliance to comply with the Procurement Code. The targets for the interviews selected based on discussions at the Procurement Working Group, taking into consideration the magnitude of the impact, the high risk, and the progress of procurement. Since 2024, more than 200 interviews have been conducted with businesses involved in construction works directly contracted by the Association, Pavilion Organisers, licensees, uniform manufacturers, food and



beverage business participants, event programme participants, cleaning companies and interior construction companies etc.

As for the interview process, the Association first re-communicated the Procurement Code through briefings and other explanatory sessions for each category of participation. After this, Prior to the interviews, questionnaires were distributed covering topics such as workers' labor conditions and safety, the procurement status of items subject to individual criteria, the establishment of grievance mechanisms, and initiatives to engage supply chains. Based on the responses received, individual hearings were then conducted online.

In particular, for businesses expected to procure items subject to individual criteria, the Association carefully explained, using explanatory materials, the background to the development of the individual criteria, the types of certifications and recommended standards and methods for their verification, the information to be included in procurement plans and reports, and key points to note when procuring fishery products, including those involving endangered species.

To check labour safety for interior and exterior construction works before the opening of the Expo and after its closure, as well as exhibition and operational activities within the venue during the Expo period, the Sustainability Bureau conducted on site inspections through approximately 20 "SUS Patrols" (sustainability compliance visits). Through these inspections, the Association directly confirmed the status of businesses' initiatives and, where necessary, provided advice and made observations regarding appropriate response measures.

In addition, for businesses with whom interviews were not conducted, the Association responded flexibly by engaging in question and answer exchanges via email or telephone based on information provided by the parties, such as official participants from foreign governments and event program participants, including responses to advance questionnaires. Furthermore, in response to feedback received during the Expo period, interviews were also conducted with security service providers etc, and the Human Rights Policy was recommunicated as necessary.

As a result of the interviews, good practices identified among the initiatives undertaken by businesses that could serve as references for others were actively shared. Where initiatives were considered insufficient, the Association provided advice, referring to expert opinions, and requested additional confirmation of subsequent improvement measures. These initiatives were summarised before the opening of the Expo and published on the Association's official website to share good practices as well as the Association's findings (See Appendix 4-1, "Businesses Initiatives toward Compliance with the Procurement Code").

- ◆ Sustainable procurement of wood, paper, agricultural, livestock and fishery products, and palm oil
 - The individual standards were set by first reviewing discussions from past large-scale international events. Items that required particular attention were selected. These were items that already had certification systems, were expected to be procured in large volumes for event operations and were relatively easy to implement in practice. Through further discussion in the Procurement Working Group, specific recommended standards were set for each item, including considerations



such as animal welfare, and high-level individual standards were established.

< Wood >

- For the Procurement Code's individual criterion on "wood" the Code recognises FSC, PEFC and SGEC certified materials, in principle, as having a high level of conformity with the standards. For non-certified materials, the Code requires that compliance be demonstrated using the method described in the appendix to the "wood" criterion (Methods of verification for non certified materials).

For the Grand Ring, which is a major wooden structure of the Expo, it is confirmed that the procurement routes and the use of certified timber with the construction company. Of the approximately 27,000 m³ of timber used for the entire ring, about 70% was sourced domestically. Only part of this timber was certified (SGEC/PEFC), but the remaining timber was confirmed to meet the standards in the appendix for non-certified materials (Methods of verification for non certified materials) through forestry operators and upstream traceability companies. It is also confirmed that more than 20% of the timber used in each construction section came from disaster-affected areas such as Fukushima Prefecture. All imported timber, which accounts for about 30% of the total, was PEFC certified.

< Paper >

- For paper procurement, in addition to the Procurement Code, we required compliance with environmental policies set by the national government and Osaka Prefecture (such as the national "Basic Policy for Promoting the Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods" and the "Osaka Prefecture Green Procurement Policy"). Because each paper item has different required standards, it was difficult to apply paper procurement standards consistently.

However, for items with clear indicators such as copy paper and toilet paper, we checked whether certified products were used and whether the required recycled-paper content was met once the procurement schedule was confirmed.

When items did not meet the standards (for example, toilet paper not made from 100% recycled paper), the reasonableness of their intended use was examined on a case by case basis, and certification or verification of the virgin pulp portion was requested in accordance with the appendix to the procurement standards. It is also confirmed that some businesses switched to certified or recycled paper because of the Expo. In addition, when certain facilities or events introduced separate rules, such as bans on disposable containers, we coordinated with the relevant departments to address these requirements.

For posters and flyers ordered by the Association, the procurement status of certified paper was confirmed by reviewing each specification sheet (about 720,000 posters and about 350,000 flyers). Although some paper was not certified, it was confirmed that verification had been conducted with paper manufacturers in accordance with the appendix to the "Paper" Procurement Standards.

Furthermore, at the Expo site, the Expo Association requested the use of paper containers (paper plates, paper cups) as an alternative to plastic food containers, in order to reduce the generation of single-use plastics. This resulted in an increase in the amount of paper waste



generated. Previously, considerations for sustainable paper procurement had mainly focused on office paper, brochures, and posters. However, given the increased use of paper containers at the Expo site, the association focused on urging businesses to consider paper containers and conducting interviews to confirm their practices.

Through these efforts, some businesses were observed to have switched to products with a higher recycled paper content or to certified paper, using the Expo as an opportunity.

<“Agricultural products,” “livestock products,” “fishery products” and “palm oil” >

- For these items, the Association listed the certifications that are generally recognised as meeting the procurement standards. The certification schemes submitted by certification-scheme owners were reviewed using a detailed checklist, and those judged appropriate were published as “certification schemes approved by the Association.”

For livestock products, Osaka Prefecture developed a new certification system based on the requirements of the Procurement Code, helping to guide the future direction of livestock production. There were also new developments in animal welfare, such as treating free-range egg certification as an approved certification. It is expected that the list of approved certifications will serve as a reference for sustainable procurement in the future (see Appendix 4-2, “List of certifications adopted in the Procurement Code (including those listed in Procurement Standard 3 under each procurement standard)”).

Since certification helps confirm that products are produced and transported sustainably, the Association encouraged the use of certified products. This was done by working with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and certification bodies to provide information on potential suppliers, business meetings and matching sites through the Association’s official website. When it was difficult to procure certified products, businesses were asked to confirm that they met Procurement Standard 2 and to report the reasons for not procuring certified products and the efforts they were making to comply.

For actual procurement, the items handled by Tier 1 businesses (those directly contracted with the Association) were limited to agricultural, livestock and fishery fresh foods, endangered fishery species, palm-oil-based frying oil and soaps and detergents. These businesses reported their results through self-reporting. According to the reports, certified fresh produce accounted for about 50% of the total weight.

However, many businesses said they had to procure non-certified products because they needed stable supply over the six-month period, which made it hard to adjust purchase schedules. Poor weather also reduced rice and vegetable harvests, so some certified products had to be sourced from across Japan due to limited supply.

There were also logistical challenges: fresh produce could not easily be delivered by courier services because of security checks, parking constraints made deliveries difficult for small businesses and items transported into the venue required multiple inspection steps. It is expected that event-specific challenges like these will be identified earlier in the future so that



information can be shared with stakeholders and countermeasures considered.

Although lighter items such as leafy vegetables or short-term items were overshadowed by the total weight figures, some businesses still began procuring newly certified products individually.

For fresh livestock products, there were many restrictions inside the venue, such as limited space for cooking and storage and limits on electricity supply. As a result, more processed products were procured to shorten cooking times. This meant that only a small number of fresh products was procured, and only about 10% of these were certified. However, according to voluntarily submitted information, some processed products were made using certified ingredients such as JGAP, GLOBALG.A.P, LPA, NFAS and free-range eggs. Some products that were already in use continued to be adopted, and new certified products were also used because of the Expo. These products were highly regarded, and this is expected to lead to more procurement of certified products in the future.

For fresh seafood products, about 70% were certified. For other products, however, many certified options did not exist, especially for items made from wild seedlings, which made certified procurement difficult.

Certified palm oil was used at a rate of about 90%, and all certified palm oil was RSPO certified. For other products, the Association contacted all manufacturers of certain detergents, but no certified products could be found. This confirmed the difficulty of procuring certified detergents.

Switching to certified products while maintaining existing business relationships was a heavy burden for many businesses. Even so, many businesses worked to promote certified products as an easy-to-understand way to support sustainability. Even when certified products were difficult to procure, businesses were able to show that their procurement met Procurement Standard 2. This helped businesses that had not previously used certified products to understand the Procurement Code and certification systems, which is expected to support future progress.

Regarding endangered species, the Procurement Code's policy of basically not using them was communicated, and checks were carried out to confirm whether there were any plans to use them. If use was planned, extra checks were made to confirm compliance with the criteria for exceptional use. Because business operators understood the policy, almost no procurement of endangered species was found. When procurement was discovered, the Association contacted the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to confirm that sustainable-use measures were being followed.

There were also initiatives in the food sector to promote food diversity and reduce food waste. Through individual interviews, the Association encouraged businesses to communicate their sustainable procurement practices, including diversity considerations such as halal and vegan options, and the use of produce from disaster-affected and nearby areas.

◆Procurement Code Grievance Mechanism

A grievance mechanism was set up so that any stakeholder, including individuals, groups or communities who were affected or might be affected by non-compliance with the Procurement Code,



could report cases and receive an appropriate response. A dedicated reporting mechanism was launched in July 2024 to receive these reports.

To run this system, an Advisory Committee and a Report Response Advisory Council were established to ensure neutrality and fairness. The procedures and operations were published on the Association's official website as the "Guidelines for Handling Reports Related to the Procurement Code" and the "Guidelines for Advice by the Advisory Committee and the Report Response Advisory Council." These guidelines clarified to both reporters and reported parties that the process would be handled transparently and neutrally.

To raise awareness of the hotline, pamphlets were created in nine languages and explanatory materials were prepared in Japanese and English (detailed and summary versions). These were posted on the official website. Emails were also sent to more than 1,000 stakeholders, including construction workers, and information was displayed on signage at the venue. Posters were also placed on bulletin boards during on-site inspections. The Association actively worked to spread this information.

The status of reports received and processed was published regularly on the Association's official website to ensure transparency.

The complaint reception desk received 60 emails between July 2024 and December 2025. Since complaints accepted by this desk must stem from non-compliance with the procurement code, acceptance required identifying the relevant clauses and procured items, and demonstrating the causal relationship between the non-compliance and the negative impact. Therefore, individual responses were initiated for the 60 received complaints to organize the content. However, during this process, replies ceased in many cases, and many preferred to be handled by the human rights complaint reception desk, which does not require the identification of specific procurement code clauses. As a result, 14 inquiries were received by the complaint reception desk, with the necessary information provided for those that constituted complaints or potentially constituted complaints, and were subsequently reviewed.

Of these 14 inquiries, five concerned procured items by the Expo Association or pavilion operators, and were deemed to be complaints regarding non-compliance with the procurement code. Following advice from the Complaint Response Advisory Committee, it was decided to initiate processing, and specific actions were taken based on the advice of the Advisory Committee. Some cases were transitioned to integrated consultation with the whistleblower's consent, while others were withdrawn by the whistleblower. (Summaries of the reports are described in Appendix 4-3, "Status of Receipt and Processing of Reports at the Procurement Code Reporting Window.")

The reporting system became more accessible by removing restrictions on who could report and by allowing reports about non-compliance across the entire supply chain. The Association also published guidelines explaining the procedures and review systems, ensuring transparency and accountability. A committee of lawyers and experts reviewed reports and provided case-specific advice. This structure helped ensure fairness and neutrality. However, because the Association needed to confirm reporters' intentions and collect additional information, decisions and responses sometimes took longer than expected.



Reporters received clear explanations about the purpose and scope of the grievance mechanism, the process for handling reports and the Procurement Code. Each case was handled individually. In some situations, reporters expected actions beyond the hotline's role, but through careful follow-up and clear explanations, the Association often received messages of appreciation. Even when cases were not handled as Procurement Code reports, the Association provided useful information, such as referrals to other consultation hotlines.

In many cases, the reporting forms did not include the required information, such as an explanation of adverse impacts, relevant Procurement Code provisions or the causal relationship between non-compliance with the Procurement Code and adverse impacts. The Association explained these points to reporters and asked them to correct or add information. Because this placed a burden on reporters and slowed the initial response, sample reporting forms were created, and improvements were made to help identify needed information. A simpler reporting form with direct-entry and multiple-choice fields was also introduced for reporters who had difficulty completing documents. This made reporting easier and helped reduce submissions that did not relate to Procurement Code non-compliance.

< Lessons learned from whistleblowing >

Despite efforts to raise awareness through multilingual leaflets and contact with businesses, no reports were received regarding deforestation, human rights abuses, or forced labor of foreign workers in the supply chain, issues that had been pointed out during the Tokyo 2020 Games and past World Expos. Furthermore, only a few of the 60 reports received originated from overseas.

Given the limited six-month duration of the event, and the wide range of procurement targets, from restaurant operations to pavilion construction, insufficient awareness was a challenge. While discussions were held with relevant organizations regarding items subject to individual criteria, the scope was limited, and some felt that wider dissemination to a broader range of organizations and the international supply chain was necessary. Additionally, since it was necessary to identify the reported party as a World Expo-related supplier when making a report, clearer disclosure of supplier information was considered crucial.

Furthermore, even under tight deadlines for construction work, incidents of industrial accidents and issues concerning workplace safety and hygiene were limited. The Expo Association maintained a collaborative system among stakeholders, utilized platforms to share information with all construction personnel within the venue, and thoroughly provided guidance. They also inspected areas where risks were identified and took preventative measures.

Regarding the items in the procurement code that require compliance with laws and regulations, some required specialized legal judgment beyond the scope of the reporting hotline. While the hotline's confirmation of the parties' claims and expectations of direct dialogue played an important role as an initial approach to dispute resolution by a neutral body, it was limited in its ability to gather detailed information raised by the advisory committee, as it is not an organization that determines whether the circumstances of each case constitute a violation of the law. In particular, regarding the multiple complaints received concerning contract payments for construction work by pavilion



operators, which involved matters related to construction contracts and required legal judgment, in order to reduce the burden on whistleblowers and ensure efficient responses, we decided to establish a system that provides a forum for integrated consultation with the relevant administrative agencies and stakeholders, going beyond the process of the hotline, and to aim for problem resolution by focusing on facilitating smooth consultations.

Regarding the separate human rights reporting hotline, many reports were received that could have been handled by either hotline. On the other hand, stakeholders and others expressed appreciation for the establishment of multiple reporting hotlines. In responding to reports, the human rights reporting hotline broadly accepted reports concerning human rights policies, and association staff handled them while adhering to confidentiality obligations and coordinating with other consultation hotlines. The procurement code reporting hotline responded after deliberations by an expert committee and investigations with suppliers, etc., to determine whether or not there was non-compliance with the procurement code. Since both hotlines were operated by the same department, the system was designed so that each whistleblower could choose the appropriate hotline according to their needs.

Due to the nature of the reports, many cases did not reach the resolution the whistleblower expected, often resulting in coordination with other channels or relevant administrative agencies. However, we offered whistleblowers the option of resolving issues through dialogue rather than legal judgment, and maintained a neutral stance, sharing the results of discussions with stakeholders, including clarifying issues and gathering information. Furthermore, it was significant that we were able to raise awareness among those reported and suppliers about the importance of complying with the procurement code.

The operation of the whistleblowing reception desk and various explanatory materials, such as the "Guidelines for Handling Whistleblowing Regarding the Sustainable Procurement Code" and the "Guidelines for Advice from the Advisory Committee and Whistleblowing Response Advisory Meeting Regarding Handling Whistleblowing Regarding the Sustainable Procurement Code," are expected to be useful references for businesses establishing similar whistleblowing mechanisms in the future.

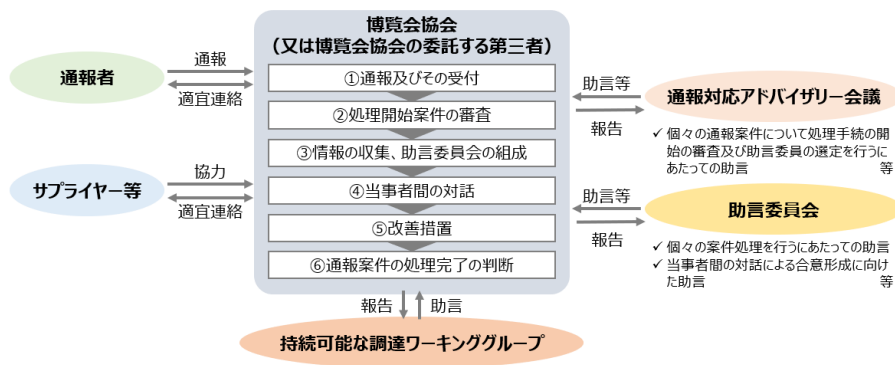
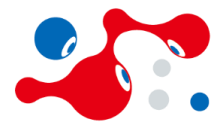
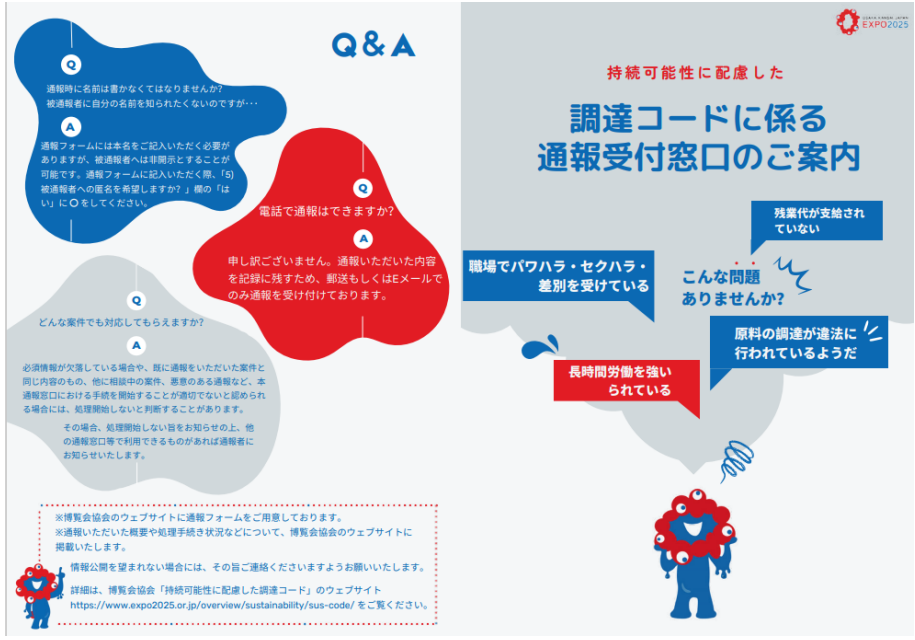


Figure 3-3-2 Mechanism for whistleblowing





Figure 3-3-3 Information on the contact point for reporting on the Sourcing Code (Japanese, English, French)



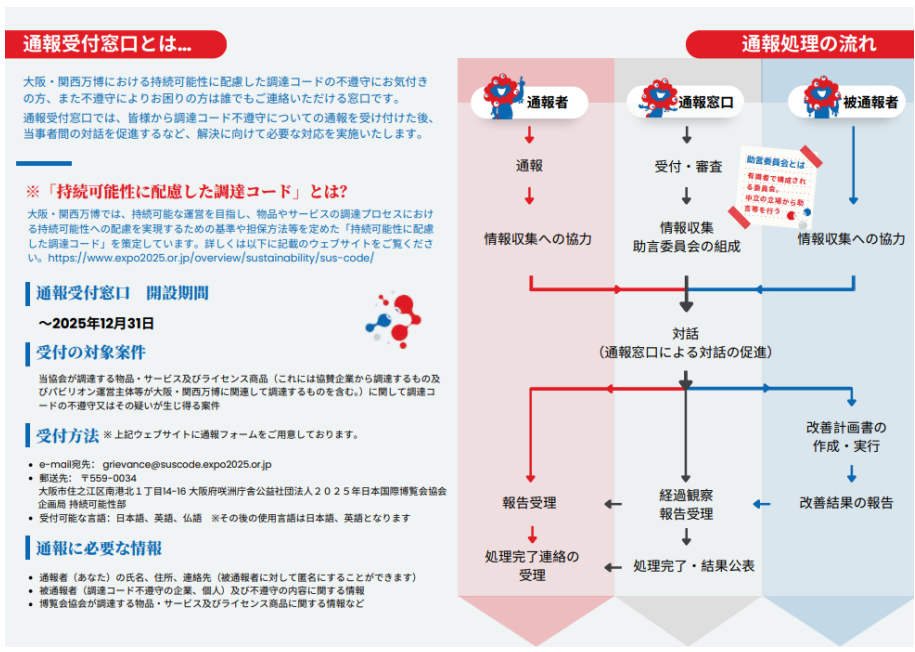


Figure 3-3-4 Explanation of the reporting desk for the Procurement Code (summary)

【Looking back and future prospects】

Operating the Expo required cooperation from many different stakeholders, and the goods procured were diverse. The Expo was the first large international event to implement an ambitious approach that required compliance with the Procurement Code not only from the organisers but also from a wide range of related businesses. This created many challenges, but by holding careful explanatory meetings and interviews with businesses, the principles of the Procurement Code were shared with the many businesses participating in the Expo.

The Procurement Working Group met many times, both when the Procurement Code was being created and during its implementation. With advice from experts, the Group examined compliance with the Code and operational issues. By publishing the results of these reviews, the Association ensured transparency in the operational process. As a result, it was confirmed that the Procurement Code was largely complied.

Complaints received about non-compliance with the Code and about human rights were handled through two reporting channels, one for the Procurement Code and one for human rights, which created an environment where it was easy to report. This allowed the Association to respond in good faith while ensuring fairness and neutrality.

Complaints received about non-compliance with the Code and about human rights violations were handled through two reporting channels, one for the Procurement Code and one for human rights, which created an environment where it was easy to report. This allowed the Association to respond in good faith while ensuring fairness and neutrality.

Some businesses commented that the checklist was “very strict” or that the items were “too detailed,” but this also reflected the Association’s clear stance on sustainability and its intention to procure goods in line with international standards.



Although quantitative results, such as certified product procurement rates, were not clearly visible, the recognition of 21 certifications as effective tools for confirming sustainable production and transportation helped create future opportunities for sustainable procurement. Having many businesses follow the Procurement Code also helped identify environmental, social and economic risks and encouraged efforts to reduce and prevent them.

At the Expo, many sustainability exhibits were set up under the theme “People’s Living Lab,” and many participants implemented their own sustainability initiatives. These visible exhibits and initiatives created a synergistic effect with the activities promoting the Procurement Code and helped build momentum for sustainability.

It is expected that concrete sustainability efforts such as the award-winning initiatives and the measures implemented this time, including decarbonisation, resource recycling and biodiversity will continue in future corporate activities. Visitors who enjoyed sustainably sourced goods and services in a space where sustainability could be experienced not only felt satisfied but also became more aware of the importance of choosing sustainably sourced goods and services in their daily lives.

As the principles set out in the Procurement Code become more deeply embedded in society, a shared understanding is expected to be formed among local governments, companies, and other stakeholders, thereby making it easier for each entity to proactively advance its own efforts toward compliance.

Looking ahead, it is hoped that sustainability conscious procurement will continue to expand among a diverse range of actors. In particular, it is expected that the businesses that participated in this initiative will continue to maintain and further embed this approach within their management practices, elevate a broader range of companies through their supply chains to higher standards, and thereby contribute to encouraging behavioural change across society as a whole, including future consumption practices.



Message from Chairman, Sustainable Procurement Working Group

Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan was held with the expectation that it would serve as a platform for people from 158 countries and regions to gather, design, and share a "Designing Future Society for Our Lives."

The Sustainable Procurement Working Group (WG) sought to ensure that procurement activities at the Expo went beyond simply following the past or affirming the status quo, and instead fostered a broad awareness among stakeholders of the fundamental idea that procurement activities should have a positive impact on the environment, society, and economy. The WG explored how this could lead to behavioral changes worldwide, including future international events and procurement practices in various regions and companies. Fourteen meetings were held, and the "Code of Sustainable Procurement" was revised to its third version.

In particular, the WG was able to advance the following three initiatives: Firstly, the scope of the Procurement Code was expanded beyond the Expo Association to include event stakeholders such as pavilion operators. A total of 220 interviews were conducted with various stakeholders, and it is believed that the concept of "sustainable procurement" was shared with a wider range of stakeholders.

Secondly, the perspective of due diligence regarding human rights and the environment was more clearly defined. The WG carefully addressed the handling of procurement issues by establishing a grievance mechanism and setting up an advisory committee comprised of experts to address complaints.

Thirdly, when formulating and implementing the Procurement Code, attention was paid to its effectiveness. For issues that were difficult for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to address, equivalent standards were specified, and emphasis was placed on accountability, ensuring effectiveness while fostering a shared understanding of the ideal state. On the other hand, a strong emphasis was placed on sharing best practices by establishing an awards system for exemplary procurement initiatives.

Through the Procurement Code implemented at the Expo, various foundations and experience based on its implementation have been accumulated. We hope that these foundations and experiences will become a legacy for the operation of future international events and for local governments and companies..

Chairman, Sustainable Procurement Working Group
KAGAYA Tetsuyuki



The Expo fosters knowledge about society and the environment that enriches not only tangible commodities but also livelihoods. This knowledge expands the scope of possibilities and shall be passed on to the next generation as a legacy.

【Direction to pursue】

(b)The Expo shall contribute to the revitalization of local industries by collaborating with private companies in the preparation and operation of the Expo site.

【Background】

In the first half of 2022, the global economy has continued to pick up, with the effects of COVID-19 easing and real GDP in major European and American economies generally exceeding pre-pandemic levels. On the other hand, the outlook for the global economy has become increasingly uncertain against the backdrop of price increases due to the simultaneous global economic recovery since last year, which have been exacerbated by soaring international commodity prices in response to the growing tension in Ukraine, heightened supply chain uncertainty due to the trend of disease control measures in response to the resurgence of COVID-19 in China, and the progress of monetary tightening in various countries.

In Japan, the business environment surrounding businesses continues to be severe amid supply-side constraints such as the 2-year epidemic of COVID-19, soaring crude oil and raw material prices, procurement difficulties for parts and materials, and human resource shortages. As the business environment is likely to continue to be severe due to the effects of various risks as well as infectious diseases, businesses must respond to various management issues.

In addition, as a large-scale event, consideration must be given to recovery and reconstruction from disasters such as the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake that occurred on January 1, 2024.

Against this backdrop, participation in sustainability-friendly procurement, which the Expo is seeking, will provide valuable experiences for domestic regions and businesses to enhance and revitalize their international competitiveness, and to develop sustainably by inheriting not only goods but also the richness of the social environment. In addition, the Expo will serve as an opportunity for Osaka, Kansai, to improve its ability to attract visitors and its visibility. Through collaboration between The Expo and private companies, including small and medium-sized businesses in the region, it is expected to foster human resources and promote regional international exchange. Furthermore, the Expo will provide opportunities for private companies to develop technologies and disseminate new products and ideas. Through these efforts, it is expected that the sustainability of the regional economy will be improved.

【Items to be addressed】

Disseminate to the world the attractiveness and value of companies with future-thinking product concepts, technologies, and manufacturing technologies that match the concept of the Expo as a "testing ground for the future society."

Consider and implement procurement methods that secure entry opportunities for SMEs and make



the procurement process transparent.

Consider the development of local tourism products and the development of transportation services in cooperation with the Expo.

【Major implementation items】

The above background and initiatives were considered and implemented as follows:

◆Expo concept: "Experimental field for future society"

- The government set the Expo venue as a place for various challenges, and even before the opening period, it promotes innovation and social implementation by encouraging co-creation and collaboration among diverse players such as governments, local governments, research and educational institutions, large companies, SMEs, startups, organizations, and individuals. In order to showcase solutions to social issues, projects were created and implemented both inside and outside the venue, with a focus on mobility, energy and environment, digital, health and medical care, tourism, food and culture, and science and technology.
- During the Expo, under the theme "People's Living Lab," the Future Society Showcase Project was implemented with a dual layer approach that combined the demonstration of next generation technologies and social systems offering a vision of the future beyond 2025 with the implementation of advanced technologies and social systems appropriate to the context of the Expo.

Under this framework, a range of initiatives was carried out, including the Smart Mobility Expo, which enabled visitors to experience next generation mobility, robots and other technologies for a carbon neutral future society; the Green Expo, which showcased advanced technologies for achieving a carbon neutral society, such as CO₂ capture from the atmosphere and exhaust gases and methanation technologies; the Digital Expo, which realized a "super smart venue" by anticipating the future through cutting edge digital technologies, including advanced communications and visual systems; the Future Life Expo, which offered virtual experiences of a new future society (Society 5.0) that seeks to balance economic development with solutions to social challenges through the integration of virtual and real spaces; the Virtual Expo, where visitors could explore pavilions and event facilities recreated in a virtual environment while enjoying exhibitions and events; and the Art Expo, which allowed visitors to experience spectacular shows, installation art and public art.

- In addition, as an opportunity to disseminate, share and strengthen collaboration both domestically and internationally in relation to the Future Society Showcase Project, the Moonshot Park – See! Touch! Feel! A New Future exhibition was held from 22 July to 15 September in the Future Life Experience area on the western side of the venue. The exhibition presented specific examples of research and development being advanced under the Moonshot Research and Development Program promoted in the Cabinet Office's Sixth Basic Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation (Cabinet decision of 26 March 2021). To further enhance the visitor experience, the Moonshot Future Society Expo Tour was also held, combining stage events with priority guided viewing of experiential and hands on exhibits (31 sessions, 1,145 participants).



◆Promoting the appeal of local culture

- Events featuring festivals from across Japan, demonstrations of traditional performing arts, tastings and sales of local specialties and hands-on workshops were held at facilities such as Expo Arena, EXPO Hall and EXPO Messe. These events invited local groups who had supported efforts to build momentum for the Expo and promoted local culture, arts, tourism and food to visitors.
- As a large-scale event, consideration for recovery and reconstruction from the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake that occurred on January 1, 2024 was considered. In the Sustainability Conscious Procurement Code (Version 3), which was published in May 2024, consideration for the reconstruction of the disaster-stricken areas that were seriously damaged by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake was added.
- During the Expo, the Wajima lacquer globe “Earth at Night”, which had miraculously remained undamaged during the Noto Peninsula Earthquake and was regarded as a symbol of reconstruction, was exhibited at the Expo site. The exhibition embodied a wish to convey to the world the importance of empathy for others beyond conflict and division.

◆Ensuring opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises

- As a program that embodies the Expo's concept of the People's Living Lab, companies and organizations without significant capital were invited to participate. The Co-Design Challenge (CDC) program was a new co-creation initiative that challenges the design of products and social structures that incorporated a design perspective while co-creating with various companies and organizations, mainly SMEs, as an opportunity to "Taking Expo 2025 as an Opportunity to Create the Future of Japanese Lifestyles."

In the first round of this program, a total of 79 proposals were submitted, and 11 were selected by the selection committee. The progress of the selected projects was introduced on the official website of the Association.

In the second round of Co-Design Challenge 2024, a total of 36 proposals were submitted during the application period, and 11 projects were selected. In the second round, in addition to the development of the product, it was a condition to engage in a manufacturing experience plan (open factory) including a tour of the manufacturing site related to the product, and this was expected to attract mutual visitors between the Expo venue and the region.



Figure 3-3-5 CDC program process

Products developed through CDC were implemented at the venue in a way that allowed visitors to



use them. During the Expo period, presentation event titled the

“Co-Design Challenge Pitch” was held at the Future Life Village on the western side of the venue, where the businesses and advisors directly involved in each project took the stage and spoke in their own words about their approaches to addressing challenges, their passion for manufacturing, the difficulties and joys experienced on the path to implementation, and the future they aspire to create. Through this forum, where “implemented products” and the “stories behind them” came together, efforts were made to expand to the world the challenge of creating the future of everyday life in Japan.

In addition, the 22 CDC challenges were introduced through a permanent exhibition booth installed in the Future Life Village throughout the Expo period, and videos were published on the official Expo website. Alongside this, hands on manufacturing programs were organized through co creation with companies and organizations, including visits to production sites related to products developed through the CDC. Through these initiatives, the Expo presented its vision of the future society it aims to realize.



Figure 3-3-6 Layout of items developed by CDC in the Expo site

(Example of selected projects in the first round (Co-Design Challenge 2023)) "Design the future waste bins" production project

The "Design the future waste bins" production project (Representative companies and organizations: TerraCycle Japan GK/Cooperating companies and organizations: AEON Co., Ltd., The P&G Japan Limited), one of the selected projects in the CDC Program, was launched as the "EXPO 2025 Everyone's Recycling Station Project."

This project collects used plastic containers for daily use at 650 AEON Group stores nationwide. The collected used plastic containers are sorted, processed, and recycled into raw materials to produce waste bins to be installed at the Expo site.

The initiative aimed to involve people from a wide range of regions across Japan in a citizen led recycling effort by establishing collection points nationwide through retail stores operating in local communities. Through this initiative, waste bins produced using materials recycled through the collection activities were installed at the Expo venue, thereby visually demonstrating the full sequence of actions involved in recycling resources, from collection and recycling to on site use.

By presenting this series of actions, the initiative sought to raise awareness of waste and resource separation and recycling, and to provide an opportunity for people to reflect on sustainable recycling resources even after the Expo had concluded.



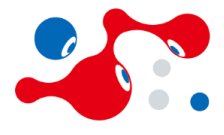


Figure 3-3-7 Conceptual image of the "Designing the trash can (recycling box) of the future" production project



Figure 3-3-8 "Garbage bins of the future (recycling bins)" installed at the Expo site

- For items such as desks, chairs, and outdoor security cameras, which are mainly used for outdoor eating and drinking, the Association recruited sponsors to participate in Expo operations by allowing their company names and logos to be displayed on these items used inside and outside the venue, which was visited by many people from various countries. As a result, the number of participating sponsors reached 924.
- With the aim of promoting the products, technologies, and services of SMEs and small enterprises to people around the world, strengthening relationships with business partners and related parties, and creating new co-creation opportunities, information related to participation in the EXPO was compiled and posted on the Association official website.
- In order to encourage local SMEs to participate in Expo 2025, information was disseminated through seminars and other events held by local governments and SME related organizations on topics such as operational participation and CDC programs that SMEs can participate in.
- As an opportunity to showcase information on SMEs that are taking on the challenge of addressing various social issues, the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency, together with the Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, JAPAN, held the five day "Future Route" experiential exhibition at EXPO Messe from 3 to 7 October. Under the theme "Creating a Bright Future for Life through Skills and Passion", a total of 83 companies exhibited. In "Future Route," SMEs that are leveraging their own strengths to tackle social challenges and move forward into the future were portrayed as challengers setting sail on an uncharted ocean. Future-oriented products, services and technologies were presented across five value-based themes, alongside "messages



of challenge for the future” submitted from across Japan. The exhibition highlighted the opportunity to experience first-hand the wide range of technical expertise and creative ideas unique to Japanese SMEs, attracting a total of 34,960 visitors.



Figure 3-3-9 Image of the Future Routes exhibit
(Source: Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, JAPAN website)

- The Osaka Healthcare Pavilion implemented the “Reborn Challenge”, which identified outstanding SMEs and startups effectively showcased their emblematic achievements and activities (challenges) at the venue. In line with the pavilion’s theme of “REBORN,” a total of 432 SMEs and startups engaged in developing new technologies exhibited, presenting their innovative technological capabilities to audiences in Japan and abroad.

The Japanese government and other organizations held the global event “Global Startup EXPO 2025,” with the main objectives of supporting “deep tech startups,” which have the potential to contribute to solving diverse and complex challenges facing the international community through innovative technology and to drive the growth of Japan’s economy through the creation of new companies and industries. The event also aimed to strengthen efforts to attract overseas capital and talent to Japan. In addition to government representatives, prominent domestic and international venture capitalists participated as speakers, while a total of 145 companies from 21 countries exhibited booths and 118 companies delivered pitch presentations. The event drew 9,560 participants and facilitated 1,194 business matches.

【Number of participants: 9,560 Number of matches: 1,194】

- The Japanese government, chambers of commerce and other organisations began working to create business opportunities for SMEs and startups prior to the event.

【XR (Augmented Reality) Utilization Project: IT Company x Creator x Educational Institution】 XR technology, such as AR (Augmented Reality) and VR (Virtual Reality), will create significant opportunities for increased demand for XR content production. The XR Content Production Companies Directory (Japanese and English versions) introduces the strengths, areas of expertise, track record and examples of work of various companies. The initiative also supported four XR companies exhibiting at Expo 2025’s Business/Technology Idea Contest (sponsored by the Japan Patent Attorneys Association), providing students and others with an opportunity to experience XR technology. Furthermore, it worked with the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition to promote the Virtual World Expo through the XR Kaigi Hub in Osaka, creating opportunities for people to experience XR content both inside and outside the Expo venue and helping to build momentum for the practical adoption of XR.

【Social implementation of eVTOL (flying cars): Aviation industry x Automotive industry x Local government】

In order to accelerate efforts aimed at the practical adoption of next-generation air mobility, the Social Implementation Promotion Council was established to promote understanding of next-generation air mobility among local governments which are important stakeholders in preparation for future deployment. Furthermore, through interviews in collaboration with prefectures, the current situation and issues of regions and local governments that intend to



introduce the technology will be understood. In addition to these efforts, discussions toward deployment by those involved in the council will lead to the creation of a wide-area operation network.

- “Junior SDGs Camp”, an ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) program aimed at elementary school through high school students, offered an opportunity for a wide range of companies and organizations, including SMEs, startups, NGOs, NPOs and students to participate on a per-session basis to reduce the burden of participation and to share initiatives that contribute to achieving the SDGs.

【Looking back and future prospects】

- Prior to the event, efforts were undertaken to create business opportunities for SMEs and startups, and during the event, various initiatives showcased their technologies and accomplishments — including the “Reborn Challenge” at the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion and the “Future Route” exhibition organised by the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency and the Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, JAPAN.
- Taking advantage of the unique characteristics of the Expo, networks were established with visitors from Japan and abroad (children, delegations from overseas embassies, visually impaired people) who could not be reached through conventional exhibitions and business meetings. These interactions also enabled business exchanges with international counterparts.



3.4 Peace (Peace, Justice, Inclusiveness)

The Association creates a favourable environment for diverse people to actively and safely participate in the Expo, and aims to operate the Expo in an inclusive manner which respects each person so that the Expo will be a place for sharing diverse values based on the Theme.

【Direction to pursue】

(a)The Association shall operate the Expo in accordance with the UN "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights".

(b)The Association shall ensure a sound and favourable working environment for the diverse people involved in the preparation and operation of the Expo.

【Background】

In 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as the Guiding Principles) as a framework for business and human rights. The three pillars of the Guiding Principles are the obligation of states to protect human rights, the responsibility of corporations to respect human rights, and access to redress.

These principles have become an international norm, and National Action Plans (NAPs) and legal frameworks are developing in various countries. Many companies have also developed human rights policies and implemented human rights due diligence (a continuous process of identifying, preventing, mitigating and how to remedy negative impacts on human rights).

In Japan, the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2020–2025) was formulated in 2020, requiring companies to implement human rights due diligence and engage in dialogue with stakeholders. Furthermore, in September 2022, the "Guidelines for Respecting Human Rights in Responsible Supply Chains." based on international standards were established, setting out a direction for the widespread adoption of

human rights initiatives among Japanese companies. Considering these international trends, the Association recognized that respecting the human rights of all people involved in the Expo was fundamental to realizing the theme of the Expo. The Association established a framework for preventing, mitigating, and remedying human rights violations in the implementation of Expo 2025 project. Through exhibitions and events related to respect for human rights, The Association also communicated diverse values to the global community.

The Association aimed to ensure that these initiatives would continue to take root in society even after the conclusion of the Expo, contributing to the widespread promotion of a culture that respects human rights.

【Major implementation items】

The above background and initiatives were considered and implemented as follows:



- In April 2022, the Association issued the Sustainability Policy of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, setting out the fundamental principles and approach for sustainable operations. In line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Association undertook the following measures: (1) developed a human rights policy (available in Japanese, English and French), (2) conducted human rights due diligence, (3) established mechanisms for remedy and remediation in cases of human rights violations and (4) implemented human rights training (details are provided below).

During “Peace and Human Rights Week,” one of the designated Theme Weeks, the Association organised a range of discussions both inside and outside the venue on topics such as working conditions and gender, with the aim of presenting these issues to an international audience from multiple perspectives.

During Peace and Human Rights Week, the Association delivered 37 programmes between 1 and 12 August, including three “Agenda 2025” sessions. These covered a wide range of themes, including hunger, poverty, inequality, human rights violations, child labour and forced labour, human trafficking, the participation of people with disabilities, gender equality, LGBTQ issues, women’s empowerment, immigration, human security and diversity and inclusion.

- To provide an opportunity for visitors to consider how an inclusive society can be achieved—one in which people can feel hope and happiness regardless of gender—the Association worked with the government and exhibitors to present the “Women’s Pavilion.” The pavilion was planned, designed and constructed in consideration of national gender equality policies and developments in global gender theory and included lectures and exhibits on gender and LGBTQ issues.
- In recruiting volunteers to support various activities such as guiding and welcoming people at the Expo site, the application requirements were (1) to be 18 years of age or older as of 1 April 2025, (2) to be able to converse (communicate) in Japanese and (3) to be able to participate in interviews and training.

Applications were accepted regardless of age, gender, nationality, disability etc. Given that 55,634 people applied for 20,000 volunteer positions, the Association decided to register 14,000 individuals as Expo site volunteers (Operated by the Expo Association)—responsible for guiding and assisting visitors at the venue and the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion—and 16,000 individuals as Osaka City Volunteers (Operated by Osaka Prefectural Government and Osaka City Government), who would provide Expo-related information at major stations, airports and other key locations.

(Results) Volunteers at the Expo site: 10,851 Cumulative total (person-days): 70,304

- The Procurement Code based on the Human Rights Policy, requires suppliers to take human rights into consideration when procuring goods and services by setting standards[EJ1.1] for human rights and labour. Suppliers are also required to disclose and explain their efforts to comply with the Procurement Code, including surveys of and engagement with their supply



chains, considering the type and scale of procured goods. Additionally, interviews were conducted as necessary with suppliers regarding initiatives that particularly contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in the manufacturing and distribution of procured goods.

- The staff uniforms for the Expo were designed to be sustainable, functional and durable, reflecting the event's overall theme and concept and ensuring suitability across all roles and genders. As the uniforms are aligned with the SDGs, the materials used were procured with consideration for environmental and human rights impacts throughout their sourcing, production and distribution processes.
- The Sustainable Procurement Working Group, established under the Expert Committee on Sustainability, was responsible for examining the establishment of reporting and grievance mechanisms relating to "access to remedy," a key element of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. As a result, a dedicated grievance mechanism for reporting concerns related to The Procurement Code was launched in July 2024. In addition, Expo 2025 established its first-ever dedicated human rights reporting hotline, details of which are provided later in this report.
- The Association has promoted specific initiatives to curb long working hours among staff, including refraining from sending emails outside of working hours, and has also introduced staggered working hours and telecommuting systems. Additionally, the Association established health consultation services, including mental health support, as well as internal and external consultation channels for harassment.

Information on these consultation services was provided to staff upon their appointment etc.

- During the event, the Association staff were assigned to a shift work system (four days on, two days off), which was expected to disrupt their usual daily routines and potentially affect their physical condition. Accordingly, recognising the importance of ensuring an environment in which staff could work in a healthy and productive manner, the Association conducted regular health checks (once every two weeks) to monitor staff health on an ongoing basis and to utilise the results for health management and improvements to the working environment.
- Training on mental health care (Management and general staff) and training on harassment (for managers) were provided to employees of the Association. Regarding compliance, training materials were distributed and disseminated to newly appointed employees, and the materials were shared with all staffs.
- In order to raise awareness among the Association employees who welcome large numbers of visitors and staff, e-learning training on "Business and Human Rights" was provided. In addition, e-learning training on LGBTQ (sexual minorities), a topic of increasing interest worldwide, was provided using materials prepared by experts.
- Knowledge from experts on the protection of human rights in disaster response was shared at



the Safety Council of Expo Association.

- As the Expo was expected to host international visitors, elderly participants and people with disabilities, the Safety Council of Expo Association examined the provision of disaster information and evacuation guidance through multilingual and visual formats for facilities commonly used by foreign visitors and persons with disabilities. To this end, initiatives were undertaken to utilise digital signage, emergency broadcast systems with foreign-language messages, flip boards, loudspeakers equipped with translation functions, and universally recognisable pictograms (such as fire-extinguisher symbols), thereby contributing to the safe and secure operation of the Expo.

【Framework and implementation process for respecting human rights at the Expo】

Under the Theme “Designing a Future Society for Our Lives”, the Association has sought to operate the Expo with respect for human rights at its core, in line with international human rights standards. To this end, the Association has examined and advanced responses to human rights issues related to Expo operations through the Expert Committee on Sustainability and the Human Rights Working Group established under the Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Human Rights WG”).

In April 2022, the Association published the “Sustainability Policy of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan,” which outlined the basic concepts and attitudes of a sustainable Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. This policy is intended not only for Expo Association staff but also for all stakeholders such as administrative organizations, suppliers, licensees, citizens, visitors, etc. The Association staff are expected to understand this policy and act in accordance with the governing principles of managerial responsibility, inclusion, integrity, and transparency.

The policy organized the Association’s fundamental approach to sustainability around five “Ps” (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership) and called on each staff member to act based on this policy toward the realization of a sustainable Expo. In particular, under the “Peace (peace, fairness and inclusiveness)” pillar, the policy clearly stated the commitment to operate the Expo in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Based on this policy, the Association has implemented the following four initiatives, taking into account advice from the Human Rights WG etc, to realize Expo 2025 operations aligned with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights:

- (1) Formulation of a human rights policy
- (2) Implementation of human rights due diligence
- (3) Remedy and remediation (response to human rights violations)
- (4) Implementation of training and awareness-raising on human rights and compliance

(1) Formulation of a human rights policy

The Association aimed to overcome global crises, protect the lives of individuals, and reexamine the way of being and the way of life, and to become an exposition that shows hope for the future to the world. In line with the basic philosophy and theme of the Expo, Designing a Future Society for



Our Lives, with the aim of contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, the Association formulated and published its Human Rights Policy in April 2024 in Japanese, English, and French. This marked the first time in Expo history and the first time for a large-scale international event in Japan that a Human Rights Policy was established.

【Human Rights Policy Overview】 (The full text is provided in the reference section)

- | |
|--|
| <p>1 Preamble 2 Respect for Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the implementing body, responsibility, scope of application, and international norms to be respected <p>3 Conduct of Human Rights Due Diligence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the implementation of due diligence on human rights (investigation, identification, and correction of negative impacts on human rights) and disclosure to the outside world <p>4 Engagement with Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the implementation of dialogue to understand the requests and views of stakeholders <p>5 Expectation and requirement for Participants and Suppliers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the "Sustainable Procurement Code" <p>6 Access to Remedy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the framework for responding appropriately to complaints from concerned parties and the response to negative impacts and remedy <p>7 Education and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued educational activities for the Association executives, staff, producers, and volunteer staff <p>8 Disclosure and Communication of Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Securing transparency through information disclosure through the Expo Association official website and annual reports |
|--|

The human rights policy is based on respecting the human rights of all people involved in EXPO 2025 project. Taking into account the characteristics of the Expo as a place where diverse people from around the world gather and cooperate, the policy aims to expand the principles and initiatives for respecting human rights both domestically and internationally. It also stipulates that the Association will lead practical efforts to address human rights issues, including preventing and mitigating adverse impacts on human rights arising from exhibitions and events at the Expo 2025 site, and providing redress and remediation in the event that human rights harm occurs.

This series of initiatives was positioned as "Human Rights Due Diligence (Human Rights DD)" and the Expo became the first Expo to implement human rights DD. The Human Rights Policy was applied to executives and employees under the Secretary-General (Including temporary and contract employees) and officers under the chairperson. The Association also widely sought the support of official participants, exhibitors, suppliers, and other partners involved in the delivery of the Expo, thereby fostering awareness and commitment to respect for human rights both within and beyond the Association.

(2) Implementation of human rights due diligence

The Association established a human rights due diligences mechanism in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and continuously implemented the following initiatives:

◆ Identification of negative impacts

In order to identify any potential negative impacts on human rights arising from hosting the Expo, the Association organized key human rights issues and developed a "negative impact map" prior to



the opening of the Expo. Based on these potential negative human rights impacts, the Association examined them from the perspectives of severity and likelihood of occurrence. Following this assessment, the Association conducted a questionnaire survey across relevant departments and, based on the evaluation results that reflected both business activities and on-site conditions, identified issues with a high risk of human rights impacts.

Table 3-4-1 Map of "negative impacts" on human rights in Expo 2025 (as of August 2025)

	Target person (rights holder)	Major human rights issues				
1	Workplace, Daily Work Expo Association staff and related personnel	Work environment and Prevention of harassment	Health and safety	Salary and working hours	Non-discrimination	
2	Expo Association staff and Operation staff	Health and safety	Work environment, Working hours and Prevention of harassment	Non-discrimination	Freedom of association, Right to collective bargaining	Privacy
	Volunteers					
	Participants and staff (including government and local government officials)	Salary and working hours	Health and safety	Work environment and Prevention of harassment	Non-discrimination	Freedom of association, Right to collective bargaining
	Visitors	Accessibility	Non-discrimination	Health, safety and heat	Freedom of expression and assembly	Privacy
	Local residents	Prevention of corruption and bribery	Prevention of pollution	Freedom of expression and assembly	public action participation (Demonstrations, political participation)	
	NGO	Freedom of expression and assembly	public action participation (Demonstrations, political participation)			
	People belonging to the media	Freedom of expression and the press				
3	Official participants, exhibitors, supply chain operators, workers, local residents, etc.	Right of residence	Forced labour (human trafficking)	Child labour	Health and safety	Non-discrimination
		Work environment and Prevention of harassment	Salary and working hours	Foreigners, Migrant workers	Freedom of association, Right to collective bargaining	
4	Press and advertising, etc People who meet news reports, advertisements	Non-discrimination	Privacy	Accessibility		

Regarding the identified issues, risk mitigation and deterrence measures were implemented, including disseminating the human rights policy, encouraging compliance with the sustainable procurement code, establishing appropriate working conditions, and preventing forced labor and child labor. During the conference, the "negative impact map" was reviewed in response to changing circumstances, and discussions were held within the Human Rights Working Group to ensure continuous improvement.

During the period, issues not initially identified as primary human rights issues also surfaced. Specifically, problems related to so-called customer harassment (hereinafter referred to as "customer



harassment") arose, such as excessive demands being made on staff at the venue operations, and disputes arose regarding payment of construction costs in some pavilion construction projects.

◆Measures to mitigate and prevent negative impacts

As noted above, the Association formalized its Human Rights Policy and disseminated it widely both within and outside the Association, while seeking broad support from participants and other stakeholders etc.

In addition, the Association delivered human rights training (including harassment prevention, diversity understanding and anti discrimination), established and operated grievance and remedy mechanisms, conducted on-site monitoring and implemented improvements, and engaged in dialogue with stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of its human rights initiatives across Expo 2025 (details provided below).

During the event, incidents occurred that had not been initially identified as primary human rights issues, and necessary countermeasures were taken. Specifically, following the confirmation of customer harassment incidents at the venue, the "Basic Policy on Customer Harassment at the 2025 Japan International Exposition" was formulated, outlining countermeasures for situations such as staff receiving unreasonable demands. This policy stipulates that if a demand is deemed to constitute customer harassment, the individual will be asked to leave, and legal action will be taken in cooperation with the police, lawyers, and other relevant parties as needed. While procedures were established and disseminated to relevant parties, the diverse and highly individual nature of incidents on-site proved limiting for uniform responses based on manuals. Based on this experience, it is desirable that similar events in the future clarify the criteria for on-site judgment and escalation to management and security, and further strengthen cooperation among relevant parties.

Furthermore, in response to the disputes regarding the payment of construction costs for the pavilion construction, the Expo Association, while acknowledging that these were matters of contract between the parties involved, conducted hearings with those concerned from the perspective of fair business practices and respect for human rights, and continued to provide support for resolving the issues in cooperation with administrative agencies that have jurisdiction over the Construction Industry Act, etc.

◆Dialogue with stakeholders

To enhance the effectiveness of human rights initiatives, we conducted dialogues with various stakeholders, including labor unions, disability organizations, and organizations that support and raise awareness about LGBTQ issues, addressing human rights issues that have often been overlooked. These dialogues gathered opinions on a wide range of topics, including working conditions, heat countermeasures, universal design, and considerations for LGBTQ individuals. Following discussions with relevant departments within the association, we implemented measures such as improving rest areas and restrooms, and sharing information on the progress of universal service preparations. Furthermore, we incorporated the feedback gathered into training programs for both internal and external participants of the Expo Association, aiming to improve understanding



among venue staff and others so that they can appropriately handle visitors from a human rights perspective.

Table 3-4-2 Conducting stakeholder dialogue on human rights

Organization name / Month of implementation	Summary of opinions	Correspondence
B W I (Building and Wood Workers International) August 2023, August 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no major complaints from workers at the Expo construction site. In particular, measures against the heat in summer were generally well received. Morning meetings have been held earlier due to measures against the heat, and some workers are forced to leave early to commute to the construction site. There are concerns that workers engaged in interior construction work in equipment will be forced to work at night in the future, and that there will be a shortage of rest areas and restrooms due to an increase in the number of workers. 	The information was shared with the relevant departments, and the businesses were asked to take appropriate action based on the findings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For demolition work, the Association requested that sufficient budgets and schedules be secured, and that appropriate wages, working conditions and safe working environments be ensured for construction workers. Where payment issues between main contractors and subcontractors had arisen during construction works, the Association urged the main contractors to resolve such issues and requested that measures be taken to prevent similar incidents from occurring during demolition work. 	The Association explained its initiatives and requested the businesses to take any necessary measures.
Japan Transport Workers' Union September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We feel uneasy because we have not received information on terrorism, disaster countermeasures, and security conditions at the Expo site. In the truck industry, there have been requests to take measures against the problem of waiting for cargo due to idling stops for a long time. 	The information was shared with the relevant organizations, and they were requested to take appropriate action.
National Federation of Spinal Cord Injuries December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicate the number of parking lots and the number of toilets for wheelchair users in accordance with universal design guidelines. If the name of the toilet that can be used by wheelchair users is "everyone's toilet," there are cases where many able-bodied people use it, so please consider the name carefully. 	The Association provided explanations regarding the status of facilities etc.
NPO Nijiro Diversity January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding LGBTQ individuals, it is often difficult to determine their identity from their appearance. Therefore, we request that specialized training be provided to deepen the understanding of the organizing staff, and that an environment be created where diverse attendees can participate with peace of mind. 	The Association expanded the training content for staff both inside and outside the Association.

◆ Interviewing participants and checking the Expo site

To help prevent human rights violations, the Association carried out interviews and on site inspections with businesses and participants commissioned by the Association before, during and after the Expo. These activities were intended to raise awareness of human rights among participants, identify potential human rights risks and examine appropriate response measures.

Before the event, the Association interviewed businesses providing goods and services to the Expo, with a focus on sectors considered to have relatively high human rights risks such as construction, cleaning and apparel manufacturing (including uniforms). In addition to conducting awareness-raising activities, to identify potential risks in supply chains, the Association requested information on matters such as the sourcing and production of raw materials, factory locations, workers' employment conditions and working hours, compliance with minimum wages and the absence of child labour or forced labour. Where these checks could not be verified in house, the Association confirmed whether businesses held third party audits or obtained certifications related to human rights and labour. For businesses employing or planning to employ foreign workers, the Association also reviewed whether



employment was being managed in line with legal requirements, including proper confirmation of residence status, clear explanations of working conditions in a language workers can understand and the implementation of safety and health measures (such as multilingual signage at construction sites and other hazardous areas).

During the event, the Sustainability Office carried out SUS Patrols (sustainability verification visits) to visually inspect the venue and speak with operational staff. These checks looked for inappropriate signage or exhibits that might lead to human rights concerns, any incidents of harassment between visitors or staff and whether accessible restrooms and prayer rooms were being prioritized for those who requested them. Around 20 visits were scheduled in advance due to resource and coordination constraints with participants, and additional unannounced inspections were conducted on site. No apparent issues were identified during these patrols, which are considered to have had a certain deterrent effect. When reports were received through the human rights reporting hotline (described below) regarding incidents inside the venue, the Association conducted on-site inspections and took action as necessary.

After the event, the Association worked to prevent the occurrence of human rights and labour issues in advance during dismantling and removal activities and notified participants before the close of the Expo so that appropriate responses could be taken should any issues arise. Participants were notified before the close of the Expo so that appropriate actions could be taken if any concern arises. The Association also carried out site patrols throughout the dismantling and removal period.

(3) Remedy and remediation (response to human rights violations)

To manage and respond to a broad range of human rights issues that could arise in connection with Expo operations, the Association established a dedicated human rights contact point, marking the first time such a system had been introduced in the history of World Expos and for a large-scale international event in Japan. The reporting framework worked in coordination with the grievance mechanism under the Procurement Code and the general contact centre, providing multiple channels to ensure accessibility and effective operation. Information about reporting channels was shared with Association personnel and participants through organization wide communications, and posters were displayed in employee cafeterias, break areas and other facilities. Visitors were informed through digital signage at the venue, and the Association's official website also listed the dedicated human rights reporting channel among its contact points

The Association also established separate internal and external consultation desks for its personnel to receive reports and enquiries related to compliance, health and harassment. cross all reporting and consultation channels, the Association ensured strict confidentiality for reporters and victims, prevented any disadvantageous treatment, and provided support through dialogue to facilitate access to relief.

Where human rights violations occurred in activities linked to the Expo project, the Association ensured access to remedy for individuals and disclosed information on the status of remediation and corrective actions as appropriate.



◆Receiving and handling reports (Whistleblowing)

The human rights reporting desk followed a defined process overing the receipt of reports, assessment, response and the sharing of outcomes. After a report was received, the Association reviewed its relevance to the Expo project and operation, checked that the information provided was sufficient and considered whether a response was required and what approach should be taken. Lawyers and human rights experts were consulted as needed, depending on the nature and seriousness of each case. Where action was necessary, the Association held interviews with both the reporter and the individual reported, and responded in ways appropriate to the case, such as resolving issues through dialogue, requesting improvements, issuing warnings or directing individuals to relevant organisations.

To support accurate understanding of reports, reduce the burden on reporters and enable a swift and appropriate initial response, a simplified reporting form was created in Japanese and English with the minimum necessary input items, thereby creating an environment in which more people could report concerns with ease. The hotline received more than 500 reports, of which 173 related directly to human rights issues arising from the Expo project and operation. When including four related reports sent to the general contact centre, the total was 177. Common themes included the rights of people with disabilities, labour issues, safety and health, harassment, discriminatory behaviour and children's rights. (Details on the handling of reports are provided in the appendix.)

Of the accepted cases, those deemed to require action involved interviews with both parties, with efforts made to resolve issues through dialogue between the parties.

Unlike the Procurement Code reporting mechanism, which established multiple external review bodies to examine potential non compliance, the human rights reporting desk received a wide range of reports, from opinions and consultations to serious cases. Accordingly, responses were determined in consultation with lawyers and human rights experts and tailored to the needs of reporters.

In some instances, reporters expected responses that went beyond the scope of the reporting desk. However, through careful follow up, clarification of issues and proposals regarding possible response options, the Association responded sincerely, and in some cases received expressions of appreciation from reporters.

Conversely, there were cases where responses could not be obtained smoothly from reporters or reported individuals, and when the number of reports increased in the latter half of the Expo period, some cases required additional time to address.

Table 3-4-3 Breakdown of the number of human rights-related reports received and handled by type of report

Discrimi- nation	Harass- ment	Safety and Health	Working hours contract	Freedom of expression	Rights of people with disabilities	Children's Rights	Privacy	Others	Total
22	28	33	34	2	48	5	5	12	177

*The total number of cases does not match the number of reports, as some cases include multiple report types.

◆Response results and lessons learned/realizations

At the human rights reporting desk, when interviews with the reporter and the reported individual confirmed the facts and, based on the response flow described above and following consultations



with lawyers and experts, the conduct was considered to potentially constitute a human rights violation, the reported individual was requested to make improvements. As a result, we were able to request improvements in a total of 7 cases, which led to corrective actions being taken.

For example, in a case where a report was received that wages had not been paid for the period from the meeting time to the start of work, the facts were verified with the person who made the report, and corrective action was requested. In addition, in cases where rules regarding human rights in the operation of the venue were not followed, a warning was issued not only to the person who made the report but also to all participants involved, from the perspective of preventing recurrence (the details pointed out by the Expo Association are described in Appendix 4, Documents on the Procurement Code that Considers Sustainability). When conveying the content of the report to the person who made the report, it is thought that explaining the Expo Association's human rights policy and approach to respecting human rights again may have had an effect on improvement and deterrence.

Conversely, as the hotline does not have legal investigative authority or enforcement power, there were cases where sufficient findings could not be obtained or where the accounts of the reporter and the reported individual differed significantly, making it difficult to establish the facts. Although the role of the hotline and the scope of its response were explained to the reporter in advance, there were cases in which complaints were raised expressing dissatisfaction with the outcome. There were also cases where reports lacked required information or where reporters did not respond to requests for additional details, resulting in situations where investigations and responses could not be initiated.

In addition, the human rights reporting desk generally handled cases via email to ensure accuracy and recordability of reports. However, as the general contact center provided initial responses by telephone, the two functions were able to complement each other depending on the circumstances of the reporter.

Through these efforts, it became clear that the following points are important in establishing a human rights reporting systems for future large-scale events and organizational management:

- The importance of explaining the role and scope of the human rights reporting desk to reporters in a more accessible and understandable manner
- The need to prepare and clarify cooperation frameworks with administrative authorities and specialist organisations in advance
- The necessity of clearly defining the division of roles between specialist contact points and the general contact centre, and establishing a flexible reporting framework that can respond to the circumstances and urgency of each case

Table 3-4-4 Measures to prevent and mitigate adverse human rights impacts and contact points for reporting (during the event)

Rights Holder	Measures to Prevent and Reduce Negative Impacts on Human Rights	Information Centre
Expo Association staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights training for executives, employees (including producers), and staff 	Contact points for dealing with harassment
Operation staff and Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of understanding and enlightenment activities through (lectures, e-learning) • Application of the manual for sending messages on social media 	Affiliated businesses, the human rights reporting desk, and the Procurement Code reporting desk
Employees of participants (including government and local governments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation, operation and monitoring of procurement codes • Application of the manual for sending social media messages 	Affiliated businesses, the human rights reporting desk, and the Procurement Code reporting desk



Visitors	・ Application of universal design and service guidelines	Comprehensive Contact Centre, the human rights reporting desk, and the Procurement Code reporting desk
Local residents	・ Dialogue with local residents	
NGO	・ Dialogue with NGOs	Sustainability Bureau and the human rights reporting desk
People belonging to the media	・ Application of universal design service guidelines	Sustainability Bureau and the human rights reporting desk
Supplier employees	・ Formulation, operation and monitoring of procurement codes	Response to reports related to procurement codes

Table 3-4-5 Number of reports received regarding human rights

Contact point for receiving reports	Number of reports received
Association (<i>Received by the Association and outside specialized agencies</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ・ Compliance: 1 case ・ Harassment: 3 cases ・ Health related: 1-2 cases per month
Human rights reporting desk	173 cases
Expo 2025 Comprehensive Contact Centre	4 cases
Grievance Mechanism for the Procurement Code	13 cases *See Appendix 4, Document on the Sustainable Procurement Code.

(4) Human rights and compliance training/enlightment

Each and every officer and employee of the Association provided the necessary education and skills development so that they can practice their actions based on the human rights policy in their work. During human rights training for all Association members, examples of human rights issues that occurred at past events and potential human rights risks anticipated at the Expo were shared. In addition, ongoing learning opportunities were provided, including e-learning programmes and the distribution of educational materials, to deepen understanding of the Human Rights Policy and human rights due diligence. The Association also regularly conducted compliance training that emphasised ethics and adherence to laws and regulations, including the prevention of harassment and government-sponsored bid-rigging, as well as the importance of maintaining appropriate relationships with stakeholders. Through these initiatives, progress was made toward embedding an organisational culture across the Association that is grounded in respect for human rights and a strong awareness of compliance.

Table 3-4-6 Implementation of human rights training and enlightenment activities

Implementation date	Subject	Content
October 2023	Association	Cases of human rights issues at past events and examples of human rights issues (gender, race, foreigners, etc.) that may arise at the Expo were disseminated
April 2024	Association	Human rights policy for Expo Association was formulated and disseminated
July 2024	Association	Human rights risks were examined and identified at all the Association departments
September 2024	Association	LGBTQ training
October 2024	Association	The Human Rights Policy, Human Rights DD initiatives, and examples of human rights issues (LGBTQ) that may arise at the Expo
November-December 2024	Association	Communicate Expo 2025's efforts to respect human rights in general (Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, Identification of Human Rights Issues, Human Rights DD, etc.)
January-April 2025	Association Participants	Universal training (basic support, support for specific needs, reasonable accommodations, guidelines, practical training)



March-April 2025	Participants	LGBTQ training
October 2025	Association Participants	Dissemination of information on responses to human rights and labour issues, including after the close of Expo 2025 (Japanese, English and French)

Table 3-4-7 Implementation of Compliance Training

Date	Content
May 20, 2024	Position of the Association Employees
May 31, 2024	Information Handling
June 17, 2024	Stakeholders
June 24, 2024	Preventing bid rigging
July 11, 2024	Points to consider in contract work
July 29, 2024	Efforts to eliminate organized crime groups
August 5, 2024	Preventing compliance violations
December 3, 2024	Compliance Case Study 1

◆External human rights awareness activities

The Association worked to promote respect for human rights not only within the organisation but also across wider society by actively engaging in external awareness raising initiatives.

In July 2023, the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights visited Japan and met with stakeholders throughout the country to assess the status of implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In its statement, the Working Group observed that awareness of the Guiding Principles remained limited outside Tokyo and that this was particularly common among small and medium sized enterprises.

In response to this situation, the Association aimed to use the opportunity of hosting Expo 2025 to help ensure that the concepts of business and human rights become widely embedded among small and medium sized enterprises in the Osaka and Kansai region. Recognising that these enterprises support the local economy, the Association placed particular emphasis on encouraging sustainable management practices grounded in respect for human rights.

To advance these efforts, the Association collaborated with government agencies and related organisations to deliver a range of awareness raising activities. By providing accessible information and promoting the principles of responsible business conduct, the Association sought to contribute to the wider social understanding of human rights and to strengthen responsible business practices throughout the region.

As part of these efforts, in fiscal year 2024 the Association collaborated with the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry to hold a seminar on the theme of business and human rights in December. During this seminar, the importance of respecting human rights and the initiatives of the Association were introduced to corporate representatives and related organisations.

In fiscal year 2025, the Association held Peace and Human Rights Week in August as one of the Theme Weeks designed to explore how we can shape a future society for our lives through dialogue on global-scale challenges. A range of human rights related programmes was delivered during the week (details are provided in section 3.5 Partnership). As part of these activities, the Association also



presented its human rights policy and human rights due diligence practices at an event on business and human rights hosted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) Japan Office and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Through these initiatives, the Association aims to fulfil its role as a hub for disseminating international human rights standards within local communities and to help embed the positive impacts of hosting Expo 2025 as a lasting “culture of respect for human rights” within the regional economy.

【Looking back and future prospects】

In line with the theme of designing a future society where life shines, the Association has operated the Expo in accordance with international human rights standards and has worked in close cooperation with relevant stakeholders to steadily and sincerely promote initiatives toward resolving human rights issues arising in connection with the Expo. For the Expo, the Association formulated Human Rights policy for the first time in the history of Expos, conducted human rights due diligence and developed an operational framework based on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

These initiatives made it possible to clearly articulate the Association’s commitment to respecting human rights with reference to the various parties involved in the Expo’s operation (including participants). In addition, the Association was able to progressively establish mechanisms to identify, prevent and mitigate human rights risks as well as processes for reporting and remedying such issues.

These initiatives not only strengthened the Association’s internal management system but also created opportunities to convey to participants and related businesses the importance of operating in a way that respects human rights. They can also be regarded as a practical example of translating the Guiding Principles to concrete operational practices for a major international event.

In addition, the diverse events, exhibitions and lectures held by participants provided visitors opportunities to reflect on human rights in a personal and accessible manner, contributing to the creation of an Expo-wide environment in which human rights could be visualised, understood and experienced. One of the significant social outcomes of the Expo was that visitors and others, influenced by the initiatives of the Expo, came to consider human rights in their daily work and lives , and engaged in dialogue at multiple levels, ranging from casual conversations to more specialised exchanges, with a wide range of people including family members, friends and colleagues.

These achievements, as well as the challenges identified, provide valuable insights for future international expositions and other large scale events. It is hoped that these insights will be shared more broadly across society and further deepen initiatives toward the realisation of a sustainable society in which human rights are respected.



Message from Chairman, Human Rights Working Group

This was a groundbreaking event, being the first international exposition to formulate and implement a human rights policy based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. To support and strengthen this initiative, a Human Rights Working Group was established, and I had the honor of chairing it.

The Guiding Principles stipulate that those engaged in economic activities are responsible for the negative impacts on human rights that may arise from their activities. For the association to practice respect for human rights at an expo that will have a positive impact on present and future society sends an important message to Japanese society and the world.

Under the Secretary-General's top commitment, the expectation and promotion of respect for human rights based on the human rights policy within the association, not only among the businesses with which the association conducts business, but also among pavilion exhibitors and other stakeholders, was a bold initiative unique to the expo.

What activities does the expo engage in, and what impact will it have on the human rights of whom? To ensure the effectiveness of this first-of-its-kind attempt at human rights due diligence at the expo, the secretariat's efforts evolved and deepened through discussions within a working group composed of experts with diverse attributes and backgrounds.

Human rights due diligence is about understanding the situation on the ground. Throughout the period before, during, and after the Expo, the Secretariat continuously conducted dialogues with stakeholders and on-site verification work amidst changing circumstances. The working group repeatedly discussed how to further enhance the effectiveness of these activities.

The most important aspect of practicing respect for human rights is listening to, addressing, and taking corrective action against those who may have been negatively affected. This was the most challenging aspect of formulating and implementing the human rights policy, a first for the Expo. A reporting hotline for human rights issues was established, and reports were also accepted through various channels throughout the Expo. While a larger number of reports had been anticipated, the working group highly commends the sincere efforts made in following transparent procedures for each report, regardless of its quantity.

Universal design, embodying respect for human rights, ensured inclusivity and shared the values of the Expo with all visitors. All visitors enjoyed the Expo and are also the people who will create the



future society that the Expo aims for; therefore, sharing the Expo's value of respecting human rights was of paramount significance.

As this was the first time that human rights respect was addressed at an Expo, we faced many challenges, built up a track record, and learned many lessons for future opportunities. To ensure these lessons are put to good use, it is conceivable that the government and local authorities should establish mechanisms to accumulate expertise in business and human rights, such as the establishment and training of specialized departments and experts.

This Expo was an economic and social activity, envisioning a "future society where life shines." We hope that the efforts and lessons learned at this Expo will be passed on to future generations, ensuring sustainable growth without negative impacts on the environment or human rights.



3.5 Partnership (Collaboration)

The Association provides the opportunity for everyone to participate in the Expo, freely exchange ideas and create communities where they can connect with each other.

【Direction to pursue】

Together with corporations, educational and research institutions, national and governmental organisations, international organisations, local governments, NGOs/NPOs and grassroots bodies, the Association shall promote Japan, particularly the Osaka and Kansai region, to the world. In addition, the most distinctive characteristic of the Expo will be the endeavour to give a realistic picture of a future society not just through thought but also through action. In this regard, the Association shall invite diverse participants to come together before the Expo and connect with various initiatives in their respective positions and tackle challenges with a view to support achievement of the SDGs at or outside the Expo 2025 site.

【Background】

The concept of Expo 2025 is "People's Living Lab" where people from all over the world exchange ideas and "co-create" the future society. Challenges around the world are becoming more complex and diverse, and partnerships combining various technologies and ideas are becoming important to solve them.

One of the subthemes of the Expo, Japan, "Connecting Lives," focuses on enriching society by connecting individuals to form communities. Specific keywords envisioned from "Connecting Lives," include the power of partnership and co-creation, the evolution of communication through ICT, and the future of the data society.

Furthermore, the Expo has launched the TEAM EXPO 2025 program, a participatory program in which diverse people form teams and engage in diverse activities to challenge the future of Expo 2025 and beyond. In this way, the participation and co-creation of diverse parties is a characteristic of the Expo.

【Details of the initiative】

In the TEAM EXPO 2025 program, the Association recruits "co-creation challenges" to take action for the future, and "co-creation partners" to create and support them, as well as promote co-creation and exchange. The Association provides opportunities for everyone to freely participate in the Expo and take on the challenge of achieving the SDGs.

The Association promotes information dissemination, sharing, and collaboration with stakeholders who participate in the Expo.

In order to promote understanding of sustainability, the Association promotes cooperation with official participating countries, international organizations, and local governments, and implement educational programs and training programs.

The Association prepares a virtual venue in an online space that reproduces Yumeshima Island Expo venue using 3DCG, and the Association develops various initiatives that make use of virtual technologies such as AR (augmented reality) and VR (virtual reality) to make real and virtual



interlocking. The Association enhances the attractiveness and power of the venue and realizes an inclusive Expo that can be attended by people with disabilities, the elderly, and people from distant places who cannot actually come to the Expo site, as well as many people from around the world.

Furthermore, as we materialize the Expo plan in the future, the association provides opportunities for the next generation, who will be responsible for future community development, to take a leap forward.

【Major implementation items】

The above background and initiatives were considered and implemented as follows:

- The TEAM EXPO 2025 programme was launched in October 2020, with registrations accepted until the Expo's closing day on 13 October 2025. By the end of the period, a total of 2,492 co creation challenges had been registered (2,397 domestic and 95 overseas), together with 439 co creation partner organisations (437 domestic and 2 overseas).

At TEAM EXPO Pavilions, under the management concepts of “dialogue ” and “co-creation, ” the Association held exhibitions and stages by co-creation challenges and co-creation partners. From the activities registered in the TEAM EXPO 2025 program, the Association solicited and selected "Practical, globally renewable, particularly good practices for the future" and the selected projects was exhibited in TEAM EXPO Pavilions. In November 2024, the Association selected and announced, “Expo 2025 Best Practices”. These best practices were featured on the official Expo website and displayed in the Best Practices Area during the event.

Table 3-5-1 25 initiatives selected as best practices

	Initiatives	Main countries and regions
The future of the Earth and Biodiversity	Creating a Sustainable Future with Biochar Carbon Minus Project	Japan
	Co-creating a Sustainable Society with the "Zero Waste" App Zero Waste Co-Creation Network	Japan
	Harnessing the Power of Nature to Sustainably Produce Freshwater Sustainable Water and Floating Farm Solutions	United Arab Emirates
	Empowering Farmers with Cost-Effective Tools to Improve Soil Health Soil Health Activities in Nepal	Nepal
	Restore forests, Protect Watersheds, and Build Climate Resilience Masungi Geopark Project: A Youth-Led Movement to Restore Watersheds	Philippines
Health and Well-Being	Sanitary Products That Are Kind to the Body, Society and the Environment Biodegradable and Compostable Sanitary Napkins	India, Malaysia, Kenya
	Saving Lives and Transforming Healthcare through Technology and Partnerships Transforming Care, Training Responders, Saving lives	Nigeria
	Taking on the Challenge of Delivering Good Vision to People in Need around the World Good Vision for Everyone	Burkina Faso, Brazil, India
	Empowering Amputees with Bionic Prosthetics, Rehabilitation, and Automated Workflows Revolutionizing Mobility	Tunisia, Libya
Peace and Human Rights	Supporting Women's Entrepreneurship Poverty Alleviation through Entrepreneurship	Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania
	Clean Water Brings Peace and Sustainability to Communities Providing Clean Water for the Future of Indigenous Peoples and Underserved Communities	America , Columbia, Mexico
	Inclusive Communication Solutions for People with Hearing Impairments Interpretation Services for the Hearing-Impaired	Benin



The future of food and life	Sagri Creates a Sustainable Future for Agriculture and the Environment with Satellite Data and AI Visualising Farmland "Terroir" with Satellite Data and AI to Make Agriculture More Sustainable	Japan, India, Vietnam
	Seaweed Paving the Way for a Bright Future "Blue Planet" Seaweed Enriching and Sustaining People and the Ocean	Japan
	Mountain Women Driving Socio-Economic Change by Blending Tradition and Fashion Fashion Supporting Vulnerable Livelihoods: Connecting Traditional Culture with Global Markets	Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Peru
	A New Leather-Like Material Made from Discarded Pineapple Leaves PEEL Lab	Japan, Thailand, Vietnam
Learning and Play	Learning Anywhere with a Portable Backpack That Transforms into a Desk Innovative Solutions for Creating Child-Friendly Spaces	Nepal, America
	DIY Microscopes Opening the Door to the Nano World for Young People Microscopes That Reveal the Macro World DIY	Denmark, Germany, Japan
	Building Knowledge That Is Trusted, Accessible and Shareable for Everyone The United Nations WikiProject: Building Knowledge That Is Trusted, Accessible and Shareable for Everyone	English-speaking countries
Cultural co-creation for the future	Using Culture as a Tool to Drive Change Art for Life – A Legacy for Development	India
Future Community and Mobility	Sharing the Importance of Disaster Preparedness and Building a Sustainable Future through Co-Creation to Protect Lives That Can Be Saved: JICA Kansai / DRLC Disaster Preparedness Platform	Countries around the world
SDGs + Beyond: Future Society for Our Lives	Making Rehabilitation More Enjoyable and Efficient through MR Technology From Osaka to the World: Supporting Human Health through MR	Japan, Cambodia
	Proposing a Future Society That Advances Together with Paper Yarn Products Creating a Future Where We Wear Paper Yarn Products	Japan, Italy, Germany
	Supporting Remote Communities through Innovative Solar Power Solutions Powering Off-Grid Communities with Solar Energy	Lebanon
	Chalk Connecting Food, Art and a New Future Turning Carbon Dioxide into Chalk	Japan

- The 25 initiatives selected as best practices were connected with colourful ribbons, creating an immersive space within the Best Practices Area of Future Life Village that expressed their interlinked and expanding impact. Panels and videos showcased the diverse activities of the award recipients, aiming to connect and amplify ideas for a better future and to inspire visitors to take a new step toward that future.

In addition, from May to August, on the second Thursday of each month, Future Life Village hosted a Best Practices Day, an exchange and presentation event where award recipients presented their initiatives and shared high quality projects that address pressing global challenges.



Figure 3-5-1 TEAM EXPO 2025 Best Practices Exhibition



- The "Junior EXPO 2025 Education Program" aimed to raise children's interest and interest in participating in initiatives for the Expo even before the Expo, learning about the SDGs, thinking about ideas for the Expo's theme "Designing Future Society for Our Lives," and wanting to actually visit the Expo site in 2025.

In FY 2020, the program targeted elementary and junior high schools in Osaka Prefecture, and in FY 2021, it targeted the Kansai area. In FY 2022, the program expanded to cover all of Japan. Since FY 2023, the program was implemented not only in Japan but also in overseas educational institutions such as Japanese schools in facilities.

(Program content)

- Elementary and junior high school teachers teach classes to deepen their understanding of the World Exposition and the SDGs using about 10 hours of class time, such as comprehensive study time, using exclusive materials such as texts and videos edited by Expo Association
- Holding "Research Meetings" in which companies working on the SDGs present their efforts, and children interact with each other in an online format, such as asking questions about their efforts
- Holding "Junior EXPO" as an opportunity for children to present the results they have learned through classes

Table 3-5-2 "Junior EXPO 2025 Education Program" lesson flow

	For elementary schools	For junior high schools
Lesson flow	◎What is the Expo? Enjoy learning using many photos and video materials	
	◎About "Life Shining" Learn from your own experiences and other familiar experiences	
	◎What are the SDGs? Since there are social issues not only around you but also around the world, you will learn how various companies are working to solve these issues so that "no one is left behind"	
	◎Poster Creation (Junior EXPO)	◎Research Meeting ◎Presentation Meeting (Junior EXPO)

As a space for children to share the outcomes of what they learned through the educational programme classes, the "Junior EXPO" was organised, with elementary school students creating and exhibiting posters, while junior high school students delivered presentations.

The Junior EXPO 2025 Education Programme Presentation was held at the Expo site on 25 July, 8 August and 26 August in fiscal year 2025, featuring fourteen presentations from ten schools and co hosted by the Life Conference Executive Committee and the Osaka University Social Solutions Initiative (SSI). During these sessions, participants actively explored the core question of the Junior EXPO 2025 Education Programme, implemented since fiscal year 2020—"What is a future society where all life shines?" and shared ideas on how the next generation can address social challenges to help realise such a society.

- Yumeshima Island (real) expo venue was recreated as a "virtual expo site" in the metaverse space, and the virtual World Expo will be held so that visitors can freely participate at any time and on any device and experience something different from the actual venue, such as viewing and talking. At the Virtual Expo visitors entered the world of Expo 2025 as avatars touring pavilions and event facilities that were reproductions of actual buildings, and enjoying the unique virtual exhibits and events developed by each exhibitor. While meeting and completing quests



with other crews from around the world, visitors to the Virtual Expo were able to learn, reflect and communicate independently, thereby experiencing the adventure of exploring an inclusive future society. (The platform generated 31.83 million hits and welcomed a total of 4.61 million visitors.)

- Since May 2022, the "Initiatives on Sustainability" page was set up on the Expo Association official website to disseminate information on policies, visions and meetings related to sustainability. In addition to the official website, when holding meetings related to sustainability, information was disseminated on the official SNS to disseminate, promote and raise awareness of the SDG-related information.
- At meetings with stakeholders such as the national government and economic organizations, the agenda on ESMS was included, and information was shared and opinions are exchanged. Through their own websites and organizational publications, stakeholders communicated that Expo 2025 aims to achieve the SDGs by responding to sustainability requirements expected of an international event through the establishment and operation of an ESMS to promote sustainability.
- The Association participates in and cooperates with events to build momentum for the Expo that are held in each municipality. These initiatives included providing briefings and lectures on the Expo to major economic organizations nationwide, discussing local government initiatives designed to raise awareness in regional areas and encourage people to view the Expo as something personally relevant, holding symposiums to highlight individuals active in their communities and organizing dialogue based sessions, including discussions between prefectural governors and producers.
- Under the concept of "People's Living Lab(PLL, a testing ground for future societies)" as a means of realizing Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan's theme of "Designing Future Society for Our Lives," the online talk event "EXPO PLL Talks" is held as a place for various practitioners and intellectuals to share their efforts on the theme from their respective perspectives both in Japan and overseas, and to create the Expo together. After the event, the recorded version is posted as an archive on the Expo Association official website.
- 20 facilities, including rest areas and restrooms, was constructed with the aim of creating a unique and attractive Expo facilities by inviting young architects who were expected to be active in the future to submit ambitious and bold proposals in accordance with the venue design concept of "diverse yet one." In May 2024, the design work of 20 facilities within the venue, including rest areas, galleries, exhibition facilities, pop-up stages, satellite studios, and restrooms, was completed by young architects, and the outline of facilities, design concept, and image perspective were available. Although the works of these next generation architects were intended for everyday use, they also represent spatial proposals conceived through the architects' free and creative thinking, incorporating original ideas that respond to challenges such



as reuse and recycling, the effective use of natural energy, harmony with the surrounding environment and the creation of comfortable spaces.

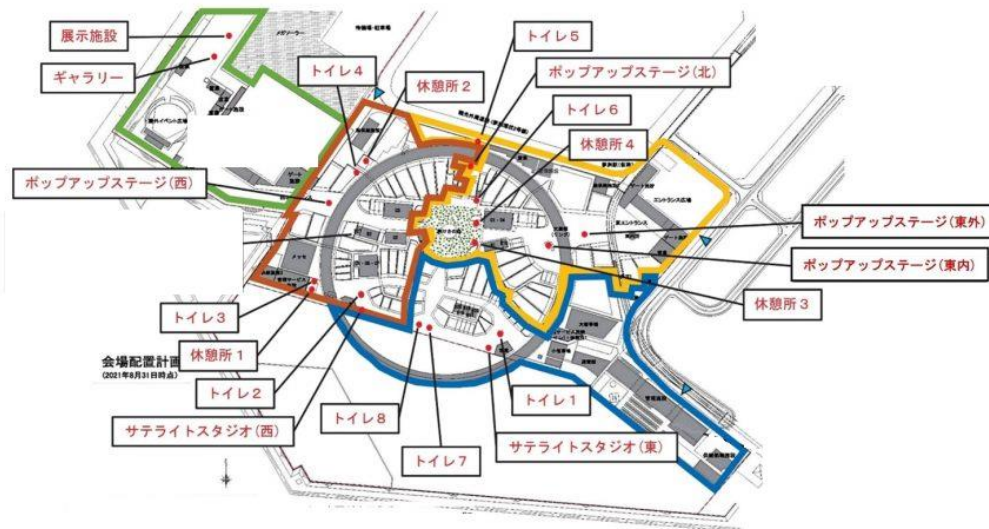


Figure 3-5-2 Arrangement of Young Architect facilities

- Taking advantage of the characteristics of Expo, in which the world gathers at the same place for a long period of six months, the Association implemented "Theme Week," an initiative to bring wisdom to solve global issues, search for solutions through dialogue and create a future society that shines with life together with the world. A total of 429 programmes were delivered.

"Agenda 2025," a theme week program organized by the Association, implemented interactive programs and exhibitions in which various stakeholders were able to participate cross-sectionally and participate in diversity and free dialogue from all over the world in real and online in order to send a message from the Expo to the world.

The final program of the theme week, "Agenda 2025," organized by the Association, was held on October 12th. In the session titled "Thinking about 'Life' and the SDGs Beyond with Eight Theme Project Producers" session, Theme Project Producers who embodied the theme of "Future Society for Our Lives" gathered in one place to look back on the achievements of their signature pavilions and discuss the diverse perspectives on "life" that emerged through Expo 2025, as well as the possibilities of going "Beyond" the SDGs. The speakers explored "life" from a variety of viewpoints and presented ideas for a creative future that goes beyond sustainability.

The following session, "Designing a Future Society," centred on the central question "Can the SDGs be achieved, and what comes after?" It was held as a forum for participants, ahead of 2030—the final target year of the SDGs—to reaffirm the challenges and hopes facing human society and to share the fundamental question of how a future society beyond the SDGs should be designed.

Beginning with a keynote speech by UN Under-Secretary-General Mr. Li Junhua,



representatives from businesses, researchers, cultural circles and youth representatives took the stage to discuss building of a "Regenerative Society" that goes beyond sustainability. Five core themes emerged from the discussion: "Well-being," "Culture," "Co-creation," "Technology," and "Intergenerational Solidarity." All participants agreed that the society required after 2030 should not focus solely on economic growth or environmental protection but rather on rebuilding relationships between humans and nature, individuals and communities and the present and future. The new social experiment of Expo, as a "place of experience," in which visitors can experience the future with all five senses and co-create it together, truly epitomizes this theme.

Table 3-5-3 Theme Structure of Theme Weeks

Classification	Theme (Week name)	Theme (Question)	Scope of Theme
Saving Lives Challenges Threatening Human and Life on Earth	The Future of Earth and Biodiversity (September 17, 2025 ~ September 28, 2025)	What do we need to do to preserve the earth for future generations with abundant and diverse life?	Climate change decarbonization biodiversity circular economy renewable energy hydrogen society Nature Positive deforestation marine pollution woodland regeneration freshwater resources etc.
	Health and Well-being (June 20, 2025 ~ July 01, 2025)	How do we realize a society where the well-being of each person resonates?	Measures against infectious diseases well-being genomic medicine regenerative medicine cell therapy and gene therapy PHR healthy life expectancy SBNR safe water and toilets etc.
	Peace, Human Security and Dignity (August 01, 2025 ~ August 12, 2025)	What do we do to realize a world where discrimination is eliminated and people respect each other?	Hunger poverty social inequality human rights violations child labor and forced labor human trafficking participation of persons with disabilities gender equality LGBTQ promotion of women's participation and advancement in the workplace immigration human security diversity and inclusion etc.
Empowering Lives A Happy and Prosperous Life for Everyone Issues to send	Necessities of Life: Food, Clothing and Shelter (June 5, 2025 ~ June 16, 2025)	What do we need to do to realize a future where everyone has access to food, clothing and shelter?	Food loss food tech food education food culture smart agriculture forestry and fisheries industry sustainable fashion ethical consumption etc.
	Learning and Playing (July 17, 2025 ~ July 28, 2025)	What should humans learn in the era of AI?	Lifelong learning EDTEC intellectual property utilisation individually optimized learning remote education youth independence educational inequality STEAM entrepreneurship games around the world etc.
Connecting Lives Enriching Society Issues	Co-creating Cultures for the Future (April 25, 2025 ~ May 06, 2025)	What do we need to do for diverse cultures to resonate and co-create cultures for the future?	Traditional performing art historical heritage local community revitalisation tourism art music sports cultural arts Cool Japan manga and anime Esports etc.
	The Future of Community and Mobility (May 15, 2025 ~ May 26, 2025)	What is a community where we can live as we are?	Smart cities digital garden cities disaster prevention and reconstruction metaverse space robots EV/FCV automatic operation flying cars cyber security MaaS etc.



A Shining Future for Life Social Design Summary (last week)	SDGs+Beyond Future Society for Life (October 02, 2025 ~ October 12, 2025)	Can we achieve the SDGs? What do we do beyond the goals?	SDGs post-SDGs life future society Society 5.0 etc.
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Cross-Cutting Initiatives



"Theme Week Connect", an initiative to solve global issues related to the eight themes of Theme Week, was held outside the venue. As an off-site related program for Theme Week, participants are not limited to the Osaka and Kansai areas but can come from all over the country. By linking with initiatives to solve global issues nationwide, centred on the Expo, the Association built momentum nationwide. From October 2020, a total of 35 programmes linked to the eight themes (29 dialogue sessions and 6 exhibitions) were delivered, creating opportunities for co-creation aimed at achieving the SDGs and realising a future society. To ensure that the outcomes would remain as a legacy even after the close of Expo 2025, the outcomes were also preserved in a video archive.

Based on the overall outcomes of these Theme Weeks, an Insight Report was produced and published in February 2026.

- In order to attract tourists outside the Expo site, the "Expo 2025 Official Experiential Travel Guides" portal site was launched in April 2024.

The portal site features high-value-added travel products that have a strong affinity with the theme of the Expo and can provide high satisfaction and provides local tourism information and product information directly to those planning to visit the Expo.

In addition to searching and booking by date and place, users also were able to search from a number of genres related to the theme of the Expo "Designing Future Society for Our Lives," and were able to experience the theme of the Expo through the introduction of travel products and local event information related to the theme of the Expo in each region.

- In order to materialize the initiatives for sustainable hosting of Expo 2025, the Association considered providing opportunities for start-ups and the next generation who would be responsible for the future development of the city. On August 23, 2023, Japan signed an agreement with Consortium of Universities Osaka to promote collaboration, and on November 24 of the same year, Japan signed an agreement with Consortium of Higher Education Wakayama and Wakayama Prefecture to promote collaboration.

(Main details of collaboration with Consortium of Universities Osaka)

- Mutual cooperation to promote active participation of universities and students in Expo 2020 and Expo related projects
- Information on Expo related projects to universities and students, raising awareness, and building momentum
- Cooperation in the provision of Expo information that contributes to the improvement of the quality of research and education by universities and students



(Higher Education Co-creation Consortium Wakayama and Wakayama Prefecture)

- Building a sustainable community with universities and students and prefectural residents
 - Enhancing the quality of education and research programs with exhibitions
 - Promoting the participation of universities and students and prefectural residents in exhibitions
 - Disseminating information and building momentum about exhibitions
- Across the event and MICE industry, organizers, venues and related companies have shown a strong interest in sustainability, while also recognising both the need to take action from the perspective of international competitiveness and from the perspective of additional costs. In light of these circumstances, and as part of the Expo's legacy, in FY2020 the Association began examining the development of tentatively titled "User friendly Guidelines" aimed at raising sustainability standards across the event and MICE industry. Working with the Japan Association for the Promotion of Creative Events (JACE), efforts were made to expand participation through interviews and consultations with event clients, venues, convention bureaus and industry associations. In November 2022 a partnership agreement was concluded with the Osaka Convention and Tourism Bureau, and in July 2023 the Event and MICE Sustainable Management Promotion Consortium was established in collaboration with five industry organisations to further advance these discussions

Consortium member organizations (in no particular order):

Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau, Japan Association for the Promotion of Creative Events (JACE), Japan Convention Management Association (JCMA), Japan Exhibition Association (Nittenkyo), Nippon Display Federation (Nichideren), Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition

In September 2024, following deliberations within the consortium, an "Easy-to-Use Sustainability Guidebook for Event and MICE Professionals" was published. Created from a production and operational perspective, the guidebook aims to promote sustainability across the event and MICE industry, using the Expo as a catalyst for industry-wide improvement.



Figure 3-5-3 Easy-to-use sustainability guidebook for event and MICE professionals

During the event, as part of initiatives to strengthen sustainable collaboration within the MICE industry, the consortium held the MICE and Event Professionals Meeting at Expo 2025. The programme included lectures by experts in sustainable MICE operations and representatives from overseas pavilions, as well as a networking session bringing together industry stakeholders. Approximately 300 people participants, those associated with overseas pavilions, attended.

- In collaboration with "SDGs Radio," a one-minute program in which visually impaired people



acted as narrators and introduced SDG initiatives to children, pupils and students nationwide, 10 sustainability initiatives implemented at the Expo have been broadcast as "Osaka Kansai Expo SDGs Radio" from November 2024.

(Streaming title)

- Experience the future with people from all over the world at Expo 2025
 - Protecting the "human rights" of all people involved in Expo 2025
 - "Procurement Code" makes us more earth-friendly and people-friendly
 - Can airplanes fly using oil from deep-fried foods?
 - Making personal bottles the new normal
 - "Reducing food waste" is also important for the Earth
 - Methanation: The future of energy
 - DAC : A future technology that extracts carbon dioxide from the air
 - Solar cells are constantly evolving!
 - Experience the SDGs at the Junior SDGs Camp!
- In order to maximize the effects of education for young people and children at the Expo, we consulted with educational experts and teachers of elementary, middle, and high schools from FY 2023. As a result, we focused on the following three items: (1) experiential programs, (2) tours of the venue, and (3) web content exhibitions, and conducted the "Junior SDGs Camp" at the Sustainability Dome on the west side of the expo site.



Figure 3-5-4 Junior SDGs Camp Venue

(1)Experiential Programs

The Association provided a place for input and output using the five senses, which can be felt only in a real venue, and by staying in the minds of visitors, and led to continuous behaviour change.

Experiential programs on environmental issues and the SDGs produced by the Association, companies, NPOs, university seminars, etc were implemented. Some of the programs had elements of international exchange. In this case, the Association actively accepted programs conducted by SMEs, NPOs, and university students.

(323 events held, 12,941 participants. Programmes with free entry and exit are not included in the number of participants as attendance could not be accurately counted)

In addition to inputting information on each theme, the program aims to create opportunities that lead to changes in one's daily behaviour and consciousness by identifying issues in one's own life and considering solutions.

【Examples of experiential programs】

(a)Programmes with international exchange elements

- Discussing Environmental Issues with People Abroad (Netherlands)
Participants engaged with staff from the Netherlands Pavilion to learn about Dutch education



and culture, as well as initiatives undertaken at the Pavilion to advance the SDGs. They also engaged in dialogue with visitors on differences between Japan and the Netherlands from an SDG perspective, such as the use of personal bottles.

- Discussing Environmental Issues with People Abroad (Switzerland)

Staff from the Switzerland Pavilion delivered a session on Switzerland's geography and culture and introduced the *One Million Youth Actions Challenge* (1MYAC), a Switzerland-origin initiative that aimed to encourage young people to take concrete actions for a sustainable future with a target of achieving one million youth actions. The discussion included examples of youth led activities, such as plastic waste collection and awareness raising activities in Bali, followed by dialogue with visitors.



- Discussing Environmental Issues with People Abroad (Indonesia)

An international student from Indonesia took the stage to introduce aspects of Indonesian culture and discussed differences between Japan and Indonesia in terms of resource circulation, including community based waste collection initiatives (bansampa, garbage banks) through dialogue with visitors.

- JICA International Exchange Outreach Lectures

This programme connected the venue online with Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers working in their respective countries, enabling visitors to engage directly in dialogue on local conditions overseas and Japan's international operation efforts. Facilitation at the venue was carried out by young people, including university students.

(b) Programmes produced by companies, NPOs and university seminars (excerpts)

- Let's Think about Environmental Issues through Styrofoam!

Through experiments using a familiar material, styrofoam, children learned about environmental issues such as recycling and the SDGs.

- Learn about Wast and Environmental Issues with Garbage Sorting Board Game "Hokasu"!

Using the board game "Hokasu," which allows participants to learn about processes ranging from waste sorting to landfill disposal, children learned about environmental issues including resource circulation and waste management.



- "HANKYU Children's College" Sea Turtle Project - Sea Turtle Interaction Experience & Talk Show~

In addition to learning about the deterioration of sea turtle habitats, the children were given the opportunity to reflect, through hands-on interaction, on what actions they themselves can take to protect sea turtles.



- World Environment Day 2025 Youth Event: Aiming for a plastic-free future

In addition to a mini lecture on plastic waste pollution by a UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) staff member for junior and senior high school students, students of the same age from Japan, Africa, Asia and other regions connected online to exchange views on plastic waste pollution and actions toward a pollution-free future.



- Food Future Conference: Protecting the Future of Food
University students who belong to an environmental club delivered a lecture on "food" for elementary school students, learning about food self-sufficiency through board games.
- SDGs field trip lessons
Students from university seminars delivered lectures and explanations on (i) measures to reduce food waste, (ii) the reuse and upcycling of clothing, (iii) solar power generation on agricultural land, and (iv) eliminating the gender gap.
- ~CONNECTING YOU TO Noto~ Learning about Biodiversity (Resilient Living Creatures) with elementary school students in Noto!

The program, sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment, introduced the nature and biodiversity of Noto through video materials. Elementary school students from Noto presented the results of a surveys they conducted to examine whether changes had occurred in river ecosystems before and after the 2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake and subsequent heavy rain

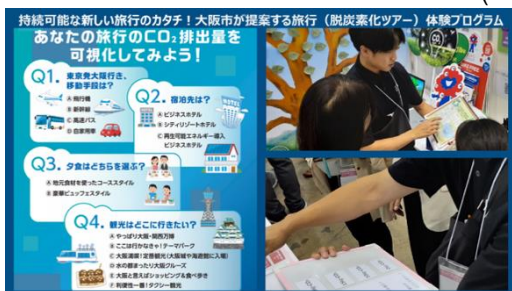


disasters.

(Source) Ministry of the Environment press release (https://www.env.go.jp/press/press_01007.html)



● A New Form of Sustainable Travel! A travel (Decarbonized Tour) Experience Program Proposed



by Osaka City

This program was hosted by Osaka City Government. It introduced the Expo Green Challenge, which aims to promote decarbonisation actions in the lead up to the Expo, and enabled participants to virtually experience a “decarbonised travel tour. Through the programme, participants experienced the CO₂ emissions associated with their selected travel plans and exchanged views with one another while considering actions and choices that contribute to decarbonisation, thereby deepening their understanding.

(c)Programs produced by the Expo Association

● Let's think together! The 3Rs of Expo 2025

Using examples of 3R initiatives implemented at Expo 2025 (including reusable tableware and the reuse matching site MYAKU-ICHI!) as examples, the programme encouraged participants to consider the 3Rs as practices that apply directly to them.

● Learning about Resource Circulation from "MOTTAINAI"!

In addition to learning about Japan's reuse culture and resource circulation dating back to the Edo period, participants were introduced to horizontal recycling of PET bottles implemented at the Expo site.

● Learning about the Future of the Earth through Carbon Recycling!

The Association presented initiatives that utilize carbon dioxide as a resource. The programme explained that the venue for the session (Sustainadome) was constructed using carbon absorbing concrete, and participants experienced carbon recycling through a CO₂ absorption experiment.



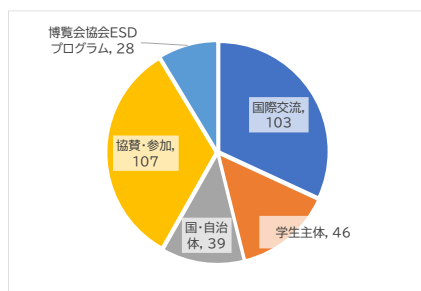


Figure 3-5-5 Implementing bodies and number of times of experiential programs

2) Tour inside the Expo site

A guide map was created to show the highlights of facilities, Pavilions, in the venue, related to the environment and architecture, as well as SDG-related content, and based on the map, a tour inside the Expo site was conducted. Youth between the ages of 15 and 30 were invited to create the guide map. Participating youth interviewed Pavilions facilities and wrote the manuscript.

(10 courses, 390 sessions, 5,459 participants)

Table 3-5-4 Tour inside the Expo site course

	Theme	Tour Title
A	Decarbonization and Resource Circulation	Deco-katsu Tour Creating Your Own Future with "3R and Renewable"
		A tour that encourages participants to consider their own actions to protect the Earth from plastic waste and other waste by exploring 3R initiatives implemented across the Expo site
B	Architecture	Designer Toilet Tour by Young Architects
		A tour that explores how young architects selected through an open call have reimagined the concept of "toilets" and proposed new perspectives on their design and role
C	Decarbonization and Resource Circulation	Sustainable Experience Tour Focused on Environmental Conservation
		A tour offering close-up exposure to technologies developed by Japanese companies working to address global environmental challenges.
D	Architecture	Pavilion Deep-Dive Tour Supervised by the Nobel Prize of architecture "Pritzker Prize" Winning Architects
		A tour where world-famous architects explain the architecture, they designed for the Expo, allowing participants to experience their concepts, intentions and worldviews.
E	Architecture	Unique Rest Area Tour Created by a Young Architect
		Under the venue design concept of "Diverse yet One," this tour explores how rest areas have been transformed into distinctive and attractive spaces through proposals by young architects
F	Decarbonization and Resource Circulation	Renewable Energy Future Creation Experience Tour
		Renewable Energy Technology Experience Tour
G	Architecture	What materials are they made of? Discovering Unique Building Materials Tour
		A tour focusing on pavilions that use distinctive materials, explaining the design intentions and benefits
H	Architecture	Architecture Connecting the Past and the Future: Circular Architecture Tour



	A tour of pavilions constructed using reused materials from previous buildings and designed with post-Expo use in mind, encouraging reflection on sustainable architecture.	
I	Architecture	The world is Paying Attention! Wooden Architecture Tour
	A tour of distinctive wooden architecture within the venue, including the Grand Ring, examining the global trend toward timber construction, particularly in Europe, from an SDGs perspective.	
J	Decarbonization and Resource Circulation	Turning Waste into Energy? Bioenergy Experience Tour
	A tour to learn about biogas, which converts food waste generated at the venue into energy, and about a circular society	

(3) Web Content Exhibition and SNS Linked Projects

Web content related to the environment and the SDGs was exhibited at the venue. In addition, the Association implemented a social-media-linked initiative through its official SNS channels with the aim of encouraging visits to the venue, while also inviting people to engage, even before arriving, in actions that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs such as account delivered a linked social media initiative designed to encourage visitors to take part in activities that support the SDGs such as decarbonization and resource circulation—and to promote behavioural change.

【Web Content Exhibition Contents】

- (i) *“You Are a Hero Who Will Protect the Future of the Earth!”*
Visitors submitted a declaration linked to one of the 17 SDGs. The submissions collected each month were compiled and later projected onto the ceiling inside the venue.
- (ii) *“Expo site Guide Map”*
This feature introduced pavilions from three perspectives: environmental conservation initiatives, architectural insights and future food. For selected pavilions, young participants recruited through an open call, conducted interviews with architects and pavilion staff and prepared the descriptive texts themselves.
- (iii) *“Find the SDGs! Expo Knowledge Quiz”*
A quiz-based feature invited visitor to learn about the SDG related initiatives implemented across the Expo 2025 site. Participants were awarded the titles of “Apprentice,” “Researcher” or “Doctor” based on their scores.
- (iv) *“Discovering the Real World”*
Seventeen short videos, each reflecting one of the 17 SDGs, featured small creatures such as insects as the main characters. The videos highlighted social issues and encouraged visitors to reflect on what the world might look like ten years into the future.
- (v) *“Everyone’s SDGs Action!”*
This section showcased a wide range of initiatives, including activities implemented at the venue and the SDG-related initiatives such as nationwide contests, highlighting actions taken by people across Japan.

(352,171 visitors during the period))

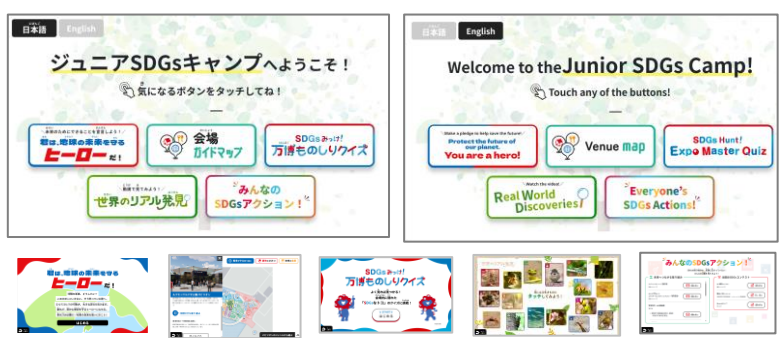


Figure 3-5-6 Digital exhibit screen image

【Contents of the SNS linked project】



- (i) “SDGs Detective” introduced SDGs initiatives at pavilions and other facilities in the Expo site. Visitors were asked to take a puzzle-style photo of the exterior of a pavilion and show the photo to receive a novelty gift.
- (ii) “Expo SDGs Ambassadors” were invited to introduce their SDGs initiatives before visiting the Expo by posting with the designated hashtag “#”, and by showing their post on their screen at the Expo site, they received a novelty gift.



Figure 3-5-7 SNS linked project (screen image) and novelty items

The trends in the number of visitors and participants at the Junior SDGs Camp are shown below. While there were many adult visitors on weekdays, it was difficult to attract young people and children. School groups also stayed for only a short time, which meant they were unable to visit the museum or join the programs. This was identified as an area needing improvement.

On the other hand, participation by young people and children as program implementers and presenters was seen as a positive outcome.

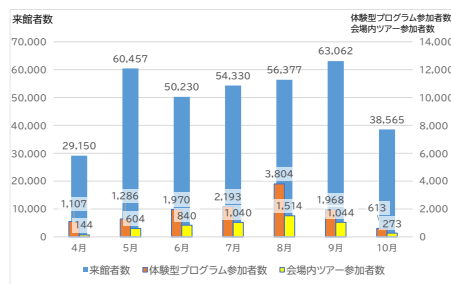


Figure 3-5-8 Trends in the number of visitors and participants at the Junior SDGs Camp

Additionally, feedback from visitors to the Junior SDGs Camp were gathered by extracting comments from the free-response section of the visitor survey. The content, including the experiential programmes and venue tours, was well received. However, some visitors commented that improvements were needed in management and information sharing, such as difficulty finding the starting and ending points for the tours.



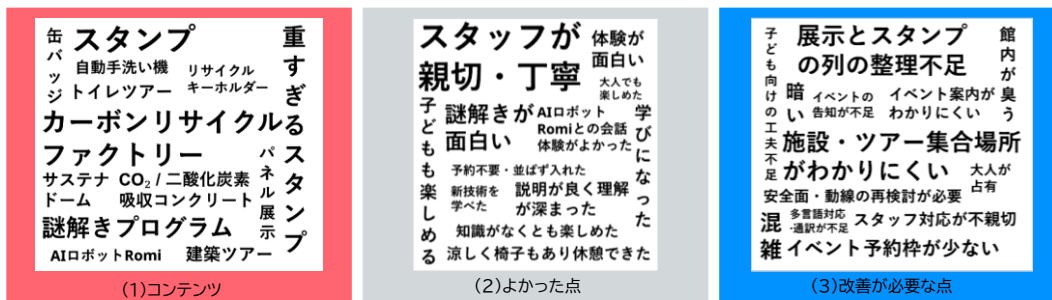


Figure 3-5-9 Comments from visitors to the Junior SDGs Camp
 (Created from excerpts from free-response to a visitor survey; frequently occurring words are displayed in larger font)

The organisers and staff of the experiential programme commented that they were glad to have participated overall.

(Excerpts from the organisers and staff of the experiential programme)

- It was a very welcome project because it gave us the opportunity to share our activities with others.
- We were able to involve younger elementary school students and their families, who we normally cannot reach.
- I would be very happy if participating in this camp leads people to become aware of the activities that Japanese people are conducting in various countries to achieve the SDGs, raises interest in many countries overseas and encourages them to think about what they can do to support sustainability.
- Our local counterparts were also able to participate in the Expo, which became a memory they will never forget.
- It encouraged me to continue my activities. I would very much like to participate in another event like this.
- Answering questions from Japanese children was a lot of fun, something that is usually only possible online, and it was also a valuable opportunity to summarise the results of my own activities.
- Despite the serious themes such as environmental issues and concrete, we saw many smiling faces among the participating children. Watching them run around happily was impressive, and I believe we were able to provide a time that was both enjoyable and educational.

【Looking back and future prospects】

- In collaboration with economic organizations, national and local governments, the Association undertook various initiatives to build momentum for the Expo.
- To embody the Expo's concept, "People's Living Lab," and to create new partnerships that combine various technologies and ideas to solve global challenges, we implemented the "TEAM EXPO 2025" program. We selected and exhibited 25 best practices from the registered initiatives. We also held exchange events to promote co-creation.
- Association implemented "Theme Week," an initiative to bring together wisdom to solve global challenges, explore solutions through dialogue, and create a vibrant future society together with the world. 429 programs were conducted. We implemented interactive programs and exhibitions that allowed participation from various stakeholders across different sectors, fostering diversity and free dialogue, both in-person and online, from around the world. Furthermore, we implemented "Theme Week Connect," an initiative held outside the Expo site, focusing on solving global challenges related to the eight themes of Theme Week.



- Aiming to provide opportunities for the next generation to make significant strides, Association implemented the "Junior EXPO 2025 Educational Program" for elementary and junior high school students. During the event, Association also held a "Junior SDGs Camp," engaging the next generation and youth to disseminate information about initiatives toward achieving the SDGs.
- These initiatives have fostered new co-creation, and the Expo Association will continue to work to ensure that these efforts continue and expand.



Chapter 4

**Indicators that Represent
the Overall Sustainability
of Expo 2025 Osaka,
Kansai, Japan**



Chapter 4: Indicators that Represent the Overall Sustainability of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan

The five Ps (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership) outlined in the Sustainability Policy of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan (“Sustainability Policy”) summarise the main goals and directions to be pursued. These five Ps also reflect the key themes of the SDGs.

Using these five Ps as a basis and considering the major global issues relevant to the Expo, the Association is examining representative indicators that can highlight the sustainability efforts of the Expo 2025 as a whole. In this process, the Association is incorporating the goals set by each department, based on the “directions to be pursued” for each of the five Ps under the Sustainability Policy.

When developing these indicators, the Association recognises that there is not always a one-to-one relationship between an indicator and a single P. Some indicators span multiple Ps and therefore contribute to more than one goal.

(i) In the sustainability policy, publish the five Ps "direction to pursuer".

※5つのP (People・Planet・Prosperity・Peace・Partnership)

(ii) In each department, create its own individual goals.

(iii) Based on the goals of each department, create representative indicators for the entire Expo, while considering their relationship to the overarching goal of "5 Ps".

Since some goals spanned across the "five Ps," we have decided not to use separate indicators for each P.

(iv) The PDCA cycle is implemented based on the overall "direction to pursue," key indicators, and individual goals and indicators.

Figure 4-1 Setting of representative indicators (concept)

Representative indicators are as follows:

1 Indicators for inclusive Expo management

To support an

inclusive Expo and ensure site management and construction that “leaves no one behind,”

the following indicators were developed.

1-1 Human Rights Indicators

The Expo is

first World Expo to implement Human Rights Due Diligence.

The Expo Association recognized the need for respect for the human rights of every individual



involved in the Expo to be realized under its theme, "Designing Future Society for Our Lives." As the first Expo to implement human rights due diligence, the association advanced its efforts to respect human rights. As shown in Figure 4-2, the association cyclically operated the processes of identifying and assessing human rights risks, implementing preventative and mitigation measures, taking corrective actions, monitoring, and reviewing, addressing any issues of concern.

(Specific details are described in Chapter 3 (Peace)).

(1) Identification of negative impacts (risks) on human rights (Identification of possible human rights violations in the operation of the Expo)	(2) Prevention and reduction of negative impacts on human rights (Creation of a system to prevent human rights violations)
Extract potentially negatively impacted rights-holders, discuss them within the Sustainability Expert Committee and the Human Rights Working Group, and finalize the identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established and operated an ESMS and obtained ISO 20121 certification. Fostered awareness through surveys conducted for each department of the Association. Ensured appropriate implementation of universal design and universal service guidelines. Ensured appropriate implementation of procurement codes. Shared information through staff training on human rights and external lectures.
(4) Provision of information (disclosure) (Disclosure of the Association's approach to human rights DD)	(3) Check (evaluation) (Verification that the system is functioning properly)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published results of human rights initiatives, including reporting and monitoring activities. Published minutes of the Sustainability Expert Committee and the Human Rights Working Group. Published the Sustainability Action Plan and related public comments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued operation of the ESMS. Evaluated Procurement Code implementation, including reception and monitoring. Operated the human rights reporting desk and responded to reports received through the General Contact Centre. Evaluated performance through the Human Rights Working Group and the Sustainability Expert Committee.

Figure 4-2 The Association's approach to human rights due diligence

1-2 Indicators for universal design and universal services

The Expo was operated using the Universal Design Guidelines and the Universal Service Guidelines,

making it the first Expo to apply both sets of guidelines.

In addition to the Universal Design Guidelines, the Universal Service Guidelines were newly developed in Japan and focus on operational services to help achieve a more "accessible and inclusive Expo."

The aim was for all buildings in the venue to meet, at minimum, the national "desirable level" for universal design.

For the first time in an Expo, dedicated guidelines were created for universal services. These guidelines ensured that all visitors could move around safely and comfortably and take part in exhibits and events. This was intended to make the Expo, a place where everyone could enjoy their visit.

Table 4-1 Concept of the standards set out in the Universal Design Guidelines

Control	Recommendations (Guide)
Control standards describe requirements that must or should be followed. They serve as mandatory	Recommendation standards describe actions that are desirable to improve safety, ease of movement and visitor comfort. These were



<p>maintenance standards, even when not legally binding. The highest applicable level among the following was used as the basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the standard-level requirements in the Tokyo 2020 Accessibility Guidelines, • the National Recommended Standards, and • the establishment standards in Osaka Prefecture ordinances that exceed national compliance levels. 	<p>developed by considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Recommended Standards in the Tokyo 2020 Accessibility Guidelines, • desirable improvement levels under Osaka Prefecture ordinances, • the Architectural Design Standards for Smooth Movement of the Elderly and Disabled (March 2021), and • input from persons with disabilities.
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【Outline of the standards in the Universal Design Guidelines】	Universal Design Guidelines	Barrier-free laws and regulations
Applicable standards	Above the country's "desirable level"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum standards - standards for facilitating movement in buildings, with mandatory compliance. • Desirable level - recommended standards for facilitating movement in buildings, with a mandatory effort requirement.

(Universal design above the "desirable level")

Under the Act on Promotion of Smooth Transportation, etc. of Elderly Persons, Disabled Persons, etc. (Barrier-Free Law), two types of building standards are defined: the Standards for Facilitation of Moving Buildings, which must be met by buildings of a certain size or larger, and the Recommended Standards for Facilitation of Moving Buildings, which represent the level that all buildings are expected to achieve.

The national government aims for more than 67% of buildings to meet the recommended standard. At Expo 2025, the target was for all buildings to meet the Recommended Standards for Facilitation of Moving Buildings.

Table 4-2 Examples of building movement facilitation standards and desirable levels (recommended standards)

	Standards for Facilitation of Moving Buildings	Desirable levels (Recommended Standards)
Path to Guide equipment	Guiding blocks for visually impaired persons or audio guidance devices will be installed on the routes from roads to guide boards and information centres.	
Corridor width	120cm or more	180cm or more
Installation of handrails	One side	Both sides
Slope gradient	1/12 or less	1/12 or less (1/15 or less outdoors)

(Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism website)

Table 4-3 Concept of the standards set out in the Universal Service Guidelines

Control
Refers to requirements that must or should be followed. These are service standards that require compliance, even when they are not legally binding. These standards were developed based on legal requirements and with reference to the IPC Accessibility Guide, the Universal Design 2020 Action Plan, and the Universal Design Guidelines for Facility Development (Revised Edition)

Table 4-4 Examples of standards in the Universal Service Guidelines

<p>(Support for people who have difficulty obtaining information visually)</p> <p>C3-3-2. Organisers, official participants and related parties must make arrangements to ensure that people who have difficulty obtaining information visually can access the same information through other senses, such as touch or hearing.</p> <p>Countermeasures examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduction of audio commentary equipment •Providing Braille •Providing information using 2D codes.

(Implementation status and results)



As part of the Expo's all-inclusive initiatives, the Universal Design Review Committee (three meetings), the Transportation Access Universal Design Review Committee (five meetings) and the Universal Services Review Committee (twelve meetings) were convened during preparations for the Expo. To ensure that all visitors could spend their time at the Expo safely and comfortably, these committees held in-depth discussions based on feedback from persons with disabilities and academic experts and formulated the relevant guidelines.

For universal design in buildings, the building plans submitted by participants (117 cases) were reviewed. Once it was confirmed that the plans aligned with the guidelines, permission to begin construction was issued. Where physical constraints existed (such as difficulty securing corridor width), participants were instructed to introduce supplementary measures from a universal service perspective, such as deploying guides.

For universal services, improvements were made based on how complaints were handled. Priority lanes were established at the entrance gates and at certain pavilions to allow visitors with disabilities or mobility difficulties to enter first. In consideration of the nature of the Expo, no uniform operational standard was imposed; instead, flexible measures were applied according to each facility's circumstances. These measures helped reduce the burden of movement and waiting for older people, persons with disabilities, and families with children, and many visitors reported feeling reassured when using the venue. However, there were also comments that the scope and confirmation methods varied by facility and time, and that advance or on-site communication regarding the availability and use of priority lanes was insufficient.

As a result, many people with disabilities were able to attend the Expo (approximately 633,000 special discount tickets were sold).

2 Indicators for achieving carbon neutrality

A low-carbon Expo site and a green challenge for the world

(Implementation status and results)

Greenhouse gas emissions were used as an indicator for progress management. In hosting the Expo, efforts were made to achieve carbon neutrality by using cutting-edge, economical and widely adoptable technologies and systems. For the first time for a World Expo, the GHG Protocol was used as the primary method for calculating greenhouse gas emissions.

Regarding Scope 1 and 2 emissions, energy conservation measures were implemented, and electricity with zero emission factors was used to achieve zero emissions from electricity use at the venue and off-site parking lots (Expo P&R parking lots). Emissions from the combustion of gas and other fuels were reduced through energy conservation, electrification, the introduction of synthetic fuels and biodiesel.

For residual emissions, equivalent carbon credits were procured, and it is expected that the target of fully offsetting Scope 1 and 2 emissions will be achieved.

Emissions from construction and infrastructure development within the venue, and emissions from



visitor travel, accommodation, food and beverage consumption within the venue, and purchase of officially licensed merchandise within the venue (Scope 3 emissions) were reduced through the development of guidelines to encourage greenhouse gas emission reductions throughout the entire value chain, and measures to reduce traffic demand by discouraging private car use.

Furthermore, the "EXPO Green Challenge" was launched to encourage various CO₂ reduction efforts using the Osaka-Kansai Expo as a catalyst, including encouraging behavioral change through an app targeting individuals.

The greenhouse gas emission calculation results are as follows:

(For details on the methodology for calculating greenhouse gas emissions and reduction measures, please refer to Chapter 3 (3.2 Planet).)

Table 4-5 Calculation results of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (reproduced)

Scope/Category	Emission source	GHG emissions (t-CO ₂ e)	
		BAU	Based on actual figures
Scope 1	Fuel used at Expo site facilities	4,979	3,152
	Fuel used for transportation within the Expo site	162	237
	Leakage of fluorocarbons from air-conditioning systems in facilities inside and outside the Expo site	72	93
Scope 2	Electricity used at facilities inside and outside the Expo site	31,080	0 (23,938)
	Electricity used for transportation within the Expo site	9	Incruded above
	Electricity used by the Association's office and parking lots outside the v Expo site *1	2,527	820*2 (1,164)*2
	Heat consumed at the Association's office (Sakishima, ATC) *1	302	273*2
Scope 1 and 2 total		39,133	4,575 (28,858)
Scope 3	Category 1 Operations (purchasing goods and services)	113,974	119,456*2
	Category 2 Construction and infrastructure development	361,700	357,274
	Category 3 Fuel and electricity used	14,283	3,309*2
	Category 5 Waste generated during the event	2,749	1,365
	Category 6 Business trips by association staff	3,545	3,572*2
	Category 7 Commuting for association staff and transportation for volunteers and related parties to the venue	2,533	14,576*2
	Category 12 Construction waste, including building and infrastructure demolition	167,343	166,861*2
	その他 Operations (purchasing goods and services)	2,858,622	2,199,221
Scope 3 total		3,524,747	2,865,635
Total GHG emissions		3,563,880	2,870,210 (2,894,493)

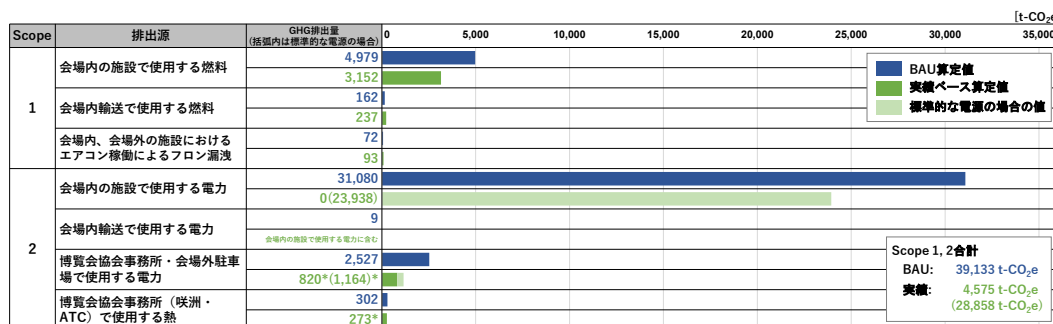
The values in parentheses are those obtained by applying standard GHG emission factors (equivalent to location-based criteria).

Due to rounding, the sum of the values in each column may not match the total value.

For Scope 1 and 2 emissions among the remaining emissions, we plan to procure a corresponding amount of credits, etc. (during FY2026).

*1 Includes emissions due to the extension of the actual-based evaluation period from BAU.

*2 Includes projected future emissions (until February 2028) related to the Expo Association's administrative work after the event.



Due to rounding, the sum of the values in each column may not match the total value.
* Includes projected future emissions (until February 2028) related to the Expo Association's administrative work after the event.

Figure 4-3 Comparison of Scope 1 and 2 emissions (Reproduced)

排出源	GHG排出量	[t-CO ₂ e]						
		0	500,000	1,000,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	3,000,000
カテゴリ1: 運営 (物品・サービスの購入)	113,974							
	119,456*							
カテゴリ2: 建築・インフラ整備	361,700							
	357,274							
カテゴリ3: 使用した燃料、電力	14,283							
	3,309*							
カテゴリ5: 会期中に発生する廃棄物	2,749							
	1,365							
カテゴリ6: 協会職員による出張	3,545							
	3,572*							
カテゴリ7: 協会職員の通勤及びボランティア・関係者の会場への移動	2,533							
	14,576*							
カテゴリ12: 建築・インフラ解体を含む建設廃棄物	167,343							
	166,861*							
その他: 来場者の移動、宿泊、飲食(会場内)、買い物(会場内・公式ライセンス商品)	2,858,622							
	2,199,221							

Scope 3合計
BAU: 3,524,747 t-CO₂e
実績: 2,865,635 t-CO₂e

Due to rounding, the sum of the values in each column may not match the total value.
* Includes projected future emissions (until February 2028) related to the Expo Association's administrative work after the event.

Figure 4-4 Comparison of Scope 3 emissions (Reproduced)

3 Circular economy indicators

2R, to Reduce and Reuse Waste

The Resource Circulation Working Group considered and refined the targets for waste generation, reduction and reuse, and used these as indicators for progress management.

(Implementation status and results)

To support a circular economy before, during and after the event, the venue aimed to exceed its targets by thoroughly implementing waste-reduction and reuse measures during the Expo. In addition, strict sorting and re-sorting procedures were carried out, with the aim of achieving 100% recycling of materials that could be separated.

[Waste generated by Expo site operation]

(1) Waste generation (BAU) and reduction and recycling targets

The Expo focused on reduction and reuse and estimates and targets for waste generation were set based on the implementation of individual reduction measures. Recycling targets were also established for the estimated amount of waste generated after reduction.

Table 4-7 Targets for reducing and recycling waste generated during venue operation (Reproduced)

Type	BAU Waste generated [t]	Reduction target				Recycling Targets	
		Reduction amount [t]	Reduction rate [%]	Amount after reduction [t]	Basic unit [g/person]	Amount recycled [t]	Recycling rate [%]
Non-Plastic Bottles	611.5	-	-	611.5	21.7	699.3	100.0
Cans	42.8	-	-	42.8	1.5		
Commercial-use cans	45.0	-	-	45.0	1.6		
Plastic bottles	562.8	188.2	30.3	433.5	15.4	433.5	100.0
Plastic bottle caps	58.8						
Other plastic items	5.6	139.9	25.0	419.8	14.9	419.8	100.0



Polystyrene forms and polystyrene form trays	554.1						
Cardboard	1,711.7	-	-	1,711.7	60.7	1,711.7	100.0
Paper	110.4	61.1	55.4	49.2	1.7	49.2	100.0
Food waste	1,501.2	321.2	21.4	1,179.9	41.8	1,179.9	100.0
Waste cooking oil	110.4			110.4	3.9	108.4	100.0
Burnable waste		721.9					
Compostable tableware							
Disposable chopsticks	4,181.4	-	17.3	3,459.5	122.7	94.6	2.7
Wooden pallets							
Disposable diapers							
Non-burnable waste and mixed waste							
Sludge (grease trap)	212.8	10.0	4.7	202.8	7.2	19.3	9.5
Total	9,708.5	1,442.3	14.9	8,266.2	293.1	4,717.8	57.1

(note) Due to rounding, totals may not equal to the sum of individual columns.

Recycling does not include thermal recovery.

When reduction targets were set, reduction measures for each type of waste were examined, and the details were included in the Expo guidelines and related application procedures. Information sessions were also held to inform and request participants to implement the measures. (Specific measures are described in Chapter 3 (3.2 Planet).)

(2) Waste generated from venue operations (actual figures)

The amount of waste generated in connection with venue operations during the event can be broadly classified into two categories: waste generated by visitors and participants, which was collected in the main stockyard via sub-stockyards and was then removed and processed by the Association; and waste processed independently by participants through removal to waste treatment facilities outside the Expo site. (The waste-treatment flow is described in Chapter 3 (3.2 Planet).)

The number of visitors during the event was 2.902 million (including related parties) and the total waste generated was 5,276.8 tonnes. This was 2,989.4 tonnes lower than the estimated 8,266.2 tonnes for an expected 2.82 million visitors. Waste generated per visitor (basic unit) was 181.9 g per person, or approximately 62% of the estimated 293.1 g per person. Of the total waste generated, 688.1 tonnes was processed independently as noted above.

Table 4-8 Waste generated from Expo site operations (actual figures) (Reproduced)

Type	Target after reduction		Overall waste generated during the event	
	Waste generated [t]	Basic unit [g/person]	Waste generated [t]	Basic unit [g/person]
Non-Plastic Bottles	611.5	21.7	256.9	8.9
Cans	42.8	1.5	85.0	2.9
Commercial-use cans	45.0	1.6		
Plastic bottles	392.5	13.9	381.9	13.2
Plastic bottle caps	41.0	1.5	242.0	8.3
Other plastic items	415.6	14.7		
Polystyrene forms and polystyrene form trays	4.2	0.1	3.7	0.1
Cardboard	1,711.7	60.7	1,072.7	37.0
Paper	49.2	1.7	95.4	3.3
Food waste	1,179.9	41.8	413.8	14.3
Waste cooking oil	110.4	3.9	108.4	3.7



Burnable waste	3,459.5	122.7	2,428.7	83.7
Compostable tableware			0.7	0.0
Disposable chopsticks			6.8	0.2
Wooden pallets			6.8	0.2
Disposable diapers			10.9	0.4
Non-burnable waste and mixed waste	202.8	7.2	162.5	5.6
Sludge (grease trap)		-	0.7	0.0
Total	8,266.2	293.1	5,276.8	181.9

Note: Due to rounding, totals may not equal to the sum of individual columns.

-Cans and commercial cans removed from the main stockyard, as well as caps and plastics separated to promote horizontal recycling of plastic bottles, were processed together, so individual waste generation was not measured.

-To conduct the demonstration experiment, disposable nappies collected in special collection boxes by August 4th were weighed.

Looking at the basic unit by type of waste, all items except paper were lower than the estimated value. For plastics, the use of reusable tableware and reductions in single-use plastic packaging contributed to lower volumes. For food waste, preparing appropriate quantities of ingredients based on expected visitor numbers and the use of frozen products were effective. For burnable waste, separating and recycling hard-to-recycle paper containers with food residue, which were treated as paper, contributed to reductions.

On the other hand, the amount of paper waste was approximately twice the estimated value. This is considered to be because although flyers and leaflets were rarely distributed at the venue and reductions were progressing, the amount of paper products included paper containers that contributed to aforementioned reduced use of plastics and burnable waste.

The estimates were based on waste generated at Expo 2005 Aichi, Japan and two amusement facilities in Japan, but twenty years have passed since Expo 2005 Aichi, Japan and, with the development of legal systems and growing interest in resource recycling, society as a whole is reducing waste. Nationwide waste generated per person per day has decreased by approximately 25% from fiscal 2005 (1,131 g) to fiscal 2023 (851 g). These broader societal trends are also considered factors contributing to actual waste generation being lower than the estimate.

Regarding recycling rates, of the eleven types of waste including cans, bottles, plastic bottles and food waste, the target of 100% was achieved for all except plastic bottles and food waste. Plastic bottles were fully recycled when handled separately, but moisture remaining inside the bottles and labels that could not be completely removed kept the overall recycling rate at 88.8%. All food waste transported from the main stockyard was recycled, but recycling of waste processed independently did not progress, resulting in an overall rate of 76.9%. For non-burnable waste and mixed waste, a certain amount of recycling had been expected by separating items such as umbrellas, but recycling did not progress in practice.

Other than the waste indicated in Table 4-8, 52.8 tonnes of prohibited items collected at the venue gates, some left-behind items and infectious waste were generated as waste not included in the preliminary estimates. In addition, approximately 20 tonnes of waste was collected from the parking lot, bus terminal and floating pier. These were outsourced for disposal according to their properties, separate from disposal according to the sorting categories within the venue.

A total of 405 tonnes of residue was generated from a demonstration experiment in which food waste generated at the venue was converted into biogas and utilised. The amount of food waste used



in this experiment is included in the total waste generation in Table 4-8, so to avoid duplication the residue was not included in the waste generated.

Table 4-9 Amount and rate of recycled waste from venue operations (actual figures) (Reproduced)

Type	Recycling Targets		Overall waste generated during the event		
	Amount recycled [t]	Recycling rate [%]	Waste generated [t]	Amount recycled	Waste generated [t]
Non-Plastic Bottles	611.5	100.0	256.9	256.9	100.0
Cans	42.8	100.0	85.0	85.0	100.0
Commercial-use cans	45.0				
Plastic bottles	392.5	100.0	381.9	339.1	88.8
Plastic bottle caps	41.0	100.0	242.0	242.0	100.0
Other plastic items	415.6				
Polystyrene forms and polystyrene form trays	4.2	100.0	3.7	3.7	100.0
Cardboard	1,711.7	100.0	1,072.7	1,072.7	100.0
Paper	49.2	100.0	95.4	95.4	100.0
Food waste	1,179.9	100.0	413.8	318.1	76.9
Waste cooking oil	110.4	100.0	108.4	108.4	100.0
Burnable waste	94.6	2.7	2,453.9	25.2	1.0
Compostable tableware					
Disposable chopsticks					
Wooden pallets					
Disposable diapers					
Non-burnable waste and mixed waste	19.3	9.5	162.5	0.0	0.0
Sludge (grease trap)			0.7	0.2	29.6
Total	4,717.8	57.1	5,276.8	2,546.5	48.3

Note: Due to rounding, totals may not equal to the sum of individual columns.
Recycling does not include thermal recovery.

Regarding food loss and waste, the government has set a target to halve food loss and waste across the entire supply chain from the fiscal year 2000 level (5.47 million tonnes) by fiscal year 2030. It has also set recycling-rate targets that exceed 60% for the food retail industry and 50% for the restaurant industry by fiscal year 2024 and is working towards achieving a recycling rate of 100%.

To reduce food loss and waste as much as possible, information sessions were held for participants before the event, and restaurants and retail stores were requested to implement food loss and waste reduction measures that could be applied in their operations. Participants were also encouraged to understand the importance of reducing food loss and waste by being asked to submit materials such as food loss and waste reduction plans. The Association also supported food loss and waste reduction by providing a free food-sharing service within the venue, preparing a list of food-donation recipients and making this information available to participants. (For details, see Chapter 3 (3.2 Planet)).

【Reuse of facility and equipment】

For facility equipment, reduction and reuse were prioritised to minimise waste generated when items were dismantled. Alongside the active use of leased equipment, a system was applied to



promote the reuse of items within Expo 2025. The intention was not only to increase reuse during Expo 2025, but also to support the wider adoption of reuse practices for facilities and equipment across Japan in the future.

(1) The result of reuse of facility equipment

(i) Relocation of facilities, etc.

Regarding the relocation of facilities, a target was set to surpass the achievements of the 1970 Osaka World Expo. Specifically, the target value was set at "17.5 pavilions" (counting 7 pavilions "completely relocated" and 21 pavilions "partially relocated" as 10.5 pavilions), based on a survey conducted by the Expo Association in fiscal year 2023 that confirmed the number of relocated facilities at that time. On the other hand, for the actual figures for the Osaka-Kansai World Expo, the same counting method as the target value was used for facilities that could be called "pavilions," and the situation was surveyed through questionnaires and other means among participants.

As a result of the survey, as of the end of February 2026, there were 6 facilities that were planned to be almost completely relocated and could be counted as 1 pavilion ("completely relocated"). In addition, there were 11 facilities that were planned to have major components such as structural materials and facades relocated and could be counted as 0.5 pavilions ("partially relocated"). Furthermore, regarding facilities that used a large amount of leased building materials in their structures, etc., and could be counted as one pavilion, there were 4 Pavilion Type B, 4 Pavilion Type C, and 3 Pavilion Type X (the facilities used as the Angola Pavilion, India Pavilion, and Turkey Pavilion), as well as 7 Pavilion Type A (USA Pavilion, Italy Pavilion, also hosting the Holy See, the British Pavilion, Australia Pavilion, Canada Pavilion, Bulgaria Pavilion, and Gas Pavilion) selected and produced by the participants. In total, there were 18 facilities that used leased building materials.

To summarize the above situation, the number of facilities relocated or rebuilt at the Osaka-Kansai Expo was 29.5, exceeding the previously set target value.

Table 4-10 Pavilions that will be mostly relocated (including those planned)

Pavilion Name	Main relocation locations
Netherlands Pavilion	Hyogo Prefecture (Awaji Island)
Serbian Pavilion	Expo 2027 Belgrade
Luxembourg Pavilion	Material recycling in Katano City
BLUE OCEAN DOME	Dome A,B : Bangkok, Thailand Dome C : Metz Métropole, France
PASONA NATUREVERSE	Hyogo Prefecture (Awaji Island)
Dialogue Theater – sign of life -	Izumisano City, Osaka Pref.

Table 4-11 Pavilions to be partially relocated and left in place (including planned pavilions and those of the association)

Pavilion Name	Main relocated materials	Main relocation locations
Austria Pavilion	Facade (Exterior Ribbon)	Under Consideration
Nordic Pavilion	(1) Steel, Wood, Stairs, etc. (2) Elevator	(1) Under Consideration (2) Reused by Supplier
Japan Pavilion	CLT	Reused in locations across Japan
Women's Pavilion in collaboration with Cartier	Peripheral facade	GREEN×EXPO 2027
Osaka Healthcare Pavilion Nest for Reborn	Part of the main building	Remains
Sumitomo Pavilion	Exterior wall wood	Internal use



Panasonic Group Pavilion "The Land of NOMO"	Façades etc.	GREEN×EXPO 2027, OSAKA Science & Technology Center etc.
Mitsubishi Pavilion	Wood, Steel scaffolding planks	GREEN×EXPO 2027
EARTH MART	Kaya-thatched roof, Flooring	Open-Air Museum of Old Japanese Farm Houses, GREEN×EXPO2027 etc.
LIVE EARTH JOURNEY	"Cell"	Nakagusuku Village, Okinawa Pref. etc.
Playground of Life: Jellyfish Pavilion	Roof (structure), creative trees, stage lighting fixtures, etc.	Outdoor areas at the Children's Future Centre, Fukuyama City, Hiroshima Pref. etc.



Figure 4-5 Example of a facility using leased building materials (exterior view of Pavilion Type C)

(ii) Reducing waste through the reuse of facility equipment

For pavilions and other facilities, as well as for building materials, equipment and fixtures, efforts were made to reduce waste by retaining parts of Grand Ring, symbol of Expo 2025, and the trees installed in Forest of Tranquillity, except for items that required dismantling and disposal. Donations were also sought from national and local governments, companies and individuals to support reuse. The combined weight of the retained sections of Grand Ring and the trees was approximately 1,914 tonnes. In addition, through the recent "MYAKU-ICHI!" initiative, approximately 6,200 tonnes of waste were reduced through reuse. The amount of waste reduced through reuse is shown in Table 4-13.

Table 4-12 Waste reduction through reuse (including under consideration)

Reuse type		Waste reduction amount (t)
Grand Ring timber	Reuse of Grand Ring timber	1,993.0
	Remaining of Grand Ring	1,445.0
Trees	Reuse of trees	471.0
	Remaining trees	1,539.0
Reuse of pavilions and facilities		420.8
Reuse of building materials and equipment		288.4
Reuse of fixtures and equipment		72.1
合計		6,229.3

Note: Due to rounding, totals may not equal to the sum of individual columns.

(For details, see Chapter 3 (3.2 Planet))

(2) Recycling targets

The targets for recycling waste generated from construction and demolition work were carried over from the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for Japan Association for the 2025 World



Exposition, and were set as shown in the table below.

Table 4-14 Target recycling rates for waste from construction and demolition work

Type	Recycling rate (%)
Concrete blocks	99.3
Asphalt concrete blocks	99.5
Wood chips	97.0
Mixed waste	63.2
Glass ceramics	73.0
Waste plastics	59.0
Scrap metal	96.0
Waste paper	77.0
Gypsum board	86.0
Others	63.2

The waste generated by the demolition work will be reported and made public in a follow-up environmental impact assessment report after the work is completed.

〈The Expo's legacy in resource recycling〉

In the reuse efforts, as shown in the aforementioned "Results of Facility and Equipment Initiatives from the Construction Phase to the Post-Exhibition Period," numerous items were returned to the market as "tangible legacies" and "reusable items" through "relocation of facilities such as pavilions," "reuse of building materials/equipment," and "reuse of fixtures/fixtures." From the perspective of resource recycling, we believe that we have successfully formed a substantial legacy of the Expo.

4 Indicators related to contributions to revitalizing local industries

Creating opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups to present their work and create new co-creation opportunities

This indicator was used to support progress management by increasing the number of participating small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

(Implementation status and results)

- A total of 190 SMEs participated as sponsors. They contributed to venue preparation and operation and provided equipment, materials, information systems, food and beverages, hygiene products and other items.



Figure 4-10 Examples of items for participation in venue preparation and operation



Number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) among the sponsors

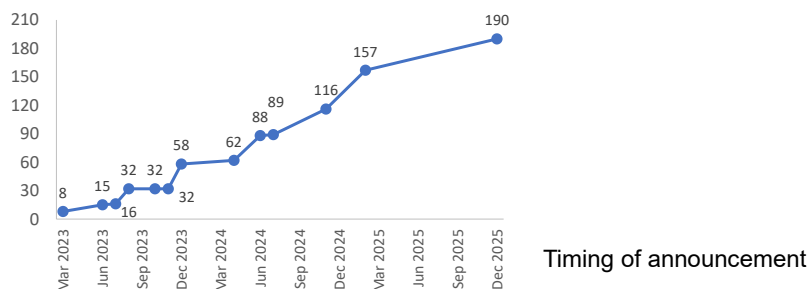


Figure 4-11 Trends in the number of small and medium-sized enterprises among sponsors

- The Co-Design Challenge (CDC) programme was implemented as a new co-creation initiative. Through collaboration with companies and organisations, mainly SMEs, 22 projects were selected. Products developed through the CDC were installed at the venue and made available for visitors to use.
- To highlight SMEs working to address social issues, the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency and the Organisation for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, Japan held an experiential exhibition called “Future Routes” at EXPO Messe for five-day period from 3 to 7 October. The exhibition featured 83 exhibitors and attracted 34,960 visitors.
- The ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) programme “Junior SDGs Camp” provided opportunities for SMEs, start-ups, NGOs, NPOs and students to share their efforts toward the SDGs while reducing the burden of participation.
- Thus, it can be said that the Expo provided opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to participate. In particular, SMEs said that they were able to collaborate with other entities on initiatives precisely because of the Expo. Furthermore, some SMEs are using their achievements at the Expo to promote their business activities, and many of these are expected to see further business development in the future.

5 Indicators for building a community where individuals are connected

Around 3,000 groups are invited to present their activities at the Expo and take part in dialogue with visitors and exhibitors, with the aim of creating new opportunities for collaboration toward a future society.

The TEAM EXPO 2025 programme was introduced as a participatory initiative in which diverse groups formed teams and worked on challenges linked to the Expo and future society. The programme provided a platform for participants, mainly those involved in the Co-Creation Challenges and Co-Creation Partners, to develop and expand new initiatives.



(Implementation status and results)

- 2,492 "Co-creation Challenges" (2,397 domestic and 95 overseas) were registered, covering areas such as life sciences, natural environment, culture and arts, education and personnel exchange, and tourism and regional revitalization. Among these, as a new form of co-creation aimed at raising the overall sustainability of the events and MICE industry, five industry organizations and the Japan Expo Association collaborated to establish the "Events and MICE Sustainable Management Promotion Consortium." This consortium compiled a user-friendly sustainability guidebook for event and MICE stakeholders, created from the perspective of those involved in production and operation, and published it in September 2024. Efforts are continuing to expand co-creation, including increasing the number of participating organizations.

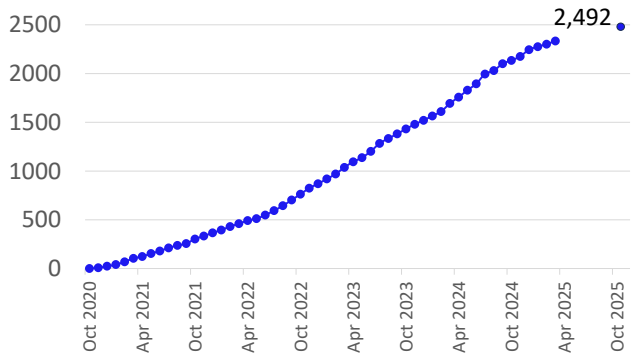


Figure 4-12 Trends in the number of co-creation challenge registrations

- “TEAM EXPO 2025” , co-creation partners and co-creation challenges promote interactive information dissemination and participant engagement and support the development of new co-creation initiatives with participants. The “TEAM EXPO 2025 Meeting” was held 5 times.
- A total of 25 best practices was selected as projects that embodied the theme of the Expo, “Designing Future Society for Our Lives” and these projects were exhibited and presented at the Future Life Village during the Expo.
- It was awarded the Silver Medal by the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) in recognition of its contributions to civil society participation, including the “TEAM EXPO 2025” programme and Best Practices initiatives.
- Although the “TEAM EXPO 2025” program did not reach its target number, it created opportunities for new co-creation through co-creation challenges, interactions between partners and initiatives implemented by the Association such as EXPO PLL TALKS and the Junior SDGs Camp.

