

Message from the President



President
Toshizo Ido
(Governor of Hyogo Prefecture)

Creating a new era from Kansai. Under this aspiration, the prefectures and the government-ordinance-designated cities in the Kansai area cooperated and organized the Union of Kansai Governments (UKG), a special regional public organization.

Since then, the UKG has been actively engaged in the planning and coordination of policies across the Kansai area, including region-wide infrastructural development and measures for Lake Biwa and the Yodo River area. Additionally, the UKG has promptly provided support to the areas stricken by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Kumamoto Earthquake disasters under a counterpart method and promoted tourism under the cooperation of the public and private sectors through the Kansai Tourism Bureau. The UKG also collaborated in the joint operation of the helicopter ambulance services, which individual local governments have difficulty handling alone.

The excess concentration of population and industry in the Tokyo metropolitan area and population decline are progressing in Japan, and the probability of a near-field earthquake in the Tokyo metropolitan area as well as the Nankai Trough earthquake is increasing. We must achieve a bilateral structure of the nation with a decentralized society where local matters can be decided locally.

While working on the realization of the relocation of government agencies to the Kansai area, following the relocation the Agency for Cultural Affairs to Kyoto, the UKG will continue requesting the transfer of the jurisdiction of the national government's branch offices to local governments and a wide range of administrative authority of the national government to local governments.

In addition to Kansai's "Golden Sports Years," continuing from the Rugby World Cup 2019 to World Masters Games 2021 Kansai, plus the decision to hold the EXPO 2025 in Osaka, Kansai, the world will have a keen eye on Kansai.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, the UKG will unite the power of the public and private sectors and promote initiatives for the development of the entire Kansai area by making use of the potential of Kansai. Also, based on the past efforts, while keeping an eye on the future directionality and role of the UKG, we will enhance its presence toward the realization of a full-scale decentralized society.

Based on the UKG's philosophy of one Kansai, and each region of Kansai, the region-wide governments will work together for "the creation of a vibrant Kansai" while taking advantage of the diversity of respective regions, for which we appreciate your support and cooperation.

Purpose of Establishment

**Creating the dawning of a new era in Kansai and moving towards a new age in Kansai!
Realizing the power of our region!**

Towards the realization of a decentralized system!

To break thorough national centralization and the excessive concentration of population and industry in the Tokyo Metropolitan area; to establish a decentralized system that will let each region make its own decisions and have individual responsibility, Kansai will start making a realistic system where each region will take the initiative in dealing with their own issues, and break the impasse to the decentralization of authority as a first region to do so before the rest of Japan.

Responsible political entity over the entire Kansai region

We will band together and make concerted efforts with the relevant prefectures and cities in order to realize our common vision. First, we will organize an inter-prefectural disaster prevention framework and provide an inter-prefectural system for emergency to prepare for a large-scale disaster such as a Nankai Trough Mega-thrust Earthquake. Also, in the future, we will make a standardized transportation system for traffic and the distribution of goods in order to enhance Kansai's competitive strength.

Organize an acceptance mechanism of official work from the federal government branch offices

We will utilize each association's individual characters and resources effectively and also we will resolve a double administrative management between the federal and the local region with the taking up of the delegated official work from the federal level by using our inter-prefectural regional autonomy. We will restructure the existing framework down to the regional level of Kansai resulting in a more slim and efficient system.