

The Union of Kansai Governments

The Union of Kansai Governments, consisting of eight prefectures and four cities designated by ordinance, is Japan's first initiative to form a regional union beyond prefectural boundaries. It is Japan's largest local public authority with a regional population of 22.05 million (*).

* According to the 2015 national census.



Purpose of establishment

- **Realizing a decentralized society** >>> Spearhead decentralization initiatives.
- **Responsible political entity over the entire Kansai region** >>> Develop regional administration in Kansai
- **Organize an acceptance mechanism of official work from the federal government branch offices** >>> Eliminate double administration conducted by national and local governments

Union Profile

- **Name of our Union** : Union of Kansai Governments
- **Date of Establishment** : December 1st, 2010
- **Members** : Shiga Prefecture, Kyoto Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Nara Prefecture, Wakayama Prefecture, Tottori Prefecture, Tokushima Prefecture, Kyoto City, Osaka City, Sakai City, Kobe City
- **The President** : Toshizo Ido (Governor of Hyogo Prefecture)
- **The Vice President** : Yoshinobu Nisaka (Governor of Wakayama Prefecture)

Projects currently undertaken by the Union

The Union of Kansai Governments is undertaking projects that help solve regional problems in the Kansai area by taking over authority from the national government as well as projects that are expected to improve local residents' lives and the effectiveness of administration or to achieve efficient administration if collectively undertaken in a wider area. In particular, the Union of Kansai Governments is currently undertaking the projects in the following seven fields in anticipation of the hand-over of projects/authority from local agencies of the national government. In cooperation with the member organizations, bureaus have been established in the member governments responsible for the projects in the seven fields, with their prefectural or municipal officials concurrently working for the Union of Kansai Governments.

- 1 Region-wide Disaster Preparedness Office (Hyogo Prefecture)
- 2 Region-wide Tourism, Culture and Sports Promotion Office (Kyoto Prefecture), Geopark Promotion (Tottori Prefecture), Sports Promotion (Hyogo Prefecture)
- 3 Region-wide Industrial Promotion Office (Osaka Prefecture), Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Promotion (Wakayama Prefecture)
- 4 Region-wide Medical Services Office (Tokushima Prefecture)
- 5 Region-wide Environmental Conservation Office (Shiga Prefecture)
- 6 Certification Exams, Licensing, etc. (Headquarter Secretariat)
- 7 Region-wide Staff Training Office (Wakayama Prefecture)

* Prefectures in parentheses are those with branch offices responsible for official work in their respective fields.

Region-wide Industrial Promotion Bureau, Union of Kansai Governments

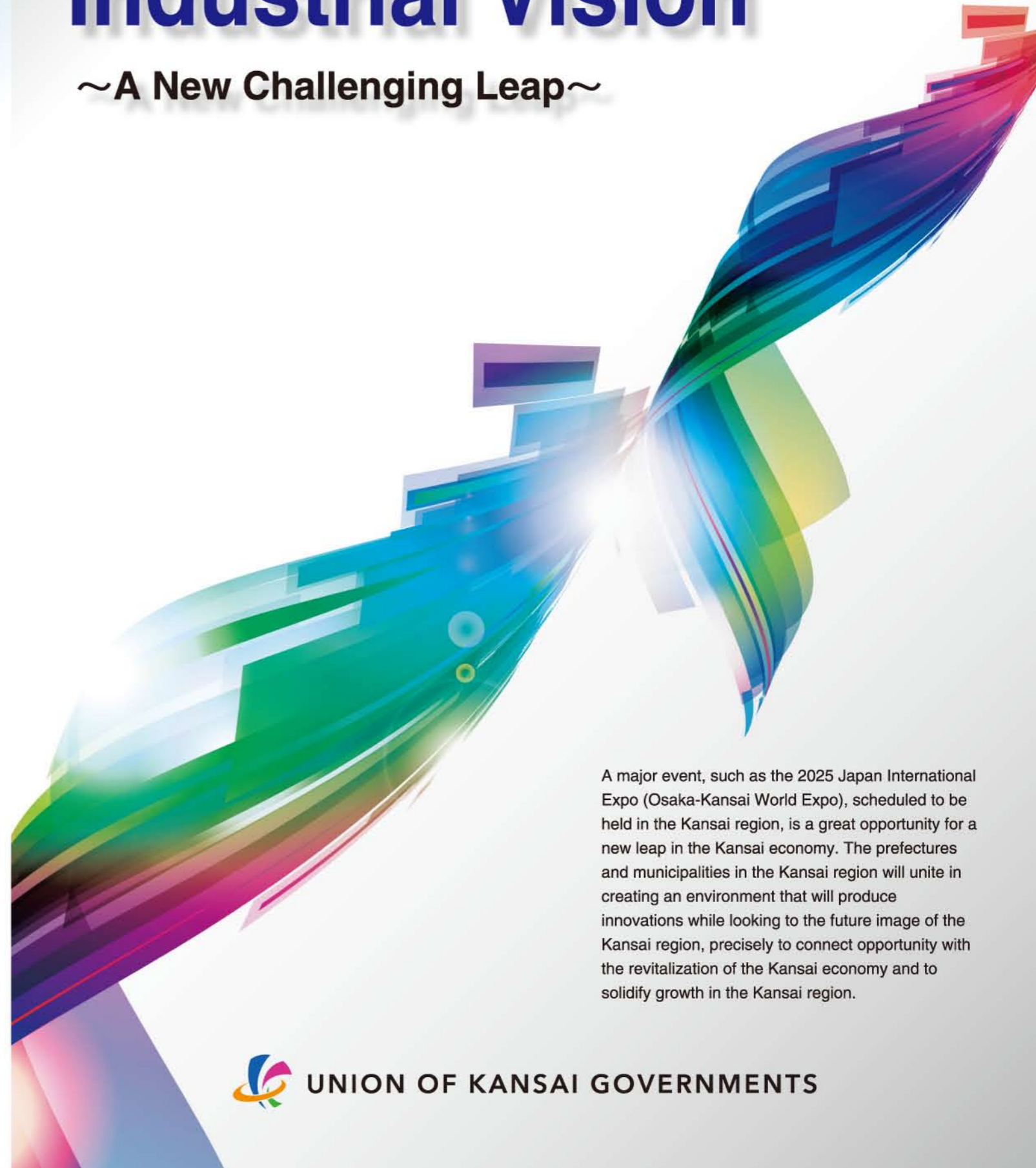
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Website of Regional Industrial Promotion Bureau

Kansai Regional-wide Industrial Vision

~A New Challenging Leap~



A major event, such as the 2025 Japan International Expo (Osaka-Kansai World Expo), scheduled to be held in the Kansai region, is a great opportunity for a new leap in the Kansai economy. The prefectures and municipalities in the Kansai region will unite in creating an environment that will produce innovations while looking to the future image of the Kansai region, precisely to connect opportunity with the revitalization of the Kansai economy and to solidify growth in the Kansai region.



UNION OF KANSAI GOVERNMENTS

Kansai's Current Economic Situation and Issues

Labor shortage due to population decline

- Sharp reduction in the working-age population
- Need to secure labor and improve productivity

Further increase in inbound travelers

- Contribution to an increase in the gross regional product (GRP) of Kansai by about 1%
- Aim of expanding the number of inbound business travelers

Support for enterprises expanding globally

- Intensified global competition among enterprises
- Necessity to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Preparation for frequent natural disasters

- Frequent natural disasters occur and affect corporate activities.
- A necessity for the realization of industrial functions that are resistant to disasters.

Characteristics and Potential of Kansai's Economy

Characteristics of Kansai's Economy

- Economic scale comparable to the Netherlands
- The share of the tertiary industry—Occupies about 3/4 of the industrial structure in terms of the number of employees and GRP
- Share of exports to Asian countries is much higher than share of exports to other economies

Potential of Kansai's Economy

- Industrial resources nurtured by history, cultural resources, and rich natural environment
- Concentration of a wide variety of manufacturing industrial technologies, ranging from traditional industrial technologies to cutting-edge manufacturing technologies, as well as service industries, including creative industries
- Home to bases promoting advanced industries and science technologies that represent Japan (in areas related to the environment, energy, and life science)
- Maintenance of key domestic industrial infrastructure, including airports, seaports, and railroads.

Broad-based Efforts in Kansai

- The Union of Kansai Governments and economic organizations collaborate to develop business.

Impact of the Osaka-Kansai World Expo

- Expansion of business opportunities; expansion of domestic and foreign investments; an increase of visitors, including inbound business travelers; and the possibility of the creation of new innovation.

Future Vision for the Kansai Region

With the current situation of the Kansai region in mind, the Kansai Region-wide Industrial Vision aims to achieve the following long-term goals for the Kansai region over the next 20 years ahead.

Kansai shines in the world and drives the future of Japan

We aim to make Kansai a region that shines in the world; drives the future of Japan; gathers people, goods, investments, and information from home and abroad; and fosters innovation.

Kansai, where various people play active roles and coexist

We aim to make Kansai a region where diverse people can play active roles regardless of age, gender, disability, or nationality. Our goal is to help people to make full use of their abilities and individuality, respect each other, and live together while feeling the worthwhileness of their working lives and daily lives.

Goal An economic effect of about 180 trillion yen in 2040 by achieving a 25% domestic sales share of economy and industry with a GRP increase by about 1.8 times (compared with that in fiscal 2010) in Kansai (regional economy*).

* Shiga Prefecture, Kyoto Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Nara Prefecture, Wakayama Prefecture, Tottori Prefecture, Tokushima Prefecture, Fukui Prefecture, and Mie Prefecture

New "Strategies for Revitalizing the Kansai Economy" to address inter-prefectural area-wide challenges

These strategies focus on the next five years in order to realize the vision and goals of the future of the Kansai region. In promoting the strategies, we will be conscious of the SDGs, including sustainable economic growth and the promotion of innovation.

