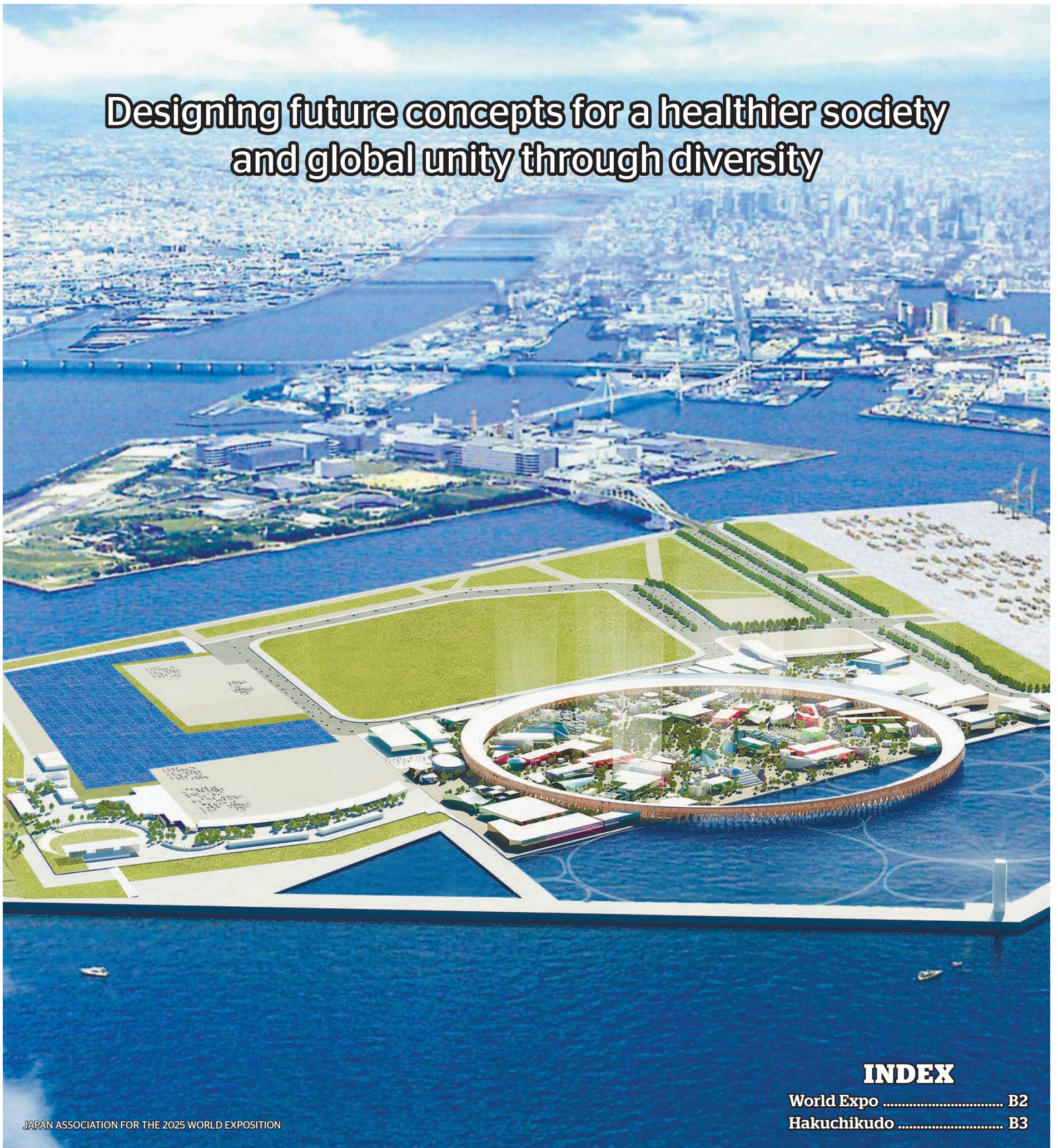


Expo Opening Special

Designing future concepts for a healthier society
and global unity through diversity



JAPAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE 2025 WORLD EXPOSITION

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WORLD EXPO

Grand Ring, pavilions and daily events the stars of the show

Hirofumi Yoshimura
GOVERNOR OF OSAKA PREFECTURE



Finally, Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan is going to start on April 13.

There are many must-see features, such as the pavilions of the scores of participants, the Future Society Showcase projects, such as the flying car, and the daily National Day events. Here I would like to introduce three of them.

The first feature is the Grand Ring, the world's largest wooden architectural structure, which was built using traditional Japanese construction methods. The Grand Ring, which varies from approximately 12 to 20 meters high, 30 meters wide and 2 kilometers in circumference, gives visitors an overwhelming sense of presence and grandeur, in addition to the scent and warmth of wood. From the rooftop of the ring, visitors can

enjoy a spectacular view of Mount Rokko and the Seto Inland Sea, making it an ideal photo spot for social media.

The second is the Official Participants' Pavilions. Pavilions with creative designs are being erected, and 158 countries and regions will exhibit cutting-edge technologies to solve social issues based on the theme of "Designing Future Society for Our Lives."

In addition, some of them will have restaurants serving authentic cuisine from each country or region, allowing visitors to enjoy the world's culinary delights. The world's vision of the future is right here, and we encourage you to visit the venue as it is a rare opportunity to experience various things from around the world in Osaka.

The third is the daily events. Every day after sunset, a large-scale water show with about 300 fountains, lights, lasers and music is scheduled in addition to a drone show linked to music played throughout the venue, and the illumination of the Grand Ring.

These events will give visitors special opportunities to enjoy a variety of music, culture and festivals at the expo, so we hope you will visit the site more than once.



Left: The Osaka Health Care Pavilion will combine displays about cutting-edge health innovations with entertainment. Right: Dotonbori is known as the center of Osaka's nightlife scene.



Advancements in health care, startup innovations on display

Hideyuki Yokoyama
MAYOR OF OSAKA



I would like to introduce the city of Osaka and our Osaka Health Care Pavilion.

The Osaka Health Care Pavilion will bring together the power of industry, academia, government and the private

sector to present a variety of exhibits from the perspectives of "life" and "health," all under the theme "Reborn."

On the main Reborn Experience Route, visitors can meet avatars of themselves 25 years from now generated from their health data and experience what health care and urban life in the future might be like. In addition, a self-moving cardiac muscle sheet made from induced pluripotent stem cells and the Living Heart Model, which symbolically introduces it, is one of the highlights that showcase the potential of regenerative medicine, of which

Osaka and the Kansai region are proud, to the world.

XD Hall, where visitors can experience the world of Monster Hunter, a popular video game, will provide a unique and futuristic entertainment experience that uses special augmented reality devices and a 360-degree theater.

Visitors are also urged to explore the Reborn Challenge, which will see more than 400 small and midsize companies and startups display new technologies. The exhibition will feature weekly displays of outstanding ideas and cutting-edge technologies that symbolize Osaka as a city of manufacturing.

Additionally, many events will be held around Osaka in conjunction with the expo. Known as the City of Food and Comedy, Osaka boasts many fascinating places to experience cuisine, history and culture. Osaka was selected as one of the "52 Places to Go in 2025" by the New York Times. Osaka's main street Midosuji Boulevard, which is usually illuminated with lights and projection mapping only in winter, will be lit up during the expo. We hope you will enjoy the expo and the city of Osaka.



Left: The Grand Ring that surrounds the main expo grounds is the world's largest wooden architectural structure. Right: A massive demonstration of traditional dance is planned for the summer. EXPO 2025

OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN EXPO 2025

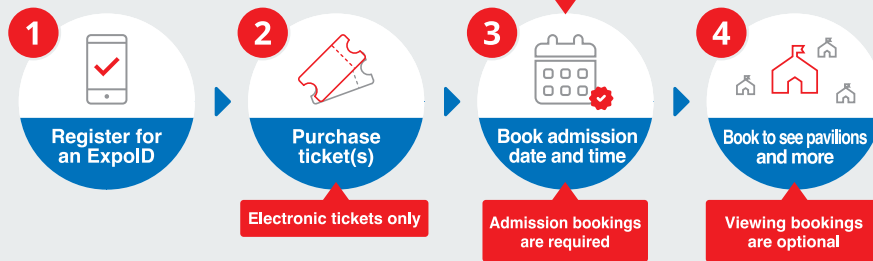
Venue : Yumeshima Island, Osaka, Japan

Period : 184 days, from Sunday,

April 13 to Monday, October 13, 2025



First-come, first-served basis, starting six months prior to your desired admission date



Pavilion & Event Entry Slot Lottery Application / Available Slot Application
Up to five choices can be made for each lottery *Maximum of one slot per win

Same-Day Registration

3 to 2 Months Before the Day Before Your Visit	1 Month to 8 Days Before Your Visit	3 Days to 1 Day Before Your Visit	On the Day (inside the Expo site)
First Lottery Pavilion & Event Lottery Application Period Winners announced 2 months prior	Second Lottery Pavilion & Event Lottery Application Period Winners announced 7 days prior	Available Slot Reservation (first-come, first-served) 1 slot can be reserved	After 1 slot is used, a new slot can be reserved

Ticket Information		Adult (18 y/o+)	Junior (12 - 17 y/o)	Child (4 - 11 y/o)
One-Day Ticket	One entry allowed at any time during the Expo	7,500 JPY	4,200 JPY	1,800 JPY
Weekday Ticket	One entry allowed on a weekday after 11:00, excluding Sat., Sun., and holidays	6,000 JPY	3,500 JPY	1,500 JPY
Night Ticket	One entry allowed during the Expo after 17:00	3,700 JPY	2,000 JPY	1,000 JPY

Ticket Information		Adult (18 y/o+)	Junior (12 - 17 y/o)	Child (4 - 11 y/o)
Summer Pass (on sale until 31 Aug.)	Multiple entries allowed from 19 Jul. to 31 Aug., 2025, every day after 11:00	12,000 JPY	7,000 JPY	3,000 JPY
Season Pass (on sale until 3 Oct.)	Multiple entries allowed from 13 Apr. to 3 Oct., 2025, every day after 11:00	30,000 JPY	17,000 JPY	7,000 JPY
Special Ticket (on sale during the Expo)	A guest with a disability certificate and an accompanying guest (assistant) can enter	3,700 JPY	2,000 JPY	1,000 JPY

Purchase tickets here

Expo 2025 Digital Tickets



Convenience Stores or Travel Agencies



EXPO Quick Easy Entry Tickets



*Tax included. *Age refers to a person's full age (in terms of full years lived since birth) as of 1 Apr., 2025. Free admission for children 3 years old or younger. *Admission tickets can be purchased on your smartphone or computer. You can also purchase tickets at travel agencies, convenience stores, and various ticket agencies. *You must make a reservation for the day of your visit. *Group discounts are available. *For ticket details, please check the Expo's official website. *1: The sales period of "Opening Tickets" and "First-Half Period Tickets" may change depending on the sales situation.



HAKUCHIKUDO

(Sponsored content)

In Kyoto, artisanal fans that defy common *sensu*

Tucked away in the heart of Kyoto, Hakuchikudo has been a custodian of Japan's timeless tradition of *sensu* (folding fans) for over three centuries. This renowned store is dedicated to preserving the delicate craftsmanship of Kyoto *sensu*. It offers a rare opportunity to experience a piece of Japan's cultural legacy.

In Japan, *sensu* have long been treasured as meaningful gifts, symbols of prosperity and good fortune. The elegant, open shape of the fan, known as *suehiro*, is more than just decorative. It signifies the spreading of blessings and well wishes. The name evokes the image of a flourishing future, making this an ideal gift to convey heartfelt hopes for happiness, health and success.

As interest in Japanese culture continues to grow globally, Hakuchikudo's *sensu* represent the best of Japan's artisanal excellence. By blending centuries-old techniques with



contemporary sensibilities, Hakuchikudo invites visitors from all over the world to discover the enduring appeal of *sensu*.

The store's collection is diverse, with fans that reflect the beauty of Japan's seasons and natural landscapes. Each is a testament to



Though situated in Kyoto's busy Fuyacho Rokkaku district, Hakuchikudo has a calm atmosphere that allows customers to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city. HAKUCHIKUDO

the delicate artistry that has been passed down through generations. The creation process, which involves as many as 88 precise steps, is an intricate blend of craftsmanship and tradition. Every stage, from the carving of bamboo frames to the application of *washi* (traditional Japanese paper) or silk, is executed with care by craftspeople in Kyoto and Shiga prefectures.

In addition to using traditional Japanese paper and art, Hakuchikudo innovates products designed to resonate with the "people of today," such as fans made of leather, lace and denim that can be used for a variety of purposes and fashions. These products are both functional and representative of Kyoto's timeless craftsmanship.

Hakuchikudo's main store is a 10-minute walk from Kyoto Kawaramachi Station and offers an inviting space where visitors can leisurely explore a wide range of *sensu*. For

those traveling from Osaka, the store is just under 45 minutes by train from Umeda Station, making it an easy and worthwhile stop for anyone interested in authentic Japanese craftsmanship.

Whether you're seeking a personal keepsake or a thoughtful gift, the attentive staff at Hakuchikudo are ready to assist, guiding you through the selection process to find the perfect fan. It's a shopping experience that reflects the warm hospitality of Kyoto, where each purchase is not just a transaction, but a meaningful connection to Japan's traditions.

Hakuchikudo offers beautifully crafted fans that embody a facet of Japan's timeless traditions.

This article is sponsored by Hakuchikudo. Visit <https://www.hakuchikudo.co.jp/en> for more information.



A wide range of products are available exclusively at the main store, including fans for ceremonial use, one-of-a-kind fans made from kimono fabric, and hand-painted folding fans of both paper and fabric construction. HAKUCHIKUDO

the japan times

Destination Restaurants

AUTHENTIC JAPAN SELECTION 2021-2024

A list of the best restaurants in Japan, selected by Japanese experts with international diners in mind.

In 2021, The Japan Times created the Destination Restaurants list around the idea of Japanese experts uncovering top local restaurants for people around the world — hidden gems that not only offer unique culinary experiences but also contribute to community revitalization, sustainable food and the promotion of natural resources. We aim to differentiate ourselves from other selections by bringing countryside talent proper recognition.

This book, marking the fourth anniversary of the Destination Restaurants project, is a compilation of the finest restaurants we have selected so far.

Suggested price (without tax): **¥4,200**
Circulation: limited to 2,000 copies

Number of pages: 160 (color)
Sales agency: The Japan Times Publishing
ISBN 978-4-7890-1889-0

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Towards a brighter future for all

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