

We support and strengthen diverse regional economy.



Developing a new industrial growth model with the power of human assets

We support effective development and leveraging of human assets - the country's most valuable assets.

There has been an increasing concern over the declining birthrate and aging population, the decreasing population and impending mass retirement of baby boomers, as well as the intensifying international competition. Amid these problems, it is extremely important to develop an environment that is conducive to the optimal development and use of human resources, which are fundamental to all production activities. The Economic Growth Initiative regards people as valuable assets, and states that making Japan a "nation built on talented human resources" is the mainstay of Japanese policy. In an effort to promote the development of highly specialized, innovation-oriented human resources, METI is implementing various programs and activities through strategic collaboration between industry and academia, to nurture competent human resources who can lead the future of Japan, and to provide highly professional education and employment support to excellent foreign students from Asia and other countries who wish to work for Japanese companies. METI is also working to create a network linking young people with SMEs to promote mutual understanding between them, thereby revitalizing regional industry.



■ Career Education Project
"Demonstration lesson on 'MURATA BOY'"
The Career Education Project organizes various education programs to provide elementary and junior/senior high school students with the opportunity to learn about regional industries, thereby to encourage them to develop interests in society and foster their self-learning ability and skills.



■ Program for SME Human Resource Development Using Technical College Resources -
"Metal Processing Technique Training Workshop in collaboration with Nara Technical College"
To meet the industrial needs of the Keihanna (Kansai Science City) area, Nara Technical College holds workshops on metal processing techniques to train highly skilled, competent technicians who can apply increasingly sophisticated techniques and methods in their daily work.



■ Job Café Program 'JOB Café OSAKA'
JOB Café OSAKA seeks to develop human resources who can play a leading role in SME management innovation. JOB Café OSAKA provides job placement service for young people and recruitment support services for SMEs.

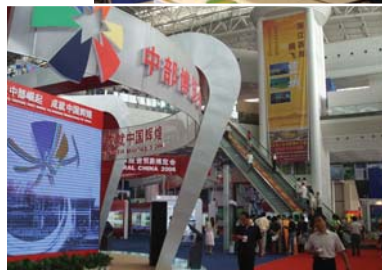


Kansai - Hub of the East Asian economy

We support the overseas expansion of SMEs and promote foreign direct investment in Kansai.

To support overseas expansion of SMEs in the Kansai region, we provide various support services for companies wishing to expand their operations in foreign countries, including seminars, consultation with experts and exchange programs with overseas companies. We also implement various programs and activities to promote foreign direct investment in the Kansai region, by taking advantage of the high growth potential of the life science and other industries in the Region. We hold seminars in overseas countries and provide support services for local governments to help them implement their own foreign investment promotion projects.

■ Kansai Bio Delegation (Cambridge/London)



■ EXPO Central China 2006



■ Japan-China Economic Conference