

9-1 Creation of innovation

- Efforts are also underway to promote open innovation between overseas startups and Japanese companies, including “Japan Innovation Bridge (J-Bridge)” and “International Innovation Conference Hack Osaka”.
- Kansai is home to 1,346 companies that lead innovation (as of June 2022; “Kansai Venture Company List” by Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry). Industry-academia-government efforts to build a startup ecosystem are also in progress.

Japan Innovation Bridge “J-Bridge”

<https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/j-bridge.html>



The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and JETRO launched J-Bridge, a matching platform to create open innovation through collaboration between Japanese and overseas companies, in 2021. It encourages collaboration in both the digital and green fields by providing support for matching, such as finding business partners and arranging interviews, and by holding events and other activities.

Support Programs

For Japanese Firms

For Overseas Firms

Relevant business information through Website /Online Seminars

Exclusive for J-Bridge Members

- Potential partner /Market information
- Meeting Arrangement
- Private consultation by various experts

J-Bridge and Invest Japan Programs

- Potential partner /Market information
- Meeting Arrangement
- Private consultation by various experts

Bridging info gap

Bridging encounter

Deepening business process

Focus Countries/Regions

- Southeast Asia
- India
- United States
- Europe
- Australia
- Israel
- Africa
- Japan

Focus Fields



- Mobility
- Health Tech
- Life Sciences
- Agri Tech
- Retail Tech
- Smart Cities
- FinTech
- Robotics
- Information security

etc.



- Renewable Energy (offshore wind power, biomass, etc.)
- Energy conservation
- Storage batteries
- Hydrogen
- Smart infrastructure
- Greening and environmental conservation technologies

etc.

*J-Bridge provides services mainly in Singapore, Indonesia, and Vietnam in Southeast Asia, the U.K. and Germany in Europe, and Nigeria and Kenya in Africa.

Support Scheme

- Company Introductions
- Participation in events
- Requests for one-on-one business meetings



- Offering business meetings
- Explaining business needs and challenges (at pitch events and on-demand programs)

Startup ecosystem base city “The Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo-Kobe Consortium”

Kyoto-Osaka-Kobe area is one of the four locations in Japan selected by the Cabinet Office as a global hub city, with an emphasis on healthcare, manufacturing, and the information and communications fields, centered on Osaka University, Kyoto University, and Kobe University, as an area for collaboration between universities, research institutes, and companies. This area is aiming to create opportunities for startups in new technologies and services by building a support system that encompasses Kyoto-Osaka-Kobe area, including the business community, for the “Osaka / Kansai Expo.”

9-2 Examples of support for overseas startups

Foreign investor accelerators appear.

In recent years, foreign-owned accelerators have entered the Kansai region one after another, developing various acceleration programs from the seed and early stages to the middle stage.

(example)

■ Plug and Play Kyoto

Under the theme of "hard tech / healthcare" based on Kyoto's strengths in manufacturing and life science, Kyoto is developing a consortium-type acceleration program in the fields of data health, AI utilization for medical care, and medical equipment.



■ Startupbootcamp Scale Osaka

The Rainmaking group (headquarters), headquartered in the United Kingdom, oversees the program. Targeting after the middle stage, they support growth by promoting feasibility experiments and collaboration with partner companies and put focus on business development and pilot program execution with major Japanese companies.



Large companies in Kansai welcome collaboration with startups

The Kansai Association of Corporate Executives is committed to promoting the ecosystem. In cooperation with the Kyoto and Kobe Associations of Corporate Executives, it invited companies and organizations that would sincerely respond to consultations from would-be founders and startups, without stating that they would be turned away if they did not have a proven track record of success.

The names and contact information of companies that have endorsed the Declaration of Startup Friendly Kansai are published on the website.

"The Declaration of Startup Friendly Kansai"

<https://www.kansaidoyukai.or.jp/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ec2075066b1d7b2d7ed901e45d9c8313.pdf>

The list includes 107 companies!
(As of July 12, 2022)



Business matching pitch event (example)

Global Innovation Forum Osaka (GIF)

Organizer Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Osaka Foreign Business Attraction Center (O-BIC)

Outline This event is to realize "Osaka, a meeting place to create business" by matching Japanese companies with overseas startups with cutting-edge technologies and products in fields such as carbon neutrality, health tech, XR, and new materials.
GIF2022 features four sessions: North/Latin America, Middle East/SW Asia, Europe, and East/SE Asia. Three main programs (startup online exhibition, live pitch sessions, and one-on-one meetings) provide new business opportunities.

International Innovation Conference "Hack Osaka"

Organizer Hack Osaka Executive Committee (Osaka City, Urban Innovation Institute, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Osaka, and Osaka Business Development Agency)

Outline Hack Osaka is one of the largest innovation festivals in Kansai. In order to make Osaka a city of co-creation connected to the world, Hack Osaka is working to provide a place and opportunities for entrepreneurs, investors, large companies, students, and various other players to interact across organizations, regions, nationalities and generations, through talk sessions, pitch contests, meetups with Japanese companies, and other programs. (Held once a year)

KGAP+ (Keihanna Global Acceleration Program Plus)

Organizer International Telecommunications Research Institute Co., Ltd. (ATR) Keihanna Research Complex Promotion Council

Outline A three-month support program for start-up companies in Japan and overseas. In addition to domestic companies, participating companies selected from global innovation bases that cooperate with ATR will work on proof of products, services and concepts in collaboration with major Japanese companies, aiming to expand into the Japanese market.