

KANSAI

**Gateway to Your Business Success
in Japan and Asia**

～ Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe ～



Innovation

INVEST JAPAN, INVEST KANSAI
-2025・English-

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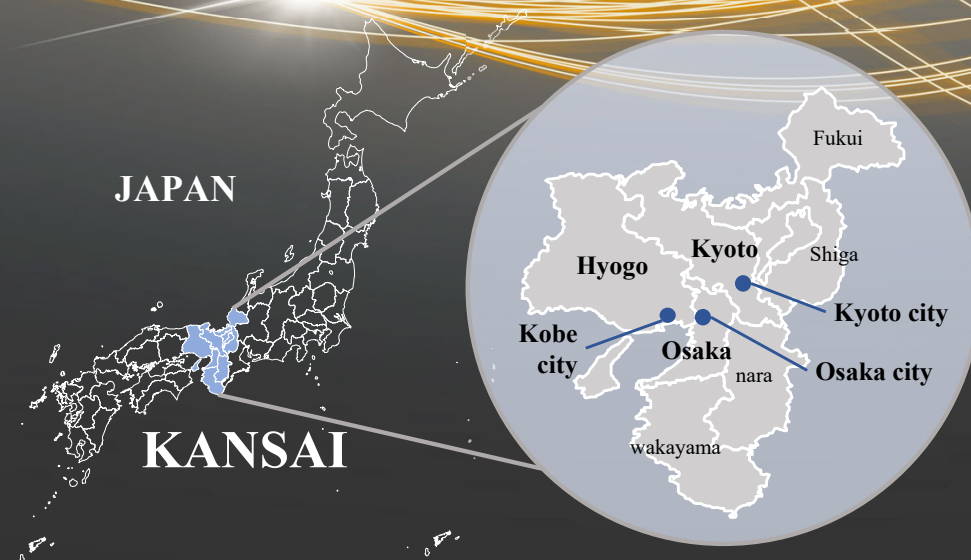
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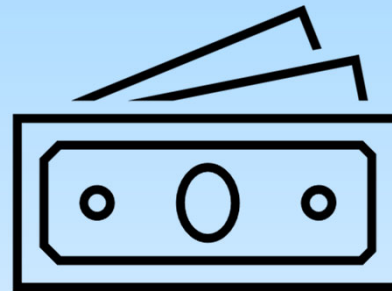
1-1 Startup Development Five-year Plan

- Following the Kishida Administration's declaration of "The first year for founding startups" in January 2022, a five-year plan was compiled that gives an overall picture of Japan's startup development measures by the public and private sectors.



Building human resources and networks for startup creation

Fostering startup leaders and accelerating entrepreneurship as people are the most important element of startups



Expanding funding provision for startups and diversifying exit strategies

Expanding investment by VCs and individuals to secure funding for the significant growth of startups



Promoting open innovation

Promoting open innovation between large companies and startups. Increasing M&A as an exist strategy

1-1 Startup Development Five-year Plan

- Foreign investors have greater expectations on the growth of the Japanese startup ecosystem.

**Japan is the best country in Asia
to live in and entrepreneurs recognize that.**

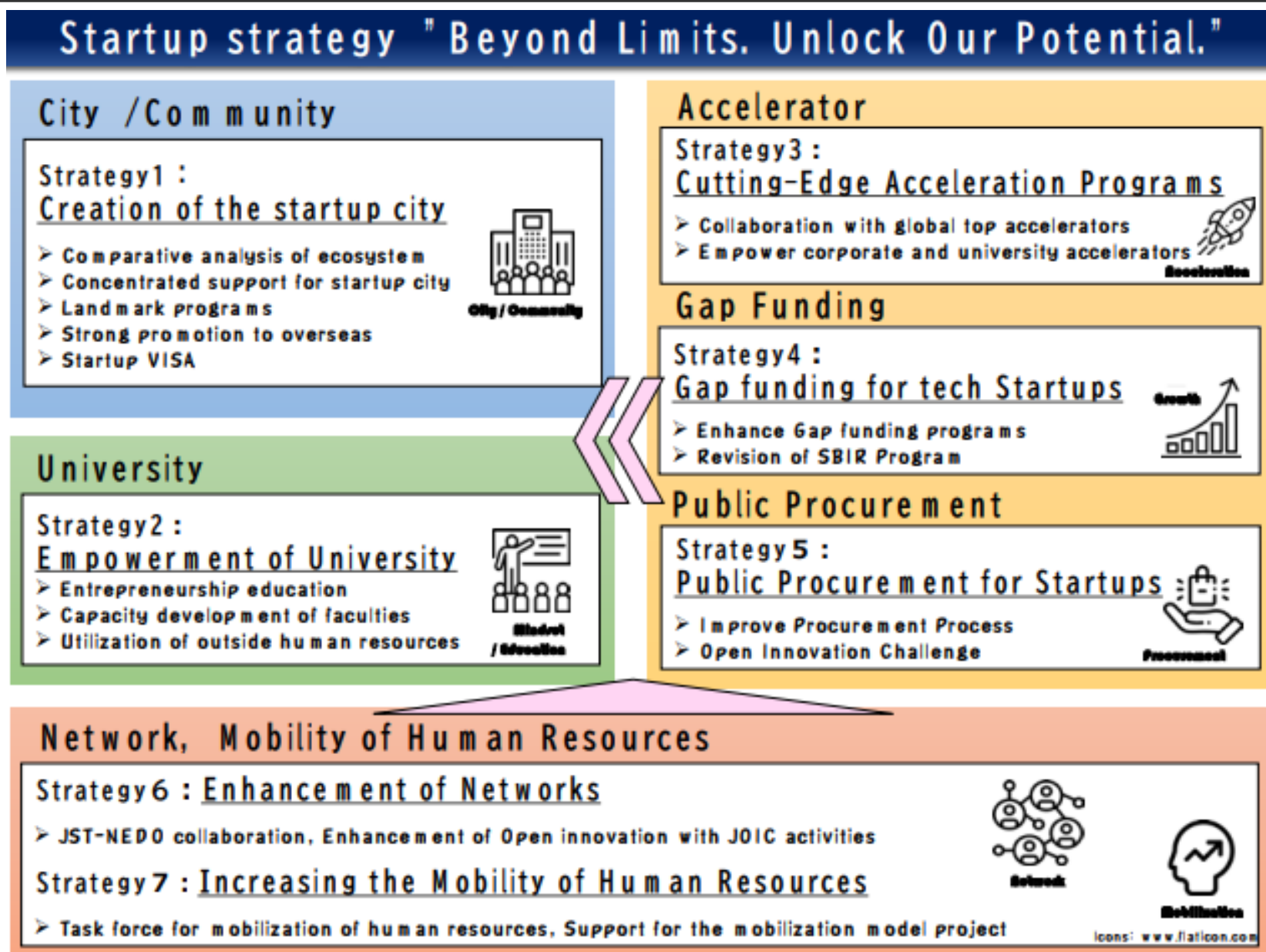
**As the government creates a more start-up friendly
environment, we expect great things.**



Ben Horowitz

Co-founder and
General Partner
Andreessen Horowitz(a 16z)

1-2 Strategies for creation of startup ecosystem

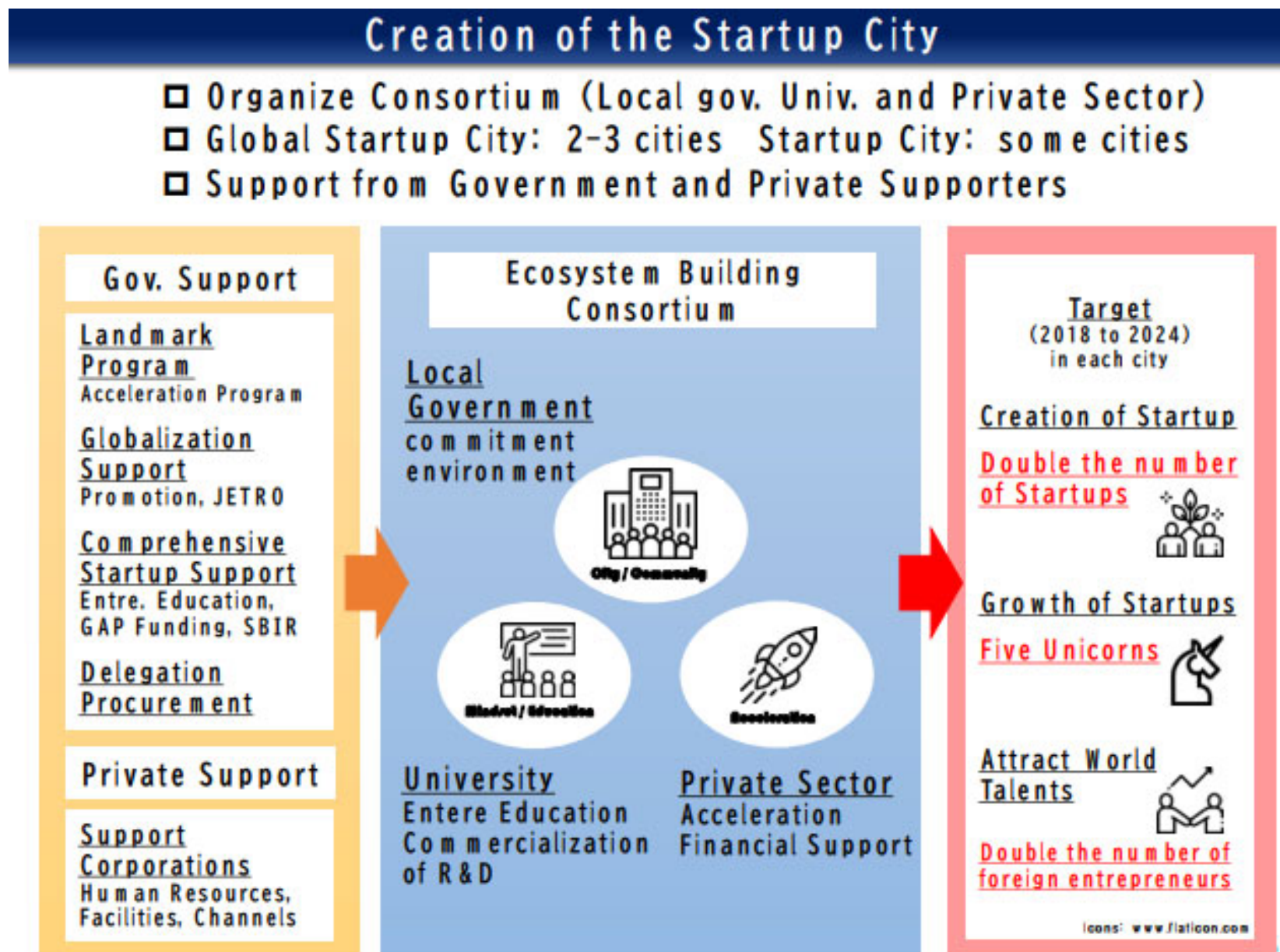


Source : Cabinet Office

「Beyond Limits. Unlock Our Potential.～Strategies for creation of startup ecosystem to compete with the world top ecosystems～」

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/openinnovation/ecosystem/beyondlimits_en.pdf

1-2 Strategies for creation of startup ecosystem



Source : Cabinet Office

「Beyond Limits. Unlock Our Potential.～Strategies for creation of startup ecosystem to compete with the world top ecosystems～」

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/openinnovation/ecosystem/beyondlimits_en.pdf

2-1 The Strengths of Kansai in Innovation Creation

- The Kansai region offers a wide range of potential, including large markets, convenient locations and transportation networks, diverse industries, and a well-developed business and living environment, and is well-suited for creating innovation.

Source : METI-KANSAI "INVEST JAPAN, INVEST KANSAI"
https://www.kansai.meti.go.jp/3-1toukou/invest_in_kansai/e_welcome_to_kansai.html

【Location and Transportation Infrastructure】

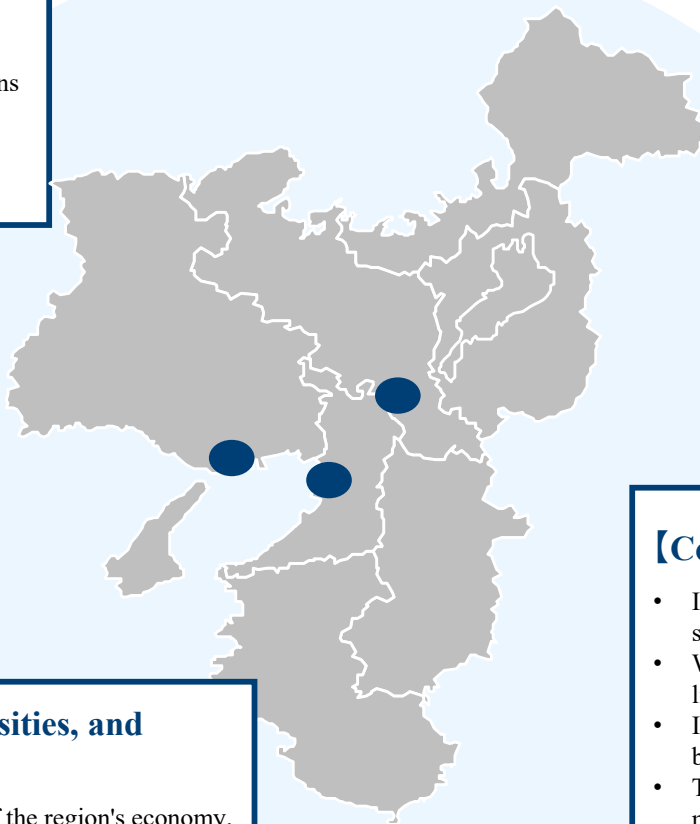
- Located almost in the center of Japan, making it convenient to travel to major cities throughout the country.
- The three major cities of Osaka, Kyoto and Kobe are located adjacent to each other, and the compactness of the region means that you can get from one city to the next in as little as 30 minutes.
- Kansai International Airport is open 24 hours a day and offers many flights to Asia and many LCC flights.

【Large Economic Scale】

- Osaka is the second largest city in Japan after Tokyo, and is also the economic center of the region, with Kyoto and Kobe nearby.
- It is a huge market that accounts for about 1/5 of Japan's GDP, and is comparable to the Netherlands and Switzerland.
- The population makes up about 1/5 of the total population of Japan and is similar in size to New York City.

【Concentration of diverse industries, universities, and research institutions】

- The manufacturing industry accounts for about a quarter of the region's economy, and about 30% of the global niche top companies with high technological capabilities are concentrated here.
- The region is home to approximately 1/5 of the universities in Japan and boasts world-class universities such as Kyoto University and Osaka University.
- Due to the large number of manufacturing companies and universities in the area, the region has strengths in manufacturing, deep tech, and cutting-edge industries.



【Comprehensive Startup Support】

- There are many services available to support the growth of startups, including business exchange, pitch events, and office support.
- A wide range of support is available, from familiar and distinctive support provided by local ecosystems to support provided by regional collaboration consortiums.
- There are also many suitable locations where demonstration experiments can be conducted.

【Comfortable Business and Living Environment】

- It is cheaper than the Tokyo metropolitan area in terms of costs such as office rent and labor costs.
- With many foreign residents, Osaka is ranked in the top 10 most livable cities in the world.
- It is a region where you can enjoy a variety of attractions, including business, history, culture, and nature.
- The Kansai region has a unique culture and personality, which makes it a welcoming place for people from overseas.
- It also has geopolitical advantages such as a stable power supply and low crime rate.

2-1 The Strengths of Kansai in Innovation Creation

- Kansai is home to many global companies with advanced technological capabilities, as well as world-class universities such as Kyoto University and Osaka University.
- The region has strengths in advanced industries such as manufacturing, deep tech, and life sciences, and is also characterized by its many industry-academia collaborations and university-launched ventures.

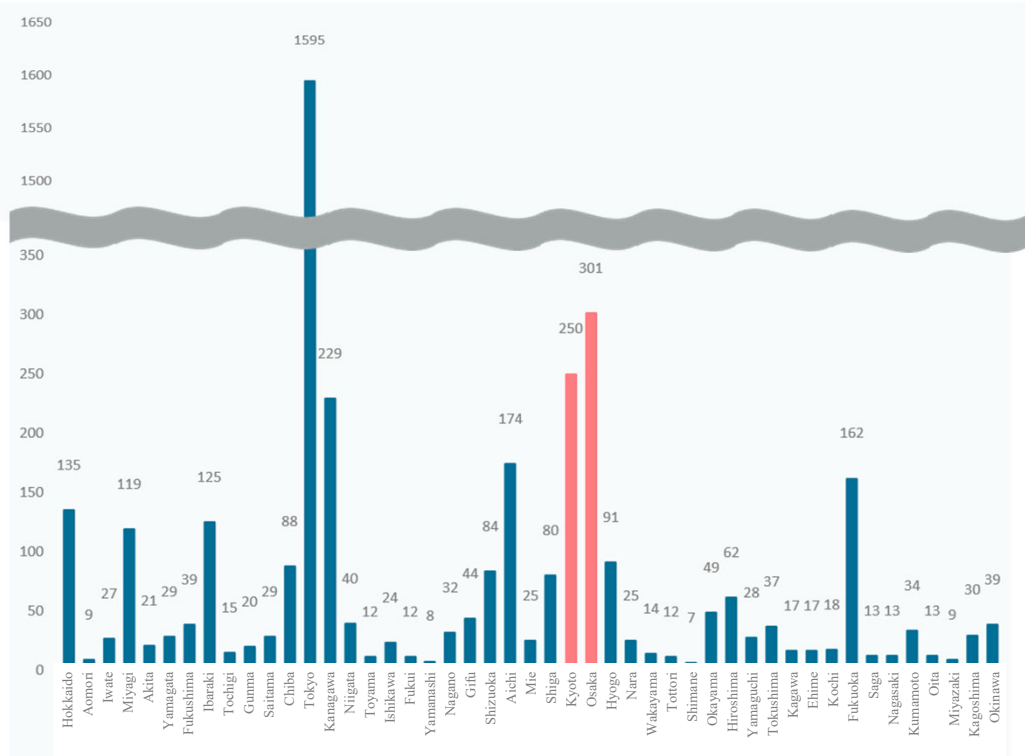
Startups(situation of university-launched ventures))

- In FY2023, University of Tokyo continued to top the list of university-launched ventures with 420 companies. It was followed by Keio University, Kyoto University, and Osaka University.
- In terms of distribution by prefecture, Tokyo leads the way, followed by Osaka Prefecture and Kyoto Prefecture.

Number of university-launched ventures by affiliated universities

Name of university	FY2021		FY2022		FY2023	
	No. of companies	Rank	No. of companies	Rank	No. of companies	Rank
University of Tokyo	329	1	370	1	420	1
Keio University	175	5	236	3	291	2
Kyoto University	242	2	264	2	273	3
Osaka University	180	3	191	5	252	4
University of Tsukuba	178	4	217	4	236	5
Tohoku University	157	6	179	6	199	6
Tokyo University of Science	126	7	151	7	191	7
Waseda University	100	11	128	9	145	8
Nagoya University	115	9	137	8	143	9
Ritsumeikan University	87	13	110	12	135	10

Number of university-launched ventures by prefecture



Source: FY2023 Survey of University-Launched Ventures (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)

*The number of university-launched ventures by affiliated university here is based on the definition of university-launched ventures in this survey, so it may differ from the number of officially recognized university-launched ventures.

*Due to the time lag between the survey period for this survey and the time at which universities identify ventures, it is thought that there is a certain number of companies that have not been counted at the time of the survey.

*The number of companies established in each survey year does not match the number of companies established in each survey year, as there are companies with unknown locations or companies based overseas.

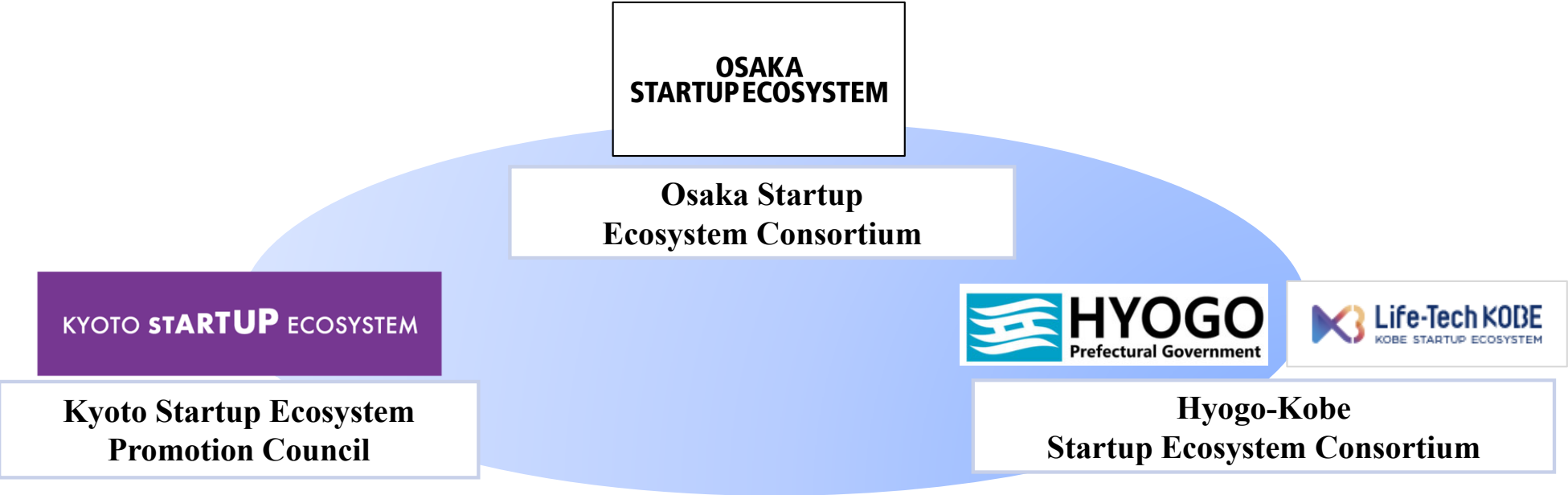
2-2 Startup Ecosystem Global City (Keihanshin)

- On July 14, 2020, the Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo–Kobe Consortium was selected as a “global hub city” as part of the “World-Class Startup Ecosystem Base Formation Strategy” being promoted by the Cabinet Office (to be completed at the end of March 2025). We will leverage the strong synergy effects of national support to build a startup ecosystem that can compete on the world stage, making the most of the strengths of the Kansai region, including the area of life sciences.

Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo-Kobe Consortium	URL: https://www.starecokansai.com/	
Secretariat: Osaka Business Development Agency		

By combining the strengths of the three cities (Osaka: large companies, funding, human resources; Kyoto: research seeds, product commercialization support; Kobe: social demonstration experiments, public procurement), we will focus on the fields of healthcare, manufacturing, and information and communications. Osaka University, Kyoto University, Kobe University and other universities, research institutions and companies are working together to create a support system that includes the business community and unites the Keihanshin region in preparation for the Osaka-Kansai Expo, and to create opportunities for new technologies and services.



- Osaka : Home to companies specializing in a wide range of fields, including deep tech.
- Kyoto : A city of startups backed by universities and research institutions.
- Kobe : A city conducive to focusing on the healthcare sector and conducting social demonstration experiments.



2-2 Startup Ecosystem Global City (Keihanshin)

Kansai Startup Mashups

Secretariat: JETRO Osaka



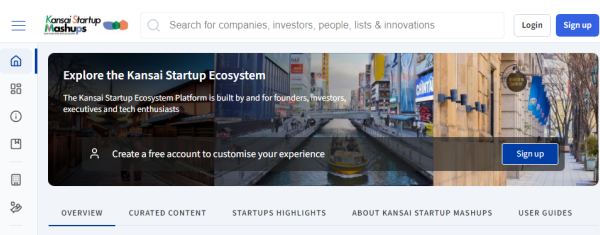
URL:
<https://www.starecokansai.com/keihanshin/kansaistartupmashups-en/>

The Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo-Kobe Consortium and JETRO Osaka are supporting startups from the Kansai region that are taking on the challenge of global business development through “Kansai Startup Mashups”. By forming a network of collaboration and support between universities, companies and the government through collaboration between the three cities, we will promote the presence of Kansai startups to investors in Japan and overseas, while also creating new synergies through the exchange of cutting-edge technology and knowledge from Japan and overseas in Kansai, a region rich in long-established companies.

● Dealroom portal site
“Explore the Kansai Startup Ecosystem”

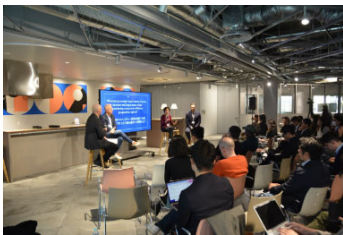
<https://kansai.dealroom.co/intro>

We are disseminating information on the potential of the Keihanshin startup ecosystem to overseas investors (VCs) and major corporations (CVCs) by publishing a list of Keihanshin startups and their funding and exit status, a list of support organizations such as government, universities, and accelerators, event information, etc., on a portal site operated by Dealroom.co, a Dutch company that provides data on startups and ecosystems around the world.



We are working on various support initiatives as part of the program to strengthen the functions of cities basing for startup ecosystems.

● Invitation program for foreign investors



● Support for participation in domestic and overseas exhibitions



~ Initiatives of private sector ~

Microsoft AI Co-Innovation Lab	
Outline	The Microsoft AI Co-Innovation Lab (hereinafter referred to as the “Lab”) is a global organization that creates innovation and is affiliated with Microsoft's headquarters in the United States. It supports the implementation and commercialization of solutions that utilize AI and other cutting-edge technologies. In October 2023, the world's sixth and Japan's first Lab opened in Kobe City.
Program overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The program provides an opportunity to work with Microsoft engineers to build, develop, create prototypes, and perform tests, <u>while also confirming the potential for how Microsoft's AI and IoT products can be applied to the products and services of the participating companies and turned into a business.</u>■ Microsoft's engineering team will work alongside the development team of participating companies to improve their skills, solve problems with applying technology, and speed up the creation of new businesses.■ In principle, anyone can use it free of charge (there are usage criteria when applying).
URL	<p><Kobe City Recommendation Quota> *If you meet certain conditions, you may be recommended for “priority use” of the program in Kobe City, which allows you to use it right away. https://life-techkobe.smartkobe-portal.com/microsoft/ <Normal use> https://aiotlabs.microsoft.com/p/apply</p>
Other	<p>[Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub] https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/startups Support is provided at each step of the process based on the growth of the startup. *Receive up to \$150,000 (USD) of Azure credits *Free access to development tools used by the team, etc.</p>



2-3 Main global operations at each base (Kyoto)

Kyoto Startup Ecosystem Promotion Council

Secretariat: Kyoto Wisdom Industry Creation Center

KYOTO **STARTUP** ECOSYSTEM

URL: <https://kyotostartup.jp/en/>



The Kyoto Startup Ecosystem Promotion Council was established with the participation of 46 organizations, including Kyoto Prefecture, to create an “all-Kyoto” system. Furthermore, “Kyoto Wisdom Industry Creation Center”, an organization formed by the Kyoto Prefectural Government, Kyoto City, the Kyoto Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Kyoto Industrial Association, is the main body promoting support projects, and by creating a “co-creation space” that integrates these strengths in Kyoto, where there is a concentration of universities and research institutions and a “multilayered industrial structure” based on a variety of technological seeds, a startup ecosystem is being formed.

Kyoto startup map

<https://stroly.com/viewer/1576808210?room=stroly>

This map shows an overview of startups recommended by venture capital firms in Kyoto.



HVC KYOTO (Healthcare Venture Conference KYOTO)

<https://www.krp.co.jp/hvckyoto/>

This is an innovation platform, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary, that brings together HVC partners, including domestic and overseas startups with innovative technologies in the healthcare field, domestic and overseas companies that are active in open innovation, venture capital firms, and incubators.




In February 2025, it received the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Award at the Cabinet Office's “Japan Open Innovation Awards” in recognition of its international collaborative framework.

Kyoto Makers Garage

<https://kyotomakersgarage.com/en/>

Equipped with digital devices such as 3D printers, laser cutters, and CNC machines, this is a place where anyone can try their hand at “monozukuri” (manufacturing) and give shape to their ideas. It also serves as a community where people involved in manufacturing can come together.




Invitation program for foreign investors
“Kyoto International Startup Center (Kyo-Sta)”

<https://www.kyoto-obc.jp/kyo-sta/>

This is a one-stop consultation desk that provides consistent support, from attracting foreigners who want to start a business in Kyoto, to obtaining visa, and starting a business, and establishing a stable business foundation.



2-3 Main global operations at each base (Osaka)

Osaka Startup Ecosystem Consortium	<div data-bbox="1361 229 1659 387">OSAKA STARTUPECOSYSTEM</div> <div data-bbox="1888 240 2033 387"></div> <div data-bbox="1189 395 1601 427">URL: https://www.innovation-osaka.jp/</div>
Secretariat: Startup Support Division, Osaka Business Development Agency	

With the theme of “From Osaka to the World”, events and programs (about 200 per year) are held that lead to the creation of new businesses and business expansion. We also support the formation of communities and the commercialization of business plans through the exchange of diverse people, companies, and ideas.

International Startup Osaka/Kansai Promotion Support Program OSAKA SPRINGBOARD

<https://osaka-startup.com/program/springboard/en/>

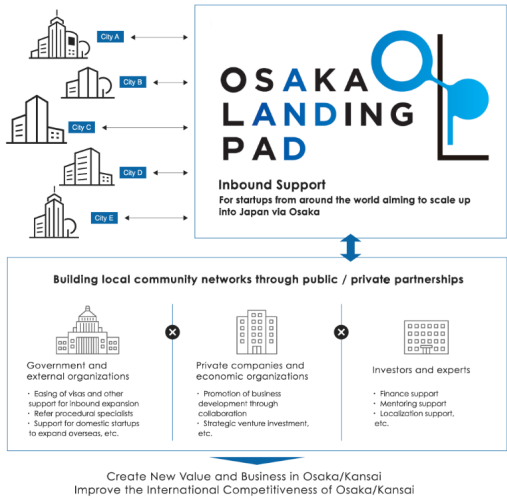
- We provide individual business consulting and legal advice for entering the Osaka/Kansai region, as well as other areas of Japan. In addition, we provide support with specialists who can do everything from providing introductions to Osaka administrative support services to guidance on the startup visa process.
- We provide business matching (individual business meetings) with Japanese businesses.



Osaka Landing Pad

<https://osakalandingpad.com/>

- In order to provide appropriate information and support for overseas startups looking to expand into Osaka (Japan), we are working with consortium members to continuously exchange information with overseas support organizations, etc.



2-3 Main global operations at each base (Hyogo-Kobe)

Hyogo-Kobe Startup Ecosystem Consortium	 	 
Secretariat: Business Promotion Division, Hyogo Prefecture Government New Industry Development Division, Kobe City Government	URL: https://hyogo-kobe.jp/best/en/	URL: https://investkobe.com/

By bringing together the resources of its members and cooperating members through the Hyogo-Kobe Startup Ecosystem Consortium, we are working to create an environment that makes it easier to create new businesses in the Kobe-Hyogo area, thereby expanding the base of entrepreneurship, as well as working to create a diverse ecosystem through support for startup human resource development in collaboration with universities and other organizations, and support for overseas entrepreneurs.

GO KOBE - THE NEXT KITCHEN

<https://www.nextkitchen-kobe.com/>

This is a program that selected food tech startups from around the world that are aiming to expand into Japan visit to Kobe, where they are matched with local partner companies, given tours of facilities, conduct market research, and deliver pitches at demo days.



Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster

<https://www.fbri-kobe.org/kbic/english/>

Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster is located on Port Island in Kobe, where there is a concentration of research institutions, highly specialized hospitals, medical-related companies and organizations, and it supports everything from research and development to commercialization through industry-academia-government-medical collaboration, creating numerous innovations.



2-4 J-Startup KANSAI

- Promising startups that will serve as the first role models in the Kansai region are selected as “J-Startup KANSAI companies” and are disseminated both domestically and internationally, while also receiving support from the entire region.
- METI-Kansai acts as the secretariat for the selection process, and works in partnership with the Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo-Kobe Consortium to support the selected companies in their efforts to achieve further growth.

Objective

- (1) To discover and create startup companies that can serve as role models from the Kansai region
- (2) To strengthen the collaboration system with each support organization for supporting startup companies in the Kansai region
- (3) To help raise awareness of Kansai startup companies and the Kansai startup ecosystem in Japan and around the world

Secretariat

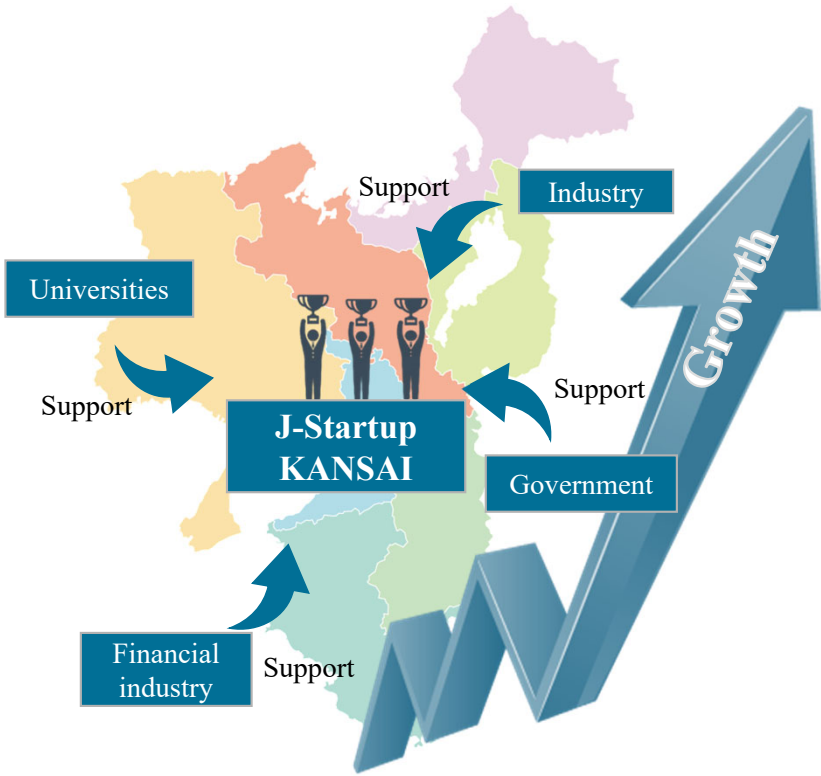
METI-Kansai (Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry)
Business Start-up and Support Division

Joint secretariat

Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, Sakai City, Kyoto Prefecture, Kyoto City,
Hyogo Prefecture, Kobe City, JETRO Osaka, INPIT Kansai,
SME Support Japan (Kansai Head Office)

Number of selected companies

75 companies (as of August 2024)



Government support

Establish priority quotas and point systems, etc.
when utilizing government policies

- Ex) ☐ Priority for speaking at events
☐ Overseas expansion support
☐ Subsidy points, brushing up applications

Private sector support

Support from VCs, accelerators, and major corporations, etc.

- Ex) ☐ Providing collaborative opportunities
☐ Mentoring by senior management and in-house specialists, etc.
☐ Providing office spaces, demonstration testing sites, etc.
☐ Preferential treatment for in-house services

2-4 J-Startup KANSAI

J-Startup Kansai Companies

* For more information on each startup company, please see below.
<https://next-innovation.go.jp/j-startup-kansai/english/>



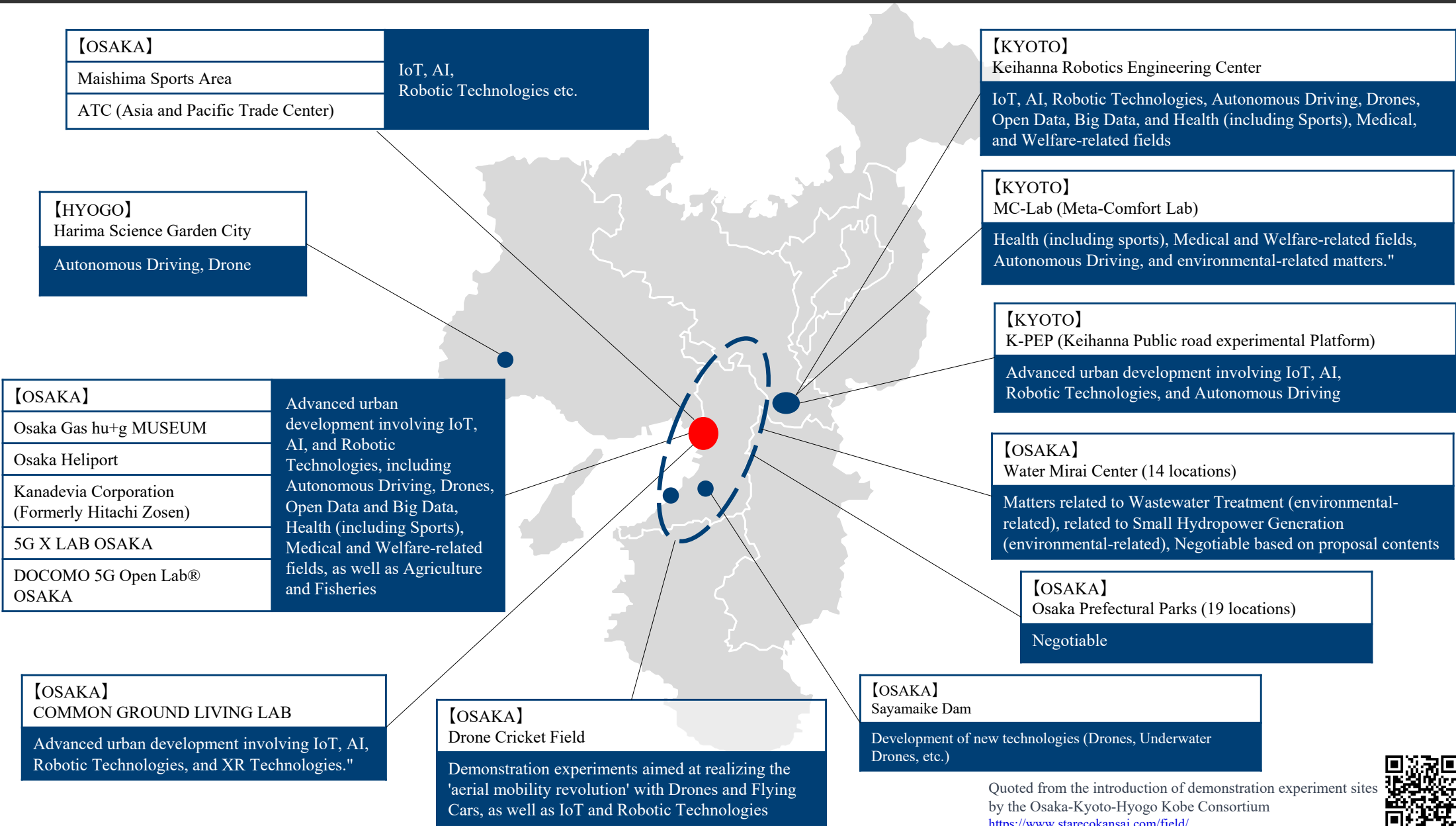
Osaka	PLEN Robotics Inc.	EneCoat Technologies Co.,Ltd. ★	Hyogo(incl. Kobe city)
EARTH CREATE CO.,LTD.	Sinummy Corporation	OPTMASS Co.,Ltd. ★	ACALL Inc.
Ai-BrainScience Inc. ★	BABY JOB Inc.	Casie Co.,Ltd.	Immunorock Co.,Ltd. ★
At Co.,Ltd. ★	Mirairo Inc.	Kyoto Fusioneering Ltd. ★	Godot Inc.
IMMUNOSENS CO.,LTD. ★	Light Touch Technology Inc.	Keigan Inc.	Compass Inc.
INGAGE Inc.	Lean on Me inc.	CONNEXX SYSTEMS Corporation ★	Sagri Co.,Ltd. ★
EX-Fusion Inc. ★	Remohab Inc. ★	Shinobi Therapeutics, Inc. ★	Synplogen Co.,Ltd. ★
Osaka Heat Cool Inc. ★	Luxna Biotech Co.,Ltd. ★	SAKA NO TOCHU Co.,Ltd.	TearExo Co.,Ltd. ★
Kaltech Co.,Ltd.	LESTAS. INC.	Symbiobe Inc.	VITAARS Inc.
Gift Pad Co.,Ltd.	Losszero Co.,Ltd.	Spread Co.,Ltd.	Total Brain Care Co.,Ltd.
GramEye Inc. ★	Kyoto	Space Power Technologies Inc. ★	NATiAS Inc. ★
congrant inc.	Atomis Inc. ★	DATAGRID Inc. ★	Bio Palette Co.,Ltd. ★
SIRC Co.,Ltd. ★	Atomoph Inc.	Toregem Bio Pharma Co.,Ltd.★	Bacchus Bio Innovation Co.,Ltd. ★
C4U Corporation ★	Aromajoin Corporation	HACARUS INC.	PITTAN, Inc. ★
Thinker Co.,Ltd. ★	E-thermoGentek Co.,Ltd.	Flora Co.,Ltd.	Mapry Corporation
Stayway Inc.	eSep Inc.	Baseconnect Inc.	Momo co.,Ltd.
Next Innovation Inc.	xFOREST Therapeutics Co.,Ltd. ★	mui Lab, Inc.	Shiga
Fish Biotech Co.,Ltd.	AFI Corporation	Metro Weather Co.,Ltd.★	Man-Machine Synergy Effectors, Inc.★
neton, Inc.	AC Biode Ltd.	Regional Fish Institute, Ltd. ★	Wakayama
Hutzper Inc.	ENISHIA Inc. ★	RUTILEA, Inc.★	glafit Inc.

★ University startups

75 companies

2-5 Map of suitable locations for demonstration experiments

- There are also a number of areas in Kansai that are suitable for demonstration experiments.



3-1 Introduction of support help desks and organizations implementing distinctive initiatives

First points of contact for Kansai

【Overseas Startup Related Support Desk】

Kyoto	Kyoto International Startup Center (JETRO Kyoto) TEL: 075-341-1021 Mail: KYO-startup@jetro.go.jp URL: https://www.kyoto-obc.jp/kyo-sta/
Osaka	Osaka Innovation Hub (OIH) (OSAKA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY) TEL: 06-6359-3004 Mail: ohclub@innovation-osaka.jp URL: https://www.innovation-osaka.jp/
Hyogo-Kobe	Kobe City New Industry Development Division Mail: investinkobe@city.kobe.lg.jp URL: https://investkobe.com/

【Support for establishment of offices and business expansion in Kansai】

		JETRO, an organization for attracting foreign direct investment in Japan, provides a comprehensive support service to help foreign companies to locate in Japan and expand their business in the Japanese market by providing information on the Japanese business environment, identifying companies interested in direct investment in Japan, and assisting them in establishing a base of operations and expanding their business in Japan.
	Osaka	JETRO Invest Japan Business Support Center, Osaka (JETRO IBSC Osaka) TEL: 06-4705-8660 URL: https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/jetros_support/ibsc/
	Kobe	JETRO Invest Japan Business Support Center, Kobe (JETRO IBSC Kobe) TEL: 078-231-3081 URL: https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/jetros_support/ibsc/

Kyoto	Kyoto Overseas Business Center TEL: 075-366-4364 E-Mail: info@kyoto-obc.jp URL: https://www.kyoto-obc.jp/en/
Osaka	Osaka Business and Investment (O-BIC) TEL: 06-6944-6298 E-Mail: o-bic@osaka.cci.or.jp URL: https://o-bic.net/
Osaka	Osaka International Business Promotion Center International Affairs Department (IBPC Osaka) TEL: 06-6615-7130 E-Mail: info@investosaka.jp URL: https://www.investosaka.jp/eng/

3-1 Introduction of support help desks and organizations implementing distinctive initiatives



Distinctive initiatives related to overseas startups and innovation

Global Financial City Osaka		Global Financial City Osaka URL: https://global-financial-city-osaka.jp/en/ 
As Osaka aims to realize an international financial city with attractive investment opportunities, we provide tailor-made support for businesses expanding into Osaka, offering a one-stop shop for everything from office space to securing human resources. If you are considering setting up a base in Osaka to expand your business in Asia, we invite you to visit us.		
Support	Osaka Global Finance One-Stop Support Center	
	Osaka Global Finance One-Stop Support Center is a one-stop service for foreign financial companies and foreign investors wishing to set up operations in Osaka, providing professional advice on financial licences and other matters.	
	Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00-12:00, 13:00-17:30. *Closed on weekends, national holidays and New Year's holidays(from 29th December until 3rd January) Phone number: +81-6-6136-3524 Email Address: f-onestop-XXX-@global-financial-city-osaka.jp (※Fictitious addresses are provided to prevent spamming. Please send to the address with -XXX- removed.)	
Companies Expanding Into OSAKA	https://global-financial-city-osaka.jp/en/shinsyutsukigyou/	

Public Foundation of Kansai Research Institute		 Keihanna Science City URL: https://www.kri.or.jp/en/ 
Keihanna Science City aims to create a “world-class research and development-oriented open innovation hub” that will contribute to the realization of next-generation smart cities. We are promoting initiatives to support the overseas expansion of companies in the Keihanna area as well as the research and development activities of overseas companies, with a focus on co-creation with global players both inside and outside the city.		
KEIHANNA INNOVATION HUB URL: https://keihanna-inv-hub.jp/	In order to create a “research and development-oriented open innovation hub” at Keihanna Science City, we have started operating the Keihanna Innovation Hub in collaboration with related organizations inside and outside the city, and have consolidated support information and consultation services for exhibitions, subsidy information, experimental equipment, facilities, etc. for each organization. We have established a system that allows for smooth procedures and consultations upon starting a new business, and we will focus on four support activities in particular (start-up growth, demonstration experiments, industry-academia-government-public-housing collaboration, and global collaboration).	
Keihanna Open Innovation Center @KYOTO (KICK) URL: http://kick.kyoto/en/	This is an open innovation hub that supports world-class research and development in areas such as health, medicine, energy, ICT, agriculture, food, culture and education. We provide comprehensive support for PoC demonstration experiments using the Keihanna Robotics Engineering Center, 5G base stations, Meta-Comfort Lab, etc.	

3-1 Introduction of support help desks and organizations implementing distinctive initiatives

Distinctive initiatives related to overseas startups and innovation

Umekita Future Innovation Organization (U-FINO)	 U-FINO UMEKITA FUTURE INNOVATION ORGANIZATION	URL: https://u-fino.com/en/	
<p>In order to solve social issues and create new industries, this organization aims to promote innovation in Osaka and the Kansai region by building an ecosystem that will give rise to new products, services and businesses by gathering information, people and technology in the second phase of the Umekita project. To achieve these goals, we are carrying out the following projects, while making the most of the characteristics and strengths of our public-private partnership, in order to fulfill our role of demonstrating hub functions and strengthening the ecosystem.</p> <p>(1) A project to create a hub function for the circulation of commercialization projects created through the accumulation and exchange of human resources and companies.</p> <p>(2) A project to reinforce cooperation with external organizations and other institutions that make up the ecosystem that leads to innovation.</p> <p>(3) Other incidental or related projects.</p>			
ABC Platform Startup Working Group (Kansai Economic Federation)	 Asia Business Creation Platform ABC Platform	URL: https://www.abc-pf.org/en/category/startup	
<p>The “Asia Business Creation Platform” is a project to facilitate the creation of business by promoting cooperation between companies and organizations in various countries in terms of human resources, technology, services, etc., in cooperation with economic organizations in Asia with which the Kansai Economic Federation has built relationships over many years. As one of the specific projects, “theme-based working groups” have been established, and each working group is promoting specific initiatives aimed at creating new businesses under the leadership of project managers selected from participating companies and organizations.</p> <p>The Startup Working Group provides wide-ranging support with the aim of accelerating innovation throughout Asia through the growth and exchange of startup businesses in Japan and Asia. In particular, we have signed a cooperation agreement with a startup support facility in Singapore, one of the world's leading startup hubs, and are working to create an environment that will enable two-way exchange.</p> <p>PM (Platform Manager): Hankyu Hanshin Properties Corp.</p> <p>Participating organizations: Osaka Business Development Agency, JETRO Osaka, Leave a Nest, ICMG, Global Brain, Plug and Play, Ishin, Osaka City / Osaka Innovation Hub, Osaka Prefecture, Kobe City, Kyoto City, Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kansai Association of Corporate Executives, J.S.B., 500 Startups, Kyoto Research Park</p>			

3-2 Innovation creation support and global events

- In Kansai, 1,387 innovation-driven companies are gathered, and there is active collaborations among industry, academia, and government to build a thriving startup ecosystem.
※as of December 2022; “Kansai Venture Company List” by METI-Kansai

Japan Innovation Bridge “J-Bridge”

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



A business platform that fosters international open innovation between Japanese and overseas companies. J-bridge supports Japanese companies, universities, research institutions, and others in business development and new business creation through alliances with overseas companies—such as business partnerships, technology collaborations, investments, and joint ventures—as well as mergers and acquisitions (M&A).

Service name

Main services



J-Bridge Portal

- Providing information through “J-Bridge Portal” site, such as events, public applications for demonstration subsidy programs, and some successful collaboration cases



Events

- Holding various events that lead to collaboration, such as seminars, pitches, and business meetings

Membership services



Members-only forums

- Providing a database of promising overseas companies
- Providing opportunities to promote your company to overseas through “Japan Partner Finder”
- Access to past events
- Interaction among J-Bridge members



Meetup

- Arranging business meetings with companies listed on the member-only portal
- Providing information on business meeting offers from promising overseas companies



Individual support program

- Providing sourcing support and spot advisory services (permanent services)
- Providing reverse pitch and integrated support programs, etc. (intensive support services through public application)

For companies that have decided on a partner



Demonstration subsidy programs*

- Subsidies for the implementation of PoC in the digital field in Asia and other regions
- * The demonstration subsidy programs are different from the J-Bridge program.

Collecting information

Finding Collaboration partners

Finalizing the details of collaboration

“J-GoodTech”

<https://jgoodtech.smrj.go.jp/pub/en/>



A business matching website that connects Japanese SMEs with large domestic companies and overseas enterprises. J-GoodTech facilitates the discovery of new business partners and customers, exploration of joint development opportunities, and expansion into new markets and overseas sales channels. Additionally, its special sections provide support for matching in areas such as export/overseas expansion, startups, SDGs/carbon neutrality, and related to the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

01

A unique gateway to leading Japanese companies

With approx. 37,000 registered members, our diverse network covers a wide range of industries, from industrial and manufacturing sectors to the service industry.

02

A reliable network of reputable companies

All Japanese members of J-GoodTech are screened and selected based on factors such as the quality of their technology, products and services, and their interest in pursuing new business relationships.

03

Support from international business coordinators

Our team of experienced coordinators can assist you with communication (including holding discussions in English), exchanging information, and finding partners for your business.

04

All services available free of charge

J-GoodTech members can register and use our services completely free of charge. In addition, no fees are charged for successfully concluded negotiations.

Source : SME SUPPORT JAPAN (SMRJ) “J-GoodTech” HP <https://jgoodtech.smrj.go.jp/pub/en/about/>

Large companies in Kansai welcome collaboration with startups

The Kansai Economic Federation declares that companies and organizations supporting the declaration will publicly announce their contact points and offer dedicated support to venture companies. This includes providing advice and introducing technology and sales channels as needed when venture companies seek consultation.

“The Declaration of Startup Friendly Kansai”

<https://www.kansaidoyukai.or.jp/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/18079df6c390a296c83ef268578cff9f.pdf>



3-2 Innovation creation support and global events

Business matching, pitching, and networking-related events (examples)

Global Innovation Forum Osaka (GIF)

Organizer	Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC)
Outline	<p>The purpose of the event is to realize “Osaka, a meeting place to create business” through matching support for domestic and overseas startups with cutting-edge technologies and products in fields such as carbon neutrality, health tech, XR, and new materials.</p> <p>At GIF, we will hold the GIF Meetup to introduce overseas startups to Japanese companies and the GIF Challenge to support the overseas expansion of Japanese startups.</p>



<https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/>

International Innovation Conference "Hack Osaka"

Organizer	Hack Osaka Executive Committee (Osaka City, Urban Innovation Institute, JETRO Osaka, and Osaka Business Development Agency)
Outline	<p>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)</p>



<https://www.innovation-osaka.jp/hackosaka/en/index.html>

KGAP+ (Keihanna Global Acceleration Program Plus)

Organizer	Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International (ATR), Keihanna Research Complex Promotion Council
Outline	<p>A three-month support program for start-up companies in Japan and overseas.</p> <p>Startups nominated by domestic and overseas innovation organizations (partner organizations) participate in this program held twice a year and seek out partners to collaborate on PoC. The total number of participants was 195 companies from 23 countries and regions, with 67% successful matches and a participant satisfaction rate of 4.3/5. Partner organizations also host short-term special programs to help startups not only expand into the Japanese market but also establish a foothold for expansion outside of Japan.</p>



<https://www.kgap.jp/>

IVS2025 KYOTO

Organizer	IVS KYOTO Executive Committee (Headline Japan / Kyoto Prefecture / Kyoto City)
Outline	<p>An international startup conference where entrepreneurs and investors from both Japan and overseas meet to promote the creation of new businesses. The event facilitates direct negotiations for acquiring investments, partnerships, and talent, while also providing opportunities to understand the latest trends in various fields and exchange diverse human resources.</p>



<https://www.ivs.events/>

「NEXT KITCHEN」

Organizer	Hyogo Prefecture / Kobe City / JETRO
Outline	<p>This is a program that facilitates business matching between overseas food tech companies focused on addressing social issues in the food sector and local companies within the prefecture. Selected food tech companies from around the world will visit Japan to engage in business matching, tour local food-related companies, and attend conferences that explore the future of food, based on the latest trends in food tech.</p> <p>* Program content may change depending on the year.</p>



<https://www.nextkitchen-kobe.com/>

Global Startup EXPO 2025

https://global-startup-expo.go.jp/index_en.html



Global Startup EXPO 2025 is an international conference where startups, founders, investors and industry leaders gather to explore solutions to global issues with deeptech and cutting edge technologies.

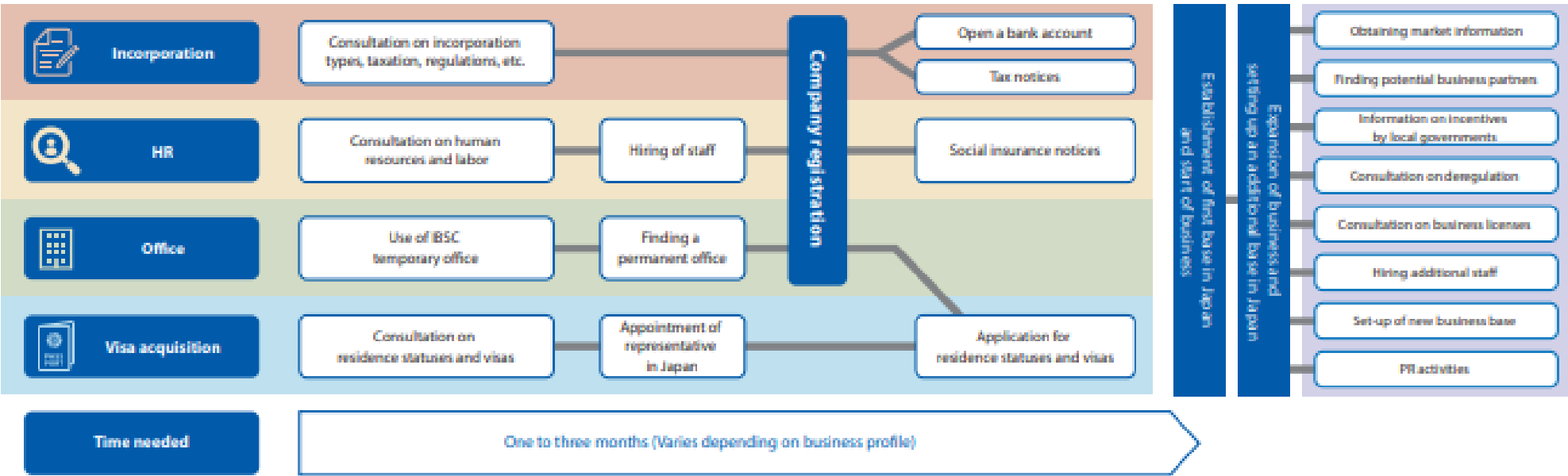
In conjunction with the EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, this event aims to bridge among startup ecosystems by sharing the knowledge, technologies and business.

3-3 How to Set Up Business in Japan



Steps for your incorporation and business expansion in Japan

Source :JETRO HP “JETRO IBSC -Invest Japan Business Support Center-” brochure
https://www.jetro.go.jp/ext_images/en/invest/ibsc/pdf/JETRO_IBSC_EN_202402.pdf



【Develop a Plan to Enter the Japanese Market】

Model Case Commentary	https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/setting_up/guide.html
Cost Estimation	https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/setting_up/modelcase/

【Laws and Regulations on Setting Up Business in Japan】

Incorporating Your Business	https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/setting_up/section1.html
Visas and Status of Residence	https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/setting_up/section2.html
Taxes in Japan	https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/setting_up/section3.html
Human Resource Management	https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/setting_up/section4.html

【How to Set Up Business in Japan Q&A】

https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/setting_up/qa.html

【Living in Japan】

https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/setting_up/living/

【Contact】

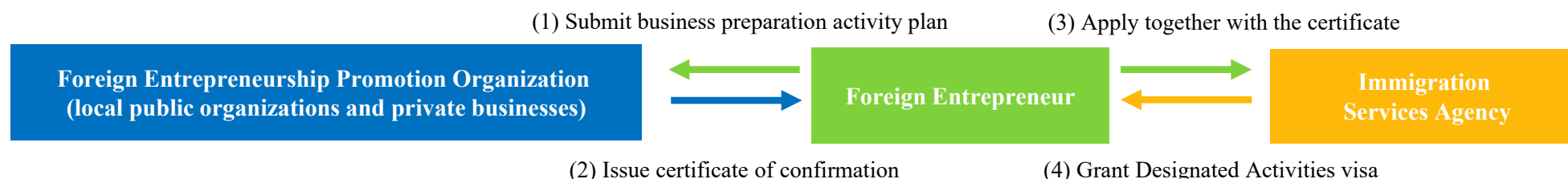
JETRO network cover 50 countries worldwide. You can contact us at one of our local offices near you for consultation.
<https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/jetro/worldwide/>

3-4 Startup Visa

- Foreign entrepreneurs can submit a business preparation activity plan to a “Foreign Entrepreneurship Promotion Organization,” and if the organization deems that the applicant meets the requirements and the Immigration Bureau approves the application, the applicant will be granted a “Designated Activities” visa which allows a maximum stay of two years in Japan.
*Typically, in order for a foreign national who wishes to start a business to be granted the status of residence of “Business Manager,” they must meet certain requirements such as securing a place of business and investing at least 5 million yen or employing two or more full-time employees at the time of application to the Immigration Bureau.

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry HP “Foreign Entrepreneurship Promotion Project (Startup Visa)”
<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/newbusiness/startupvisa/index.html>

Status of residence: Business Manager	<p>[Status of residence: Business Manager] Period of stay: 1 year (standard)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement (1): Size of business (2 or more full-time employees or investment of 5 million yen or more) Requirement (2): Secure a place of business (this does not include coworking spaces that cannot be registered), etc. <p>https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/businessmanager.html</p>
Foreign Entrepreneurship Promotion Project (Startup Visa)	<p>[Status of residence: Designated Activities (No. 44)] You have up to two years to fulfill requirements (1) and (2).</p> <p>https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/newbusiness/startupvisa/index.html</p>



Support desks where you can apply for the startup visa in Kansai

Kyoto International Startup Center (JETRO Kyoto)	Osaka Innovation Hub (OIH)	Hyogo-Kobe Startup Visa Application Support Desk (JETRO Kobe)
https://www.kyoto-obc.jp/startupvisa/  [Contact information] E-mail: KYO-startup@jetro.go.jp TEL: 075-341-1021 78 Kankoboko-cho, Muromachi Higashi-iru, Shijo-dori, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto 3rd Floor, Kyoto Keizai Center	https://www.innovation-osaka.jp/startupvisa/  [Contact information] Foreign Entrepreneurship Promotion & Support Desk E-mail: startupvisa@sansokan.jp 3-1 Ofuka-cho, Kita-ku, Osaka 7th Floor, Knowledge Capital Tower C, Grand Front Osaka	https://investkobe.com/startup-visa  [Contact information] E-mail: KOB-STARTUP@jetro.go.jp 5-1-14 Hamabedori, Chuo-ku, Kobe 4th Floor, Kobe Commerce, Industry and Trade Center Building

3-5 Digital Nomad visa

- Those eligible for this system are foreign nationals who work in Japan using information and communication technology through an employment contract with a foreign company or organization, and are expected to include IT/software developers, digital designers, online secretaries, and sole proprietors who manage the business of foreign companies.

Status of Residence for Digital Nomad / Spouse or child of Digital Nomad

Source : Immigration Services Agency HP
“Outline of status of residence for Digital Nomad”
<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/001417481.pdf>

Status of Residence

“Designated Activities (for Digital Nomad)” (6months)

- * Cannot extend period of stay.
- * Residence card will not be issued.

Requirements

- The period of stay in Japan with status of residence of “Designated Activities (for Digital Nomad)” must not exceed 6 months within a year.
- Applicant must be nationals or citizens of countries/regions which are under the scope of the visa exemption arrangements (Temporary Visitor) and also subjected to Japan’s Tax Conventions.
- Annual income of an applicant must be at least 10 million yen at the time of application.
- Applicant must hold a private medical travel insurance which covers death, injury, illness during their stay.
 - * The amount of compensation for medical treatment for injury and illness must be 10 million yen or more.

Spouse or child of Digital Nomad

Spouse or child to be supported are granted a status of residence of “Designated Activities” (for spouse or child of Digital Nomad) and can accompany Digital Nomad.

- * Applicant must be nationals or citizens of which are under the scope of the visa exemption arrangements (Temporary Visitor) and satisfy ④ above.
- * In principle, it is not granted to engage in activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted.

URL

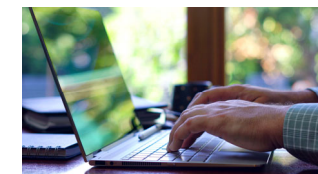
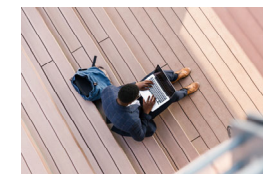
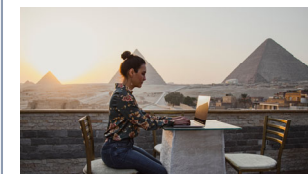
Immigration Services Agency

"Designated Activities" status of residence (digital nomads (those residing in Japan for the purpose of international remote work, etc.) and their spouses and children)

https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/designatedactivities10_00001.html?hl=en

Authorized activities

- Activities that involve using information and communication technology in Japan to engage in business of the organization’s business office located in a foreign country, based on an employment contract with a corporation or other foreign organization established in accordance with the laws and regulations of a foreign country
- OR
- Activities that involve providing services for a fee or selling goods, etc. to persons located in a communication technology
- * Activities excluded that cannot be provided or sold without entering Japan.
 - * Under this status of residence, it is not permitted to work based on an employment contract, with a Japanese public or private organization.
 - * In principle, it is not granted to engage in activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted.



【Contact】
Immigration Information Center
TEL: +81-3-5796-7112

4-1 Innovation-related facilities < Overseas business expansion support >

JETRO Investment and Business Support Center (IBSC) Temporary Office



JETRO Investment and Business Support Center (IBSC) Temporary Office

https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/jetros_support/ibsc/

- ★ Foreign companies and foreign-affiliated companies in Japan that are aiming to establish a base in Kansai
You must be registered as a JETRO client to use this service.

[Contact information]

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

<Osaka> Investment and Business Support Center (IBSC) Osaka

TEL: 06-4705-8660 (direct line), -8603 (main) FAX: 06-4705-8650

E-mail: OSD@jetro.go.jp

<Kobe> Investment and Business Support Center (IBSC) Kobe

Tel: 078-231-3081

E-mail: KOB@jetro.go.jp

*Inquiries from overseas will first be handled by the nearest JETRO overseas office.

<https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/jetro/worldwide/>



Business Support Office (BSO)



Business Support Office (BSO)

<https://www.investosaka.jp/eng/market/location.php>

Asia and Pacific Trade Center (ATC) ITM 4F, 2-1-10, Nanko-kita, Suminoe-ku, Osaka
(Directly connected to Trade Center-mae Station on the Osaka Metro Nanko Port Town Line)

1. Companies or foreign government agencies that are planning expansion into or reinvestment in Osaka City, such as opening an office in the city.
2. Corporations and organizations that are officially registered in Japan or overseas.
(This service is not available to sole proprietors who have not established a legal entity in Japan or their home country.)

[Contact information]

IBPC Osaka Investment Promotion Project

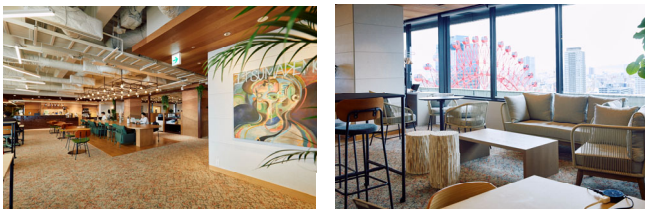
E-mail: info@investosaka.jp

TEL: 06-6615-7130



4-1 Innovation-related facilities < Osaka >

FUTRWORKS



FUTRWORKS

<https://futrworks.com/>

This is a coworking space where startups from Japan and overseas, as well as digital nomad workers from around the world who aspire to work on a global scale, can come together. In addition to offering an office environment where you can concentrate on your work, we support people who strive to create new value and develop the next generation of industries by providing opportunities to network with various specialists and local communities that support the growth of startups, as well as a diverse international community.

[Contact information]

8-47 Kakuda-cho, Kita-ku Osaka, 530-0017
26th Floor, Hankyu Grand Building

E-mail: <https://futrworks.com/jp/contact/>

KNOWLEDGE CAPITAL



COLLABO OFFICE



Knowledge Capital / COLLABO OFFICE

<https://kc-i.jp/en/facilities/business/collabo-office/>

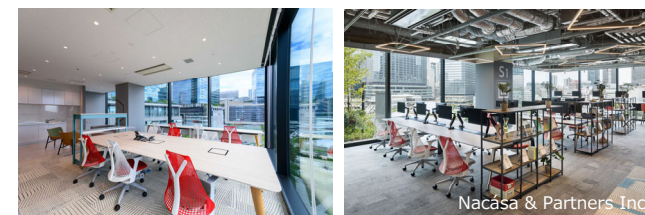
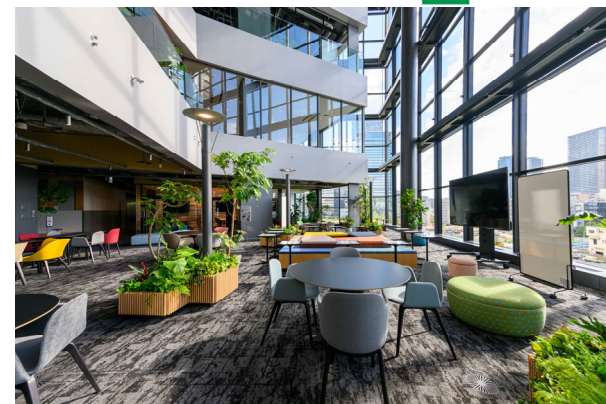
A collaborative activity hub located with a direct connection to Osaka Station, offering high convenience. This space features furnished rental offices and coworking spaces where experts from various fields, including venture companies, research institutions, engineers, and creators, come together. With an adjacent members-only salon serving as a catalyst, it provides an exciting business area for networking and interaction among diverse individuals and companies.

[Contact information]

Knowledge Capital Association
North Building 7-8Floor., Grand Front Osaka, 3-1 Ofuka-cho,
Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0011

E-mail: <https://kc-i.jp/facilities/business/collabo-office/form/>

JAM BASE



Provided by Gran Green Osaka Developer

JAM BASE

<https://umekita.com/jambase/>

JAM BASE, an innovation support facility in Grand Green Osaka, is a base that brings together a range of facilities that form the core of innovation activities, including a membership-based exchange space, co-working space, and rental offices. We support companies, universities, research institutions, startups, VCs and other players in shaping new ideas and taking on the challenge of implementing them in society and commercializing them.

[Contact information]

Co-Creation Generator (CCG)
6-38, Ofukacho, Kita-ku, Osaka, 530-0011 1st-9th Floor, North
Building, Grand Green Osaka (General reception, 4th floor)
E-mail: <https://umekita.com/jambase/contact/>

4-1 Innovation-related facilities < Osaka >

QUINTBRIDGE



QUINTBRIDGE

<https://www.quintbridge.jp/en/>

QUINTBRIDGE is an open innovation facility operated by NTT West Japan. This is a place where companies, startups, local governments, universities, etc. can freely interact with each other, share their thoughts and assets, and promote co-creation with the aim of putting them to practical use in the real world.

[Contact information]

4-15-82 Higashinodamachi, Miyakojima-ku, Osaka

E-mail: quintbridge@west.ntt.co.jp

THE DECK



The DECK

<https://en.thedeck.jp/>

This is a coworking space with a comfortable workspace, a “Fab Space” for turning ideas into reality, and staff and a community that organically connect these spaces. The space is used by a diverse range of people, including digital nomad workers from overseas, and we also provide extensive support for entrepreneurs.

[Contact information]

2-1-1 Minamihonmachi, Chuo-ku, Osaka

TEL: 06-6125-5627

E-mail: <https://thedeck.jp/contactus>

TEQS

ソフト産業プラザ



Software Industry Plaza TEQS

<https://teqs.jp/en/>

This is a business support base established by Osaka City for businesses that utilize advanced technologies. We provide comprehensive support from business development to incubation and verification, including support for “creating” businesses through acceleration programs based in incubation facilities and support for “verifying” through demonstration experiments.

[Contact information]

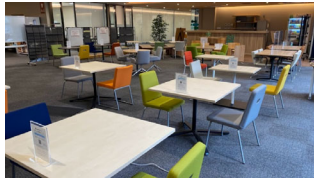
Osaka Business Development Agency

2-1-10 Nankokita, Suminoe-ku, Osaka

6th Floor, ATC Building, ITM Wing

TEL: 06-6615-1000 E-mail: <https://teqs.jp/contact/>

4-1 Innovation-related facilities < Kyoto >



KOIN (Kyoto Open Innovation Network)

<https://open.kyoto/>

This is a co-creation space for those ready to embark on a new journey. The “wisdom and technology of Kyoto” gathered here transcending fields and generations will help you take your first step towards a new beginning.

[Contact information]

Kyoto Chiesangyo Sozonomori
78 Kankobokocho, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto, 600-8009
3rd Floor, Kyoto Keizai Center
TEL: 075-353-2300
E-mail: <https://open.kyoto/contact/>



KRP (Kyoto Research Park)

<https://www.krp.co.jp/english/>

The KRP area is a major business hub made up of 18 buildings. It was established in 1989 and currently houses 510 companies and organizations, as well as 6,000 people. It provides an attractive place for people pursuing innovation to interact through its facilities, such as offices, rental laboratories, halls and meeting rooms, as well as a variety of events. It also provides one of the largest laboratory spaces in Kyoto.

[Contact information]

Business Promotion Department, Kyoto Research Park Co., Ltd.
134 Chudoji Minamimachi, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto, 600-8813
TEL: 075-315-9333
E-mail: service@krp.co.jp



KICK

(Keihanna Open Innovation Center @Kyoto)

<http://kick.kyoto/en/>

The Keihanna Open Innovation Center (KICK) is an open innovation hub managed by Kyoto Industrial Support Organization 21, which works in partnership with Kyoto Prefecture to promote advanced research and development in fields such as health and medicine, energy and ICT, agriculture, culture and education.

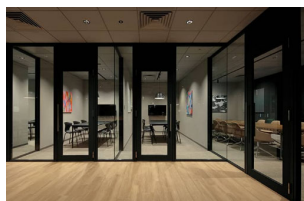
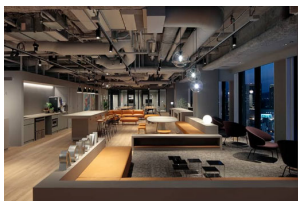
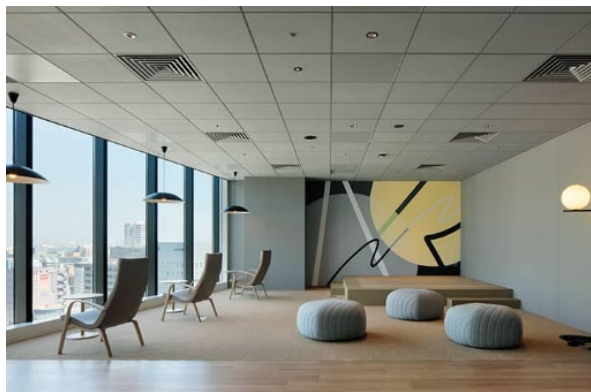
[Contact information]

Keihanna Open Innovation Center (KICK)
Kansai Science City (Seika-Nishikizu District, Kyoto), 619-0294
TEL: 0774-66-7545
E-mail: <http://kick.kyoto/contact/>

4-1 Innovation-related facilities < Kobe >

ANCHOR

K O B E



KiHO

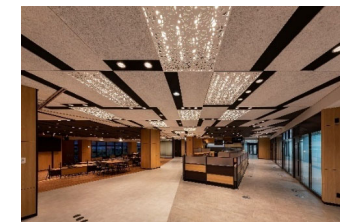
H Y O G O



SCL

スタートアップ・クリエイティブラボ

Startup Creative Lab



ANCHOR KOBE

<https://anchorkobe.com/>

Anchor Kobe is a community space where startups, companies, universities, researchers and local citizens can work together with a diverse range of people to give shape to their ideas and aspirations and create innovation.

[Contact information]

4-2-1 Kano-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe, 650-0001
15th Floor, Kobe Sannomiya Hankyu Building
TEL: 078-325-1414
E-mail: <https://anchorkobe.com/contact/>

Kobe-Hyogo innovation Port

<https://www.kigyoplaza-hyogo.jp/en/>

This is a startup support base equipped with a workspace and startup support functions. It is a place where new innovations are born and communities are fostered by bringing together diverse players such as startups, entrepreneurs, corporations, universities, and local governments.

[Contact information]

56 Naniwamachi, Chuo-ku, Kobe-shi, Hyogo, 650-0035
2nd Floor, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Kobe Headquarters Building
TEL: 078-862-5302
E-mail: <https://www.kigyoplaza-hyogo.jp/en/contact-english/>

Startup Creative Lab

<https://kobe-scl.com/en/>

This is an experimental laboratory for research and development startups specializing in the life sciences. We have a system in place to support the business promotion of seed and early-stage startups by providing both “a place where they can immerse themselves in research” and “funding and human resources”. By taking advantage of our location in the Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster which has grown into one of the largest biomedical clusters in Japan, we will foster an ecosystem in collaboration with medical companies and research facilities.

[Contact information]

Planning and Coordination Bureau, Kobe City, Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster
TEL: 078-322-6341 E-mail: kbic-contact@city.kobe.lg.jp

4-2 Diverse and unique coworking and workation spaces

Hyogo Prefecture

#mountains #nature

ROKKONOMAD



ROKKONOMAD

<https://rokkonomad.org/en/>

This facility can be used for company training retreats, as a workspace for people who want to concentrate on their work, or as an office for those who wish to work from a mountaintop.

[Contact information]

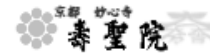
1878-48 Nishitaniyama, Rokkosan-cho, Nada-ku, Kobe-shi,
Hyogo Prefecture
TEL: 078-891-0565

E-mail: <https://rokkonomad.org/contact>

Kyoto Prefecture

#temple #japanese-style room

Jusho-in Temple



Jusho-in Temple

<http://www.jusyoin.com/event.html>

Jusho-in Temple is one of many sub-temples within Myoshinji Temple, the head temple of the Rinzai sect of Zen Buddhism. The newly built annex can be used as a working space, tea ceremony room, or for various events, based on the idea that it should be a place where people can try something new. If you would like to use the main hall or book the whole temple, please feel free to contact us.

[Contact information]

44 Hanazono Myoshinji-cho, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto
TEL: 075-462-3905

E-mail: <http://www.jusyoin.com/contact.html>

Wakayama Prefecture

#airport #ocean

Office Cloud 9



Office Cloud 9

<https://officecloud9.com/>

We support users to enjoy a fulfilling workation experience by collaborating with Nanki-Shirahama Airport as a business base adjacent to the airport.

The facility offers a panoramic view of the airport runway and the Pacific Ocean, and is a wooden building that was built using locally-sourced Kishu timber, which gives it a warm, natural feel and is also environmentally friendly.

[Contact information]

Work Village Office Cloud 9
1622-1086 Saino, Shirahama-cho, Nishimuro-gun, Wakayama
TEL: 0739-33-2330

E-mail: <https://officecloud9.com/contact/>

4-2 Diverse and unique coworking and workation spaces

Fukui Prefecture

#design #manufacturing

**SABAE CREATIVE
COMMUNITY**

SCC



Shiga Prefecture

#castle town #lake

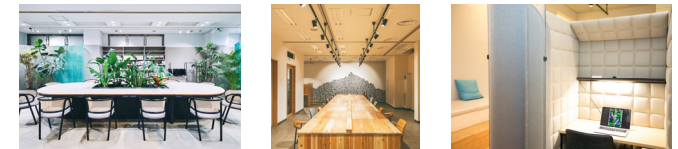
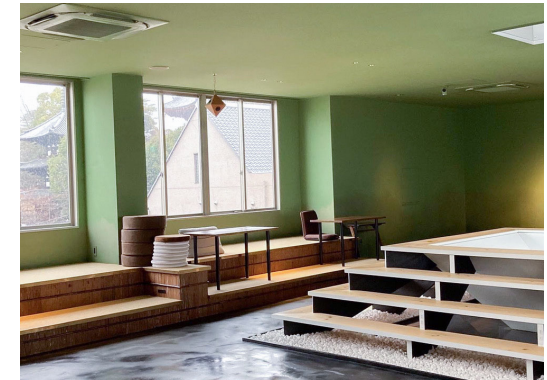
BIWAKO PICNIC BASE



Nara Prefecture

#ancient city #multi-facility

BONCHI



SABAE CREATIVE COMMUNITY

<https://sabae.cc/en/>

SCC connects Sabae-based companies with both Japanese and foreign creators providing a space for individual brands where they can appeal to consumers directly while enjoying the atmosphere of the interior. In addition, our multifunctional space and facilities can be freely used by designers and people from a variety of other professions.

[Contact information]

Sabae Chamber of Commerce and Industry
3-2-12 Honmachi, Sabae-shi, Fukui
1st Floor, Sabae Chamber of Commerce and Industry
TEL: 0778-51-2801
E-mail: yamada@sabaecci.or.jp

BIWAKO PICNIC BASE

<https://nagahama36.com/picnicbase/>

A coworking space with full facilities in a townhouse with a great atmosphere in the city center, not far from the Kurokabe Glass Museum. You can relax and work while enjoying the view of the elegant courtyard. The beautiful town of Nagahama on the shore of Lake Biwa is conveniently located just about an hour from Nagoya, Kyoto, and Osaka.

【Contact information】

7-5 Motohama-cho, Nagahama-shi, Shiga
TEL : 0749-65-3935
E-mail: info@nagahama36.com

BONCHI

<https://bonchi.fun/>

This business start-up support facility has various functions including a coworking space, rental meeting rooms, and a café. Each floor has a different kind of workspace, so you can choose how and where to spend your time depending on your mood. In addition, a social gathering is held once a month, which is open to non-members as well, providing a place where a diverse range of people can gather and connect. Drop-in use (no prior reservation required) is also available.

【Contact information】

General Incorporated Association TOMOSU
3-1, Hashimoto-cho, Nara-shi, Nara
TEL: 0742-27-1111 E-mail: <https://bonchi.fun/contact/>

5-1 MedTech Actuator LLC

Business Overview

- A startup support organization in the medical and healthcare sector, founded in Melbourne, Australia, in 2018.
- Established its first East Asian office in Osaka in October 2024.
- Provides non-profit support for the global expansion of startups through accelerator programs, assistance with participation in international pitch contests, and coordination with overseas medical institutions and investors.



Reasons for expanding into Kansai?



In Japan, particularly in the Kansai region, there is a wealth of outstanding medical startups. However, many face challenges in commercializing their innovations and achieving sustainable growth. To help address this issue, we decided to expand into the Japanese market. We chose Osaka as our base because we saw it as the perfect location **to build a visible and well-connected ecosystem.**

Especially in the medical field, seamless human connections are essential, and Osaka’s manageable size allows for smooth collaboration with various institutions. Moreover, the Kansai region, which includes cities like Kyoto and Kobe, boasts top-tier universities, research institutions, and medical facilities, making it a **hub for innovation.** Another major factor was the upcoming **EXPO2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.** With healthcare professionals from around the world expected to gather in Osaka, we believe that having a medical accelerator with deep knowledge of the Japanese market will play a vital role in driving global collaboration and innovation.

What are the attractions of Kansai?

The warmth and friendliness of the people. Even as a foreign company, we’ve never felt like outsiders. When we introduce ourselves as an organization supporting “superheroes in the medical field,” **people immediately connect with our mission.** Although we’ve only recently established our Japan office, we’ve already been featured in several newspapers, which has made us feel **genuinely welcomed in this environment.**



Public supports you utilized?

We took advantage of various public support services during the process of establishing our office.

- JETRO Osaka:** Access to temporary office space
introduction to English-speaking
tax accountants and CPAs
- O-BIC:** Introduction to legal professionals,
(administrative scriveners etc.)
- KECC:** Consultation on labor-related procedures
- Osaka Business Development Agency:** Support with recruitment



If we had done everything on our own, it would have taken a considerable amount of time. However, with these support, we managed to complete the process in just about two months.

Message

Finding a hub organization that can provide support early on is essential. Without the right supporters, making progress can be challenging, so it’s important to **take full advantage of the support available.** When establishing our Japan office, we carefully **evaluated various regions,** including Tokyo, Sendai, and Hiroshima. We believe that actual visiting different areas and building connections with public institutions and advisors in each region is a critical step toward successful expansion.



CEO Buzz Palmer

Company Overview

Company Name	MedTech Actuator LLC
Location	6-38 Ofukacho, Kita-ku, Osaka, JAM BASE 9th Floor (Grand Green Osaka North Tower)
Expansion Type	Initial Investment
Company Website	https://medtechactuator.com/

5-1 Wada FoodTech Co., Ltd.

Business Overview

- A startup established in Hong Kong in 2018, offering hot-chain bento vending machine services.
- In June 2023, the company established its Japanese subsidiary in Osaka.
- The company operates a "hot-chain" platform that keeps food at a warm temperature. Its self-developed hot-chain vending machines allow consumers to enjoy freshly heated bento in just 17 secs.
- By leveraging engineers from the Kansai region, the company is working to enhance automation solutions and aims to expand exports to other developed countries, with Osaka serving as its hub.



Reasons for expanding into Kansai?



We chose to expand into Kansai because we felt that its **startup culture was more conducive** to our business than other regions in Japan. The execution power and speed of people in Kansai are truly impressive, and we were strongly drawn to the region's unique environment, business atmosphere, and its people. Additionally, Osaka, as Japan's second-largest city, **has a large number of potential end-user in our target market**, making it the ideal region for our business. The **strong support from JETRO Osaka** was another key factor in our decision to expand into Kansai.

What are the attractions of Kansai?

One of the main attractions of Kansai is how **smoothly partnerships and client relationships develop**. Along with the friendly and approachable people, Osaka has a business culture rooted in "getting things done" and "delivering results." I found that the collaborative relationships here are both realistic and highly effective. Additionally, there seems to be a distinctive **Osaka Style** in terms of services and products. Another appealing aspect of Osaka is its **"perfect size."** It's neither too big nor too small, and the concentration of business partners and clients within easy reach makes relationship-building very convenient. Moreover, compared to Tokyo, the **cost of living is significantly lower**, which is another major benefit.



Public supports you utilized?

At **JETRO Osaka**, we were provided with a free **temporary office** before establishing our main office. While there, we started our business in Osaka while consulting with advisors. We also received guidance on how to connect with **administrative scriveners and tax accountant**. Given our limited resources and lack of local connections, the support we received with procedures and other practical matters was essential for us.



Message

When establishing a base, I believe there are **two key factors** to consider: The first is determining whether the region is **"suitable for your business"**. The second is assessing whether the **"the local temperament and culture align with the entrepreneur's lifestyle"**, which is just as important as the business considerations.



CEO Jason Chen

Company Profile

Company Name	Wada FoodTech Co., Ltd.
Location	8-47 Kakuda-cho, Kita-ku, Osaka City, Osaka Hankyu Grand Building, 26th Floor
Expansion Type	Initial Investment
Company Website	https://wadafoodtech.com/

5-3 QuantumScape Japan G.K.

Business Overview

A leading company in next-generation solid-state lithium-metal battery technology for electric vehicles, headquartered in San Jose, California. Offering solid-state lithium-metal batteries that enable faster charging, longer driving ranges, and enhanced safety compared to conventional lithium-ion batteries. In 2022, it established its first regional office in Kyoto. This office serves as a core function, including materials and equipment evaluation, improving collaboration with regional partners, and an R&D center.



Reasons for expanding into Kansai?



Local access to some of the most experienced battery scientists and collaboration with leading suppliers and research institutes, combined with the growing demand for battery electric vehicles throughout Asian markets, were compelling reasons for us to open our first office here.

Kyoto has a world-class talent pool and some of the best battery equipment and materials suppliers. Additionally, there is a strong public-private partnership in Kyoto, and these factors ultimately influenced our decision to establish a presence there.

What are the attractions of Kansai?

There are many suppliers and academia and it is physically close to leading figures in the battery field. Local presence in Japan has enhanced efficiency and accelerated interactions with key Japanese partner companies. Furthermore, having an office here has lowered the barrier for interacting with new Japan-based companies, enabling access to new technologies available in the Japanese market.



Public supports you utilized?

JETRO

- Business startup support (introducing labor and social security attorneys, real estate agencies, and recruitment agencies etc.)
- Information provision (market reports, incentive information)
- Meeting arrangements
- Rent subsidies



Message

Many companies having roots in technology and manufacturing in the Kansai area, many of which also hold strong positions in various industries. Kansai area has a welcoming atmosphere for foreign companies and a high spirit for innovation, allowing for productive collaborations. This is a wonderful area for global technology companies.



CEO Siva Sivaram

Company Profile

Company Name	QuantumScape Japan G.K.
Address	Kyoto Research Park, 134 Chudoji Minamicho Shimogyo-ku, KYOTO
Type of Presence	Primary investment
Website	https://www.quantumscape.com/

Information related to investment in Japan

Incentives and Support for Foreign and Foreign-Affiliated Companies in Japan

This program offers support for feasibility studies on business opportunities in Japan for foreign and foreign-affiliated companies (Subsidy for Projects to stimulate direct investment in Japan).



Purpose	The program aims to support the introduction and expansion of innovative technologies and business models by foreign and foreign-affiliated companies in Japan. It provides subsidies for feasibility studies related to investment, business expansion, and collaboration with Japanese companies.		
Details	Target Companies	1. Foreign-affiliated companies in Japan: Either independently or in collaboration with Japanese companies or research institutions. 2. Japanese companies: In collaboration with foreign companies or foreign-affiliated companies in Japan.	
	Target Fields	Projects that contribute to the introduction of technologies or business models in areas such as manufacturing, healthcare, green technologies, and other digital-related fields (mobility, fintech, wholesale/retail, etc.) in Japan, particularly emphasizing on semiconductors and microelectronics, life sciences, and decarbonization sectors.	
	Subsidy Amount and Maximum Limit	Up to ¥20 million per project (Small and medium-sized enterprises : Subsidy of up to 1/2 of eligible expenses, Large enterprises : Subsidy of up to 1/3 of eligible expenses).	
	Project Requirements	The foreign-affiliated company in Japan or the foreign collaboration partner of Japanese companies must have a project for investment, business expansion, or collaboration in Japan, and implementation of the project must promote the investment or creation of collaborative partnership projects in Japan.	
Details and latest information	(JETRO) Notice of Subsidy for Projects to Stimulate Direct Investment in Japan https://www.jetro.go.jp/invest/newsroom/2025/8afd0b792bf97c2d.html		
For Inquiries	Invest and Alliance Division, Innovation Department, JETRO TEL: +81-3-3582-5644		

Promotion content

【INVEST JAPAN, INVEST KANSAI】

https://www.kansai.meti.go.jp/3-1toukou/invest_kansai/en/e_index.html

You can get a wide range of information, including an overview of the Kansai economy, its extensive infrastructure and location, the concentration of universities, research institutes, and diverse industries, as well as support information from the major local governments in the region.

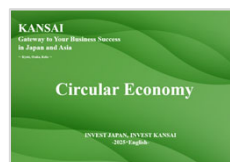


▲Booklet 2025ver.

【Separate Volume】



▲For Life Sciences



▲For Circular Economy



▲For Hydrogen



"WHY NOT DO YOUR BUSINESS IN KANSAI?"

- INVEST JAPAN, INVEST KANSAI -" is a video that introduces the attractions and strengths of Kansai as an investment environment.

5-minute video >> <https://youtu.be/ANH-z82Uqrs>

Short video >> <https://youtu.be/ET8MKZb4IFQ>



▲5-minute video



▲Short video



One-window support for investment in Kansai

INVEST KANSAI WEB



Contact information about this brochure

International Investment Promotion Division,
Kansai Bureau of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

Address: 1-5-44 Otemae, Chuo-ku, Osaka, 540-8535

TEL: 06-6966-6033

E-mail: bzi-invest-japan-kansai@meti.go.jp

URL: https://www.kansai.meti.go.jp/3-1toukou/invest_in_kansai/e_invest_kansai_english.html

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