

8-1 Creation of Innovation

- Efforts are underway to promote open innovation between overseas and Japanese companies including startups, such as through “Japan Innovation Bridge (J-Bridge)” and “International Innovation Conference Hack Osaka.”
- In Kansai, 1,387 innovation-driven companies are gathered, and there is an active collaboration among industry, academia, and government to build a thriving startup ecosystem. ※as of December 2022; “Kansai Venture Company List” by METI-Kansai

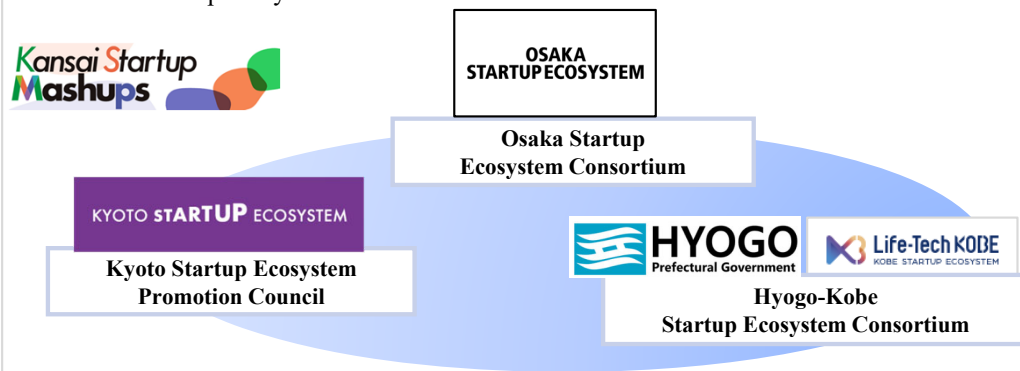
Various startup supports

Startup Ecosystem Global City (Keihanshin)

“Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo – Kobe Consortiums”

<https://www.starecokansai.com/>

On July 14, 2020, Kansai was designated a "Global Hub City" under the Cabinet Office's "Strategy for Creating a Globally Competitive Startup Ecosystems." With national support, Kansai will harness its strengths, particularly in the life sciences sector, to build a world-class startup ecosystem.



J-Startup KANSAI ~"J-Startup" Kansai Edition - Startup Support Program~

<https://next-innovation.go.jp/j-startup-kansai/>

J-Startup
KANSAI

This program selects promising startups from Kansai as role models and creates a system to support entrepreneurs through regional collaboration. Strong partnerships between public institutions and private companies offer intensive support to help startups achieve rapid growth.

Number of selected companies **75** (as of August 2024)

J-BRIDGE



Organizer Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

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

Outline

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).

J-GoodTech



Organizer Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, JAPAN (SME SUPPORT JAPAN)

URL <https://jgoodtech.smri.go.jp/pub/en/>

Outline

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.

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.kansaidovukai.or.jp/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/18079df6c390a296c83ef268578cf9f9f.pdf>



8-2 Main Business Matching & Pitch Events in Kansai

Global Innovation Forum Osaka (GIF)



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

Outline 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. 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.



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

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)



<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 A three-month support program for start-up companies in Japan and overseas. 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.



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

IVS2025 KYOTO

Organizer IVS KYOTO Executive Committee
(Headline Japan / Kyoto Prefecture / Kyoto City)

Outline 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.



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

「NEXT KITCHEN」

Organizer Hyogo Prefecture/Kobe City/JETRO
(Powered by Innovation Dojo Japan LLC)

Outline 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.
* Program content may change depending on the year.



<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 Deep Tech 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.

