

Kansai EP forms the key link in the chain of dynamic developments transforming Kansai into an ever more vibrant, socially responsive community.



Playing a keynote role in the physical and social development of the Kansai region

FM CO•CO•LO

Kobe Office

Ambitious Projects of Major Scale

For centuries the Kansai region has served as the pillar supporting the prosperous flourishing of the Japanese economy, in sectors spanning from manufacturing to services. Today the nation's aspirations remain focused on this bustling zone to serve as the driving force of Japan's growth and development in the 21st century, and to respond to that call Kansai is currently setting down new foundations for its dynamic expansion in the coming years. Those foundations include a number of new initiatives of major scale, illustrated by a trio of projects offering exciting prospects for the future.

The first project is the development of "Kansai Science City," currently under construction on 15,000 hectares of rolling hills spanning Kyoto, Osaka and

Nara prefectures. The City is a national project that aims to apply Kansai's rich cultural, academic and scientific strengths to forge a new creative launching ground on international scale appropriate for the 21st century. Facilities are to include not only universities and corporate research centers, but also residential and community amenities to support the lives of those who will work and reside here.

The second mammoth project under way in Kansai is Kansai International Airport. Opened in 1994, the airport is the world's first facility of its scale built on a man-made islet and Japan's first airport operating round-the-clock. The underlying aim behind the project is to develop the airport into an international hub serving the entire Asia-Pacific region, as a means of bringing unprecedented vitality to Kansai. Currently the

airport is in Phase II of construction, to ward the inauguration of a second run way in 2007.

The third large-scale work in progress in Kansai is the Bay Area Development Project, the objective of which is to make effective use of land along Osaka Bay, turning idle or undeveloped properties into sophisticated and attractive urban and residential facilities suited to a world-class metropolis. In tandem with this project, Universal Studios Japan opened here in March 2001. The new theme park has generated a phenomenal response exceeding all projections, attracting more than 10 million visitors during its first year in operation.

Kansai EP is also playing a proactive role in initiatives designed to draw new businesses, both domestic and foreign,

to the Kansai region as a way of contributing to its sustained development and prosperity.

Close Community Rapport

Kansai is home to large numbers of non-Japanese, and to meet their needs as well as prepare for even greater internationalization of the region during the 21st century, a host of amenities are being developed. One example is FM CO•CO•LO, Japan's first multilingual FM radio station. Operated by dedicated volunteers with financial support from Kansai EP and other corporate sponsors, the station provides a broad array of programming — from news and entertainment to language lessons and emergency information — in a kaleidoscope of languages.

Kansai EP is also active in operations

that cater to the special needs of or provide employment opportunities to the physically and mentally handicapped.

In these various ways, through national projects, nurturing of new industries and a colorful palette of undertakings in support of the evolving needs of local citizens, Kansai EP today is contributing on broad fronts to the ongoing development of its home region.