

Putting difficult times behind with a forward-looking stance for the brand-new century



The Asia and Pacific Trade Center (ATC)/
The Osaka World Trade Center (WTC).
An office and commercial complex located
in the Nanko district of Osaka.

As Kansai swiftly regains its economic vitality, Kansai EP forms the vital link between drawing-board aspirations and nuts-and-bolts accomplishments.

Ambitious Projects of National Scale

The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of January 1995 caused immeasurable physical devastation in Kansai, but by no means dampened the spirit for which the region has always been known. Today that spirit is reflected in dynamic new projects of national scale and importance. Together they are setting new foundations for the region's dynamic growth in the 21st century.

One project which is quickly becoming a new landmark, and source of pride, of the region is "Kansai Science City." A cooperative undertaking by industry, academia and government at both the local and national levels, Kansai Science City is being developed as a hub for cultural, scholastic and state-of-the-art scientific endeavors of international scope and scale. The

project involves the creation, on 15,000 hectares of scenic hilly terrain spanning across Kyoto, Osaka and Nara prefectures, of a vibrant and ultramodern city with a target population exceeding 380,000. Facilities are to include not only universities and corporate research centers, but also the residential and community support facilities for those who will work and live here.

Another comprehensive undertaking which is transforming the face of Kansai is the "Bay Area Development" project. Located on a vast tract of land along Osaka Bay, the project zone is designed to provide the sophisticated office buildings and other commercial facilities appropriate to a truly international megalopolis. In

tandem with the project, a famed theme park, Universal Studios Japan is also under construction here. Once in place, these various new amenities are expected to draw increasingly more visitors to Kansai from throughout Japan and the entire Asian region.

Enterprising Initiatives

Even long before the days when "business" became a global buzz-word, the Kansai region was already known as the commercial capital of Japan. The region has traditionally thrived on its enterprising spirit, the business acumen of its independent-minded entrepreneurs, and the hard-driving demands of its citizens. Today that tradition is reflected in an impressive list of enterprises and services that trace their origins to Kansai. Among the industries for which Kansai has garnered fame are home appliances and pharmaceuticals. But today these represent only two facets of an expanding palette that runs the gamut from advanced information-based home electronics to the latest in biotechnology.

A Truly International Environment

Kansai has long been home, permanent or temporary, to large numbers of non-Japanese. In particular the region enjoys unusually strong ties with the nations of Asia that trace back deep into the area's history, and significant communities from Asian backgrounds continue to live and work in a highly international environment. Moreover, because this trend towards a truly internationalized local society is expected to become even more pronounced during the 21st

The Keihanna Plaza at Kansai Science City.
A new national library is currently under construction on adjacent property.



century, the region is giving birth to facilities of all kinds to support their needs.

As one modest example, Kansai is host to 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—everything from news and entertainment to language lessons and emergency information—in a remarkable array of languages.

In all aspects—from national projects to commercial development, to the enhancement of the region's international community—Kansai EP provides the vital link that enables Kansai's diverse and ambitious aspirations to be transformed to resounding, tangible accomplishments.



FM CO•CO•LO,
a new format in FM broadcasting.
Programs are conducted
by volunteer native speakers
from around the world in their
native languages.