Developments in Kansai

Serving in a major supporting role in the Kansai area's dynamic development

Ambitious Projects of Major Scale

For centuries the Kansai region has served as the pillar supporting the pros perous flourishing of the Japanese econ omy, in sectors spanning from manufac turing to services. Today the nation's aspirations remain focused on this bustling zone to serve as the driv ing 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 founda tions include a number of new ini tiatives 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 un der 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. Facili ties 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 Air port. 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 underly ing aim behind the project is to develop the airport into an international hub serv ing the entire Asia-Pacific region, as a means of bringing unprecedented vitality to Kansai. Currently the airport is in Phase II of construction, toward the inauguration of a second run

way in 2007.

The third large-scale work in progress in Kan sai is the Bay Area Develop ment Project, the objective of which is to make effective use of land along Osaka Bay, turning idle or undeveloped properties into sophis ticated and attractive urban and resi dential 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 ex ceeding all projections, attracting more than 10 million visitors during its first year in operation.

Besides supporting dynamic projects like these as the leading power supplier to the region, Kansai EP is playing a proactive role in initiatives designed to draw new businesses, both domestic and foreign, to Kansai as a way of con tributing to its sustained development and prosperity.

Close Community Rapport

Kansai is home to large numbers of





Kansai EP provides invaluable support to projects and initiatives transforming Kansai into an ever more vibrant and people-friendly region.

FM CO·CO·LO

non-Japanese, and to meet their needs as well as prepare for even greater inter nationalization of the region during the 21st century, a host of amenities are be ing developed. One example is FM CO·CO·LO, Japan's first multilingual FM ratio station. Operated by dedica ted 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 ka leidoscope of languages.

Kansai EP is also active in operations that cater to the special needs of or pro

vide employment opportunities to the physically and mentally handicapped.

In these various ways, through na tional projects, nurturing of new indus tries and a colorful palette of undertak ings in support of the evolving needs of local citizens, Kansai EP today is con tributing on broad fronts to the ongoing development of its home region.



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