

Business Partner City (BPC) Roundtable 2025 in Osaka Report



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Overview of BPC Roundtable 2025 in Osaka

The City of Osaka and the Osaka Business Partner City Council held the Business Partner City (BPC) Roundtable 2025 at the Hotel New Otani Osaka on Thursday, September 25, 2025. At the conference, representatives from the BPCs gathered under the theme “The Role and Challenges of Cities Toward a Sustainable Future” to present their environmental initiatives and challenges and exchange views on future strategies and directions. As part of the Expo Theme Week Connect program linked to the Theme Week “The Future of Earth and Biodiversity,” the Roundtable focused on key topics including the realization of a decarbonized society, the expansion of renewable energy, the promotion of a circular economy, and the strengthening of urban resilience through green infrastructure. The discussions concluded with the adoption of a joint statement reaffirming the participating cities’ commitment to decarbonization and sustainability.

As part of the concurrent program, a networking luncheon was held, followed by a company and facility tour after the conference concluded. Participants visited the Chikko Plant of Kanadevia Corporation, one of Osaka City’s leading environmental companies. During the visit, participants were introduced to the company’s Power to Gas business and toured its hydrogen generation and methanation facilities, gaining insight into Kanadevia’s ongoing commercialization efforts, production technology development, and service business creation.

In the evening, a networking reception was held at the Hotel New Otani Osaka. Approximately 100 attendees, including BPC roundtable delegates, representatives from diplomatic missions, economic organizations and business mission delegates from the BPCs gathered to network and exchange information.

On Friday, September 26th, we conducted a tour to the Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025. At the site, the BPC representatives signed the guestbook at the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion and participated in the Reborn Challenge, deepening their understanding of Osaka’s future healthcare initiatives and its vision for urban living. They also visited the Mitsubishi Pavilion, France Pavilion, United States Pavilion, and France pavilion, gaining insight into each country's initiatives and approaches toward realizing the Expo theme, "Designing Future Society For Our Lives."



Osaka Business Partner City Council

Overall Schedule of BPC Roundtable 2025 in Osaka

September 25 (Thu), 2025

9:00-12:30	<u>BPC Roundtable Conference (Morning Session)</u>
	9:15 Opening Roundtable
	Opening Remarks by Osaka City Government
	9:20-9:25 Ceremonial Group Photo
	9:25-9:35 Thematic Introduction
	9:35-11:00 Panel Session I <i>“Responding to Climate Change and Achieving a Decarbonized Society”</i>
	Presentations by BPC representatives from <u>city governments / government-related organizations</u> (6 minutes per presentation), followed by a 30-minute discussion
	11:10-12:15 Panel Session II <i>“Minimizing Environmental Impact through Innovation and Achieving a Circular Economy”</i>
	Presentations by BPC representatives from <u>chambers of commerce, economic organizations, and private companies</u> (6 minutes per presentation), followed by a 30-minute discussion
12:30-13:30	<u>Networking Luncheon</u>
	Venue SATSUKI, 1 st Floor, Hotel New Otani Osaka
13:45-14:25	<u>BPC Roundtable Conference (Afternoon Session)</u>
	13:45-14:15 Panel Session III <i>“Collaboration and Cooperation to Solve Urban Challenges”</i>
	Moderator-led discussion and overall summary
14:30-17:30	<u>Company Visit / Facility Tour</u>
	Venue Kanadevia Corporation, Chikkou Works
	Program Hydrogen generation systems, methanation equipment etc. (Power-to-Gas projects)
18:30-20:00	<u>BPC Networking Reception</u>
	Venue The Hō II, 2 nd Floor, Hotel New Otani Osaka
	Attendees BPC Roundtable participants, Osaka City Officials, business mission delegates from BPC cities, officials from foreign diplomatic offices and economic organizations located in Osaka etc.

September 26 (Fri), 2025

9:00-13:30	<u>Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025 Tour</u>
	Venue Expo Site, Yumeshima, Osaka
	Attendees BPC Roundtable participants
	Program Osaka Healthcare Pavilion, Mitsubishi Mirai Pavilion
Afternoon	Free Time

Report of BPC Roundtable Conference

The City of Osaka and the Osaka Business Partner City Council held the Business Partner City (BPC) Roundtable 2025 at the Hotel New Otani Osaka on Thursday, September 25, 2025. At the conference, representatives from the BPCs gathered under the theme “The Role and Challenges of Cities Toward a Sustainable Future” to present their environmental initiatives and challenges and exchange views on future strategies and directions. As part of the Expo Theme Week Connect program linked to the Theme Week “The Future of Earth and Biodiversity,” the Roundtable focused on key topics including the realization of a decarbonized society, the expansion of renewable energy, the promotion of a circular economy, and the strengthening of urban resilience through green infrastructure. The discussions concluded with the adoption of a joint statement reaffirming the participating cities’ commitment to decarbonization and sustainability.

Date: September 25th (Thu), 2025 9:00~14:25
Venue: The Hō S, 2nd floor, Hotel New Otani Osaka
Organizers: City of Osaka, Osaka Business Partner City Council
Theme: The Role and Challenges of Cities Toward a Sustainable Future
Moderator: Dr. Shunichi Honda, Programme Management Officer, The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC)

Participant List

	City	Organization	Department/Title	Name
1	Hong Kong	Hong Kong Trade Development Council	Director, Osaka Office	Mr. Ricky Fong
			Assistant Marketing Manager	Ms. Mutsumi Kitayama
2	Kuala Lumpur	Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia	Director General, National Landscape Department	Mr. Mansor bin Mohamad
		Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE)	Deputy Director / Assistant Trade Commissioner, MATRADE Tokyo Office	Mr. Mohd Hafizi Yusoff
3	Manila	Republic of the Philippines	Special Envoy of the President to Japan for Business and Investment Promotion	Dr. Reghis M. Romero II
		Department of Trade & Industry Philippines, Foreign Trade Service Corps	Commercial Counsellor & Director	Mr. Michael Alfred V. Ignacio
4	Shanghai	Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce	Shanghai Foreign Investment Development Board, Japan Representative	Mr. Quan Wenhao
5	Ho Chi Minh City	People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City	Vice Chairman	Mr. Bui Minh Thanh
			Deputy Director, Department of Industry and Trade	Mr. Nguyen Truong Thi
6	Melbourne	City of Melbourne	Lord Mayor	Mr. Nicholas Reece
			Councillor	Mr. Kevin Louey
			Councillor	Ms. Gladys Liu
		Australian Industry Group	General Manager, International Competitiveness	Ms. Shirley Ng
7	Tianjin	Tianjin Municipal Commission of Commerce	Japan Office Representative, XEDA Japan Office	Mr. Peng Mu
8	Hamburg	Hamburg Chamber of Commerce	Chief Representative, Hamburg Liaison Office China	Mr. Lars Anke
9	Osaka	The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC)	Programme Management Officer	Dr. Shunichi Honda
			Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Director, International Division
		Osaka City Government	Mayor of Osaka	Mr. Hideyuki Yokoyama
			Director General, Economic Strategy Bureau Chairman, Osaka Business Partner City Council	Mr. Keiji Okamoto
			Director General for Economic Strategy Bureau	Ms. Aya Wada
			Director for Business and International Promotion Division, Economic Strategy Bureau	Ms. Mihoko Arai
			Manager for International Relations, Business and International Promotion Division, Economic Strategy Bureau	Mr. Tatsuya Tamai
			Manager for International Relations, Business and International Promotion Division, Economic Strategy Bureau	Mr. Masafumi Oono
			Director for Environmental Policy Division, Environment Bureau	Mr. Yuzo Kawai
		Osaka Business Partner City (BPC) Council (Secretariat)	Executive Director, Osaka Business Partner City Council	Mr. Motoharu Saraya
			Senior Executive Director, Osaka International Business Promotion Center	Mr. Kenjiro Mori
			Secretary General, Osaka Business Partner City Council	
		Director, International Affairs Department, Osaka International Business Promotion Center		

Opening



Opening Remarks
Mr. Hideyuki Yokoyama
Mayor of Osaka Hideyuki



Thematic Introduction (Panel Session Moderator)
Dr. Shunichi Honda, Programme Management Officer,
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) International Environmental
Technology Centre (IETC)

Panel Session I

Panel Session I, themed “Addressing Climate Change and Achieving a Decarbonized Society,” focused on how cities are responding to climate change and working toward a carbon-neutral society. BPC representatives from city governments and government-related organizations introduced their policies, strategies, and case studies, followed by an in-depth discussion.



Presentation 1
Mr. Hideyuki Yokoyama
Mayor of Osaka Hideyuki
“Osaka’s Business Environment and Initiatives Toward a Decarbonized Society”



Presentation 2
Mr. Ricky Fong
Director Osaka Office
Hong Kong Trade Development Council
“Responding to Climate Change and Achieving a Decarbonized Society”



Presentation 3
Mr. Manson bin Mohamad
Director General, National Landscape Department
Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia
“Malaysia’s Green Contribution to Global Sustainability”
Representing the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE)



Presentation 4

Mr. Quan Wenhao

Japan Representative, Shanghai Foreign Investment Development Board
Representative Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce

“Green, Environmental Protection, Low-Carbon, Energy Conservation and Emissions Reduction Measures”



Presentation 5

Councillor Kevin Louey

City of Melbourne

“Responding to Climate Change and Achieving a Decarbonized Society”



Presentation 6

Mr. Peng Mu

Japan Office Representative, XEDA Japan Office

Tianjin Municipal Commission of Commerce

“Green Transition & International Cooperation”



Presentation 7

Mr. Nguyen Truong Thi

Deputy Director, Department of Industry and Trade

People’s Committee of Ho Chi Minh City

“Ho Chi Minh City – A New Space for Sustainable Development”

Discussion Panel Session I



Panel Session II

Panel Session II, themed “Minimizing Environmental Impact through Innovation and Achieving a Circular Economy,” focused on how innovation can minimize environmental impact and promote a circular economy. BPC representatives from chambers of commerce and economic organizations introduced private sector initiatives, policies, and case studies for economically sustainable business models, followed by an in-depth discussion.



Presentation 8

Dr. Reghis M. Romero II

Special Envoy of the President to Japan for Business and Investment Promotion
Republic of the Philippines

“Transitioning from Linear to Circular Economies – Effective Models for Waste Management: The Manila Waste-to-Energy Project”

Representing the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Philippines



Presentation 9

Ms. Shirley Ng

General Manager, International Competitiveness
Australian Industry Group

“Australia’s Approach to Circular Economy Adoption”



Presentation 10

Mr. Lars Anke

Chief Representative, Hamburg Liaison Office China
Hamburg Chamber of Commerce

“Circular Economy in Hamburg/Northern Germany”



Presentation 11

Mr. Takayoshi Negoro

Director, International Division
Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

“AJB Platform and SDGs & ESG Business Platform”

Discussion Panel Session II



Panel Session III

In Panel Session III, themed “Collaboration and Cooperation to Solve Urban Challenges,” participants reflected on the presentations and discussions from Panel Sessions I and II, discussed potential collaboration and cooperation among BPC cities, and shared ideas on feasible actions that could drive meaningful environmental change.



Closing



Joint Declaration

Mr. Keiji Okamoto
Director General, Economic Strategy Bureau
Chairman, Osaka Business Partner City Council

To conclude the BPC Roundtable, the participating cities agreed on a Joint Declaration on Decarbonization and Sustainability stating that *“each BPC city and partner organizations will collaborate together in resolving common challenges through business initiatives.”*



Announcement of Next Year's BPC Roundtable

Mr. Bui Minh Thanh
Vice Chairman
People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City

Announcement of the BPC Roundtable 2026 to be held in Ho Chi Minh City.

Networking Luncheon

Event Name	Networking Luncheon
Date & Time	September 25, 2025 (Thu) 12:30~13:30
Venue	SATSUKI, Hotel New Otani Osaka
Participants	BPC Roundtable participants

Company Visit / Facility Tour

As part of the concurrent program, we conducted a company and facility tour to the Chikkou Works location of Kanadevia Corporation, one of Osaka's leading environmental companies. During the visit, participants were introduced to the company's Power to Gas business and toured the hydrogen generation and methanation facilities, gaining insight into Kanadevia's ongoing commercialization efforts, production technology development, and service business creation.

Date & Time	September 25, 2025 (Thu) 14:30~17:30
Venue	Kanadevia Corporation, Chikkou Works (Taisho Ward, Osaka City)
Participants	BPC Roundtable participants, secretariat (24 persons in total)
Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Hydrogen generation system○ Methanation facility PtG SQUARE (methanation demo plant) etc.



BPC Networking and Welcome Reception

In the evening, a networking reception was held at the Hotel New Otani Osaka. Approximately 100 attendees, including BPC roundtable delegates, representatives from diplomatic missions, economic organizations and business mission delegates from the BPCs gathered to network and exchange information.

Event Name	BPC Networking and Welcome Reception
Date & Time	September 25, 2025 (Thu) 18:30~20:00
Venue	The Hō II, Hotel New Otani Osaka
Organizers	City of Osaka, Osaka Business Partner City Council
Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ MC: Economic Strategy Bureau, City of Osaka▪ Opening Remarks: Mr. Hideyuki Yokoyama, Mayor of Osaka▪ Remarks by Guest of Honor: Mr. Nicholas Reece, Lord Mayor of Melbourne

Osaka Business Partner City Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Toast: Ms. Kyoko Hirose, Vice-Chair, Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry ▪ Closing
Participants	BPC Roundtable participants, business mission delegates from BPC cities, officials from foreign diplomatic offices and economic organizations located in Osaka etc. (approx. 100 persons)



Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025 Tour

On Friday, September 26th, we conducted a tour to the Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025. At the site, the BPC representatives signed the guestbook at the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion and participated in the Reborn Challenge, deepening their understanding of Osaka's future healthcare initiatives and its vision for urban living. They also visited the Mitsubishi Pavilion, France Pavilion, United States Pavilion, and France pavilion, gaining insight into each country's initiatives and approaches toward realizing the Expo theme, "Designing Future Society For Our Lives."

Event Name	Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025 Tour
Date & Time	September 26, 2025 (Fri) 9:00~13:30
Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Osaka Healthcare Pavilion ~ Reborn Challenge ○ Mitsubishi Pavilion ○ France Pavilion ○ United States Pavilion ○ China Pavilion
Participants	BPC Roundtable participants, secretariat (14 persons in total)

