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Contact:
Ayumi OKAMOTO
Public Relations and Advertising Group
E-mail: okamotoa@expo2005.or.jp

Number of Official Participants Hits 100: The Meeting of Commissioners General of Section to Be Held in Autumn

The 2005 World Exposition will be held for 185 days from March 25 to September 25, 2005, in Aichi Prefecture, central Japan. The theme of the first World Exposition of the twenty-first century, is "Nature's Wisdom." Countries from the four corners of the world, international organizations, global citizens, and nonprofit organizations will join together to work toward the sustainable coexistence of nature and humankind. Through a wide variety of exchange, people from around the world will seek solutions to the common problems faced by humankind in the twenty-first century and will draw up and propose models for the global community.

The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs notified the Japan Association for the 2005 World Exposition on May 28 that it had received an official announcement of participation in EXPO 2005 from the Republic of Croatia. This took the number of official participants to 100 (93 countries and 7 international organizations). Of the countries, 23 are from Asia, 17 from Europe, 28 from Africa, 14 from North and South America, 8 from the Russian Federation and Newly Independent States, and 3 from Oceania.

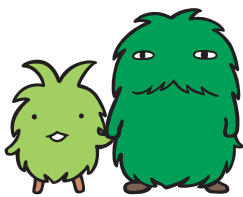
EXPO 2005 Timeline:

2001

- March 30 The Japanese Government begins inviting 188 countries and 78 international organizations to take part in EXPO 2005.
- April 19 The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (based in Montreal) becomes the first organization to officially announce its participation.
- May 2 Canada becomes the first country to officially announce its participation.

2003

- April 4 The Kingdom of Morocco officially announces its participation, bringing the number of participating countries to 83. This is the



Japan Association for the 2005 World Exposition

Tokyo Office
Iino Bldg 7F, 2-1-1 Uchisaiwai-cho
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0011, Japan
Tel. +81-3-5521-1620 Fax. +81-3-5521-1607
URL : <http://www.expo2005.or.jp/en/top/>

largest number of participating countries ever for a World Exposition held in Japan.

May 27 The Republic of Croatia officially announces its participation, bringing the number of official participants to 100.

Harumi Sakamoto, Secretary-General of the Japan Association for the 2005 World Exposition commented on May 28: "We are currently working to promote the involvement of a wide range of parties, including countries and international organizations as official participants, as well as corporations, nonprofit organizations, and citizens, so that EXPO 2005 will be a venue for grand global communication befitting its status as the first World Exposition of the new century. Today marks the achievement of one of our goals, that of attracting 100 official participants. We are delighted at this achievement, which will provide fresh impetus in making EXPO 2005 a success. Looking to the future, the first meeting of the Commissioners General of Section will be held this autumn, and the association is determined to work closely with official participants to make the Exposition as attractive as possible."