



September 16, 2005
Japan Association for the 2005 World Exposition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Statement by Expo Association Secretary General Toshio Nakamura on
Reaching a Cumulative Total of 20 Million Visitors**

At around 5:50 p.m. this evening, the total number of visitors to EXPO 2005 reached 20 million.

That the number of visitors topped the 20 million mark just one month after reaching the initial target figure of 15 million on August 18 reflects, I believe, the fact that a great many people are harboring even higher interest in and expectations of EXPO 2005. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to each one of them.

Average daily attendance in September has been around 190,000. On September 10, moreover, a new single-day record was set when some 250,000 people passed through our gates. That no major accidents have been reported thus far is due to the support and cooperation we have received from all concerned in Expo operations, and I deeply appreciate everyone's efforts.

There are nine remaining days until closing day. Operations to ensure a safe and enjoyable Expo will become even more important in this closing period. We will continue to do our utmost with the hope that the final day of the Expo will become the very best, and I look forward to your continued warm support and cooperation in the remaining few days.