

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2005

**Comment by Expo Association Secretary General Toshio Nakamura at
the Closing Day Press Conference**

Today is the 185th and final day of EXPO 2005, and there are now just a few hours left before the Expo comes to a close. The Closing Ceremony was held earlier today with the attendance of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Just a little while ago, the total number of visitors exceeded the 22 million mark. We have been blessed with very strong attendance figures, and quite fortunately there have been no major accidents in spite of the large crowds. This is due, I believe, to the support we have received from everyone involved.

After the Closing Ceremony, the Crown Prince visited the operations room and the Association office. He conversed with and offered words of appreciation to the volunteers working at the Expo site, participating citizens, the on-site first-aid team, and Association officials.

During the Expo we endeavored to offer proposals that would lead to new initiatives and prompt new action on global environmental issues. And I believe that such endeavors will continue to be necessary even after the Expo comes to a close.

Our experience in Aichi has reconfirmed the fact World Expositions continue to have great international significance. I have been honored with very generous praise from the BIE. I thank you very much for 185 wonderful days.