

February 7, 2025

## **63rd Kansai Economic and Management Summit Organizers' Declaration**

As EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan rapidly approaches, we are called upon to provide a bright future for the generations who will lead our world tomorrow, and to plot a course toward growth that leverages the EXPO as a springboard.

Looking at the world at large, we see an international community that is becoming more complex and multipolarized due to protracted conflicts, changes in the leadership of major countries, and other pressures, while being confronted with global concerns such as climate change. And, in this, the 30th year since the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, both the public and private sectors need to work together to prepare for major natural disasters by re-examining the problems faced and stepping up efforts to address them.

We, as business leaders, will take these and other challenges head on as we pursue the following actions for making 2025 “Year One of Designing a Future Society” and a year that will spread its wings from here in Kansai.

- We will seek to bring forth a “Future Society for Our Lives” by rapidly deploying in the real world the technologies and ideas showcased at EXPO 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, and by constructing a sustainable framework for industry, government, and academia to combine forces to realize initiatives such as a strategy for promoting tourism across the Kansai region.
- During the transition to a circular economy, we will contribute to climate change actions and the protection of biodiversity, and endeavor to realize a resource-autonomous economy and high-quality lifestyles. Together with the public sector we will collaborate in rulemaking, encourage consumers to transform their behavior, and share with the world a Japanese-style circular economy.
- Amid the shrinking of the working-age population, the economy and society are being dealt a heavy blow by decreased productivity and a growing number of people leaving their jobs due to a mismatch between their expectations and reality. While taking into account the ongoing shift in attitudes toward work, we will collaborate with universities and students to create talent development

programs that will enable youths to take on active roles in society as tomorrow's leaders.

- Natural disasters have been growing in severity and frequency in recent years. The experiences and lessons gained from past disasters must be put to use going forward. We will work together with local governments on a regular basis to address and prepare for natural disasters in terms of self-help, mutual aid, and public assistance, with the aim of protecting people's lives and facilitating a speedy return to normality following disasters.
- Shifts in the political landscape of major countries are driving a need to rethink the global economic environment. Meanwhile, the path to cessation of conflicts around the world is fraught with difficulty. We will make our businesses more resilient by preparing for the rise of economic nationalism, remaining attuned to changes in the international milieu, and redesigning our supply chains.
- Going forward, cities need to break away from their dependence on the traditional economic system of mass production, mass consumption, and mass waste, and move toward standards of value that embrace sustainability. We will build an urban business ecosystem designed in a way that economic value is increased by social value.