

SDGs Initiatives at the Kobe International Conference Center and Exhibition Halls

The Kobe International Conference Center and Exhibition Halls serve as the cornerstone of The Kobe Convention Center, Japan's first convention precinct established in 1981 as part of the Portopia '81 Expo.

In 1982, Kobe City declared itself Japan's first Convention City, and in 2013, it earned the distinction of being selected as a Global MICE City by the Japan National Tourism Organization.

As the core MICE facilities in Kobe, several initiatives are in place to contribute to the creation of a sustainable and improved society in line with the SDGs.



Our efforts in realizing a sustainable society, focus on three core pillars:

1. A Safe and Secure Society
2. Consideration for the Global Environment
3. Regional Contribution

1. A Safe and Secure Society

Promoting Inclusivity: Initiatives for a Universal Society

We actively promote barrier-free facilities, including multipurpose toilets (accessible for wheelchairs and ostomates), wheelchair rental services, ramps, and braille blocks, to ensure accessibility for everyone.



Our staff undergo training in universal etiquette, and we collaborate with accessible taxi services, and facilitate the entry of guide dogs and assistance dogs, to create a more inclusive environment.



We engage a significant number of disabled employees for tree pruning tasks, contributing to the social participation of individuals with disabilities.



During events, we collaborate with the Kobe City's *Kobe Senior Manpower Center* and *Kobe Senior Genki Point*, to support the social participation of the elderly through tasks such as guiding and material preparation.



Ensuring Safety through Crisis Management

We have established voluntary disaster prevention systems and crisis management manuals to effectively prepare for emergencies.



As part of our crisis management efforts, we conduct joint training with the police on measures against suspicious individuals and terrorism. Additionally, we organize firefighting drills and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) operation workshops, facilitating the acquisition of citizen lifesaver qualifications. AEDs are installed on all floors of our facility.



Designated as an emergency evacuation site for Kobe Central Ward in the event of a large-scale disaster, we maintain stockpiles of emergency supplies.



2. Consideration for the Global Environment

Measures to save energy and reduce CO₂ emissions

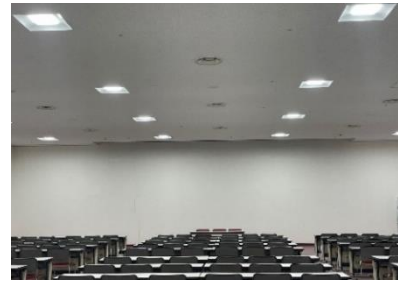
To counteract global warming, we purchase carbon credits annually from the Kobe City 'Kobe CO₂ Bank' to offset a portion of CO₂ emissions from electricity consumption at our facilities.



As part of the *Smart Community Technology Development Project Utilizing Hydrogen Cogeneration Systems*, a portion of the electricity at our facilities is provided by the Kobe Hydrogen Power Plant.



We promote energy-saving measures such as LED lighting and automated lighting systems for restrooms.



3. Environmental Considerations

Vending machines for beverages are installed based on energy consumption efficiency standards in line with the *Kobe City Green Procurement Policy*.



We prioritize purchasing green products, particularly office supplies. The copy paper used is certified under the *Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Scheme*.



For novelty goods and giveaways, such as disinfectant sheets, we use biodegradable non-woven fabric to contribute to reducing marine plastics. Additionally, staff business cards are made from an environmentally friendly material called LIMEX which is made from limestone. Every box of 100 cards saves 10 liters of water.



Efforts are made to reduce food loss by utilizing a pre-registration system (compatible with QR codes) for delegates to pre-order lunch boxes.



2. Regional Contribution

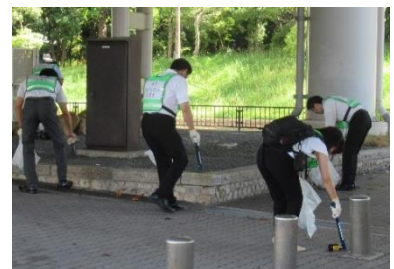
We collaborate with Kobe University through the Kobe University Value School (V School) program to host workshops that seek solutions to key issues facing the MICE industry.



In cooperation with the Kobe Port Island 4 University, a cooperative council set up between Kobe Gakuin University, Hyogo Medical University, Kobe Women's University, and Kobe Women's Junior College located on Port Island. We conduct cleanup activities of courses used for sports events on the island.



To contribute to local revitalization, we have established the Kobe Convention Center Council, consisting of nine organizations including surrounding hotels, transportation companies, PCOs and facility management companies. We are committed to improving the experience of MICE delegates through activities such as picking up rubbish around the convention center's train station and areas that surround the convention center.



We support the participation of local restaurants' food trucks during events.



We will support the organizers of academic conferences and other events in holding open seminars for the public.



As an independent initiative, we host and act as secretariat for the international convention *Techno-Ocean*. Focused on marine technology, this convention contributes to SDGs of the Sea through exhibitions and presentations on sustainable marine use and development, while also striving to promote understanding among the general public, especially the youth.



This information is current as of May 2024.