



Signing Ceremony in Osaka

Thursday 8 December 2022 at 18:15 – 18:45

Venue: Nara room, 3rd floor, Hilton Osaka

1. KINGDOM OF BELGIUM – THE JAPAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE 2025 WORLD EXPOSITION

➤ **BelExpo, the Belgian Commission General for International Exhibitions**

The Belgian Commission General for International Exhibitions, also known as BelExpo, is responsible for the Belgian participation in World Expos and other international exhibitions. The most recent projects completed by BelExpo include the Belgian participations in Expo 2020 Dubai and Floriade Expo 2022 in Almere.

BelExpo oversees the entire operation from beginning to end for each expo, under the guidance of a Commissioner General and a Deputy Commissioner, with the support of a Technical Committee and the Belgian federal and regional governments. When a project includes the construction of a full-fledged pavilion, we closely work with the Belgian governmental Building Agency.

Agreement to participate in Expo 2025 Osaka

Today, Thursday 8 December 2022, during the official Signing Ceremony in Osaka, the Belgian government will formally confirm its participation in the next World Expo, namely Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai.

The Belgian government in February 2022 officially accepted the invitation from the Japanese government to participate in Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai. BelExpo has been charged with the responsibility of organizing and coordinating the Belgian participation in Expo 2025 Osaka.

The Signing Ceremony also celebrates the collaboration between the two countries, Belgium and Japan for the coming project.

Signing Ceremony in Osaka

During today's signing ceremony, the official Participation Agreement will be signed between Belgium and the Japanese organizers of Expo 2025 Osaka. The Participation Agreement confirms and formalizes the participation of Belgium.

After the invitation of the Japanese government, directed to the Belgian government, and the acceptance of that invitation by our Minister of Economy, the signing of the Participation Agreement officially kicks off the Belgian participation.

The Belgian representatives that will be present in Osaka during the Signing Ceremony are Mr. Renaat Schrooten, Director General for Economic Analysis and International Economy of the FPS Economy, and Mr. Aldwin Dekkers, acting Commissioner-General of BelExpo. The Participation Agreement will be signed on behalf of Belgium by Mr. Schrooten who was appointed by BelExpo's Executive Committee as temporarily responsible for our participation



in Expo 2025 Osaka in anticipation of the appointment of a new Commissioner General for Expo 2025 Osaka.

Detailed Description of the Participation Agreement

The Participation Agreement is a mandatory and standard form for any official participant in Expo 2025 Osaka Kansai. The agreement stipulates in detail the period during which the expo will take place (13 April 2025 to 13 October 2025) and the exact location (the artificial island of Yumeshima in the bay of Osaka).

The Belgian government agrees by these means to respect and follow the theme that is stipulated for Expo 2025 Osaka: Designing Future Society for Our Lives. Belgium commits itself to the sub-theme: Saving Lives.

In the participation agreement, Belgium formally agrees to the conditions and guidelines put forward by the official organization in charge of Expo 2025 Osaka.

BelExpo, as the official representative to Expo 2025 of the Belgian federal and regional governments, dedicates itself to implementing the participation, overseeing the construction, and conceptualizing the pavilion by focusing on Belgium's strong/focus points on the subject of saving lives, all while following the guidelines provided by the Japanese organization of the expo. That includes setting up a content program around Saving Lives and organizing events, individually or in collaboration with other countries and international organizations.

The further course

The Signing Ceremony makes the participation of Belgium and its federated states official. It gives BelExpo the confirmation to continue their work and to start taking concrete steps to design and build the Belgian pavilion, to set up the Belgian organization, and to work out the exhibition Belgium and its federated states will show the world at Expo 2025 Osaka.

BelExpo, in close collaboration with the Belgian governmental Building Agency, already launched a public tender for the design and construction of the Belgian pavilion, with special consideration to the chosen theme of "Saving Lives". This first step will hire a consortium of architects and contractors who will work together on the pavilion.

The public tender allows BelExpo to first make a selection of a maximum of three candidate-consortia and provide them with the detailed assignment regarding the design and the plans for the pavilion. The candidates will have to submit a proposal, including a design for the Belgian pavilion. BelExpo will then select a final project for the Belgian pavilion.

The scenography, providing an immersive and exciting storyline of the content decided upon by the Belgian governments, will be decided in a later stadium via a separate public tender specifically dedicated to the visitor journey, which will include the fit-out of the exhibition space (the scenography) and the public spaces of the pavilion, the digital applications, and a communication campaign.

Info seminar on Expo 2025 Osaka

Immediately prior to the signing ceremony, BelExpo organizes an info seminar on Expo 2025 Osaka as part of the events of the Belgian Economic Mission to Japan. The seminar will take place on Thursday 8th of December 2022 at 17:00 in the Chapel on the 7th Floor of the Hilton Osaka hotel.



During the seminar, both the organizers of Expo 2025 Osaka and BelExpo will present their concrete plans for the World Expo and will be available for Q&A. The seminar is mostly aimed at the Belgian participants of the Economic Mission with the purpose of providing them with information and waking their enthusiasm to participate and even become partners of the Belgian pavilion in 2025.

➤ **Websites:**

- <https://belexpo.be/nl>
- <https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/>

➤ **Contacts:**

- Mr. SCHROOTEN Renaat, Director General for Economic Analysis and International Economy, BELGIAN COMMISSION GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS
renaat.schrooten@economie.fgov.be
- Mr. ISHIGE Hiroyuki, Secretary General, JAPAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE 2025 WORLD EXPOSITION, ichinokiM@expo2025.or.jp

2. BEAL INTERNATIONAL – ANALOG CO. LTD.

- Founded in 1974, BEAL INTERNATIONAL is a Belgian family-owned company specialising in the design, manufacture and distribution of innovative products for the construction and decoration sectors. Among the range of products designed by BEAL INTERNATIONAL, it is in particular the MORTEX® coating of microcement or Tadelakt type, the BEALSTONE® product, a new Terrazzo generation , and the CAPILASIL® water repellent solutions for terraces, frontages and injection which made the reputation of the company. In more than 45 years of experience, BEAL International has developed a unique expertise and has become a world reference in multi-surface coatings microcement and Terrazzo.

Since 1999, BEAL has been developing the distribution of its Mortex and Bealstone brands in the Japanese market. BEAL continues to grow by doing commercials fairs and mostly through their 14 points of sale in the country, which allows them to make our products easily accessible to professionals. They also hold training sessions, in Japanese, on a regular basis. Today, with the help of 3 official trainers, they organise more than 4-5 training sessions per month in Japan and train more than 1000 people per year.

Belgian quality products & Japanese craftsmanship

The MORTEX and BEALSTONE products are high quality coatings entirely designed and manufactured in Belgium. The philosophy of the company BEAL is to create products to which professionals can give added value to achieve unique finishes. Indeed, they can play with the colours, the shades, the textures, the applications techniques, the tools, their expertise,... The Japanese know-how and the quality of their craftsmen in terms of coating and their unique way of doing things create a remarkable association and perfectly match to the products manufactured by Beal International.



Eco responsibility

The MORTEX® product is made in Belgium and consists of 95% naturally sourced ingredients from Europe.

The Granito/Terrazzo BEALSTONE® product is also made in Belgium and is composed of 97% natural ingredients sourced in Europe.

The formulas of these two products are neutral and can be pigmented by the craftsman directly on site, which allows for more ecological transport, as the products are much lighter and less bulky. This choice also avoids product losses and waste. The BEALSTONE® solution also favours the use of local aggregates, which considerably reduces its environmental impact. This eco-responsible approach of BEAL in the very design of their products perfectly fits with the philosophy of the Japanese craftsman. It develops the local workforce and allows the Japanese craftsman to integrate his added value to the products, in addition to being able to use local materials and/or to recycle materials in our BEALSTONE® terrazzo in particular. (old marble, old tiles, crushed glass,...)

Company spirit

All the markets BEAL work with are a constant source of inspiration that allow them to evolve, improve and extend the techniques and fields of possibilities of their products.

Its development in Japan is a very beautiful story and it is certain that the Japanese culture, techniques and products are as unique for BEAL as BEAL products can be for their Japanese partners.

BEAL is passionate and creative. They manage to share and exchange with their Japanese customers and are proud to maintain particularly friendly relations with them.

➤ **Websites:**

- <https://bealinternational.com/en/>
- <https://analogjp.com/company.html>

➤ **Contacts:**

- Ms. THIRY Barbara, Sales & Marketing Director, BEAL INTERNATIONAL, Barbara.thiry@Beal.be
- Mr. SUZUKAWA Ryo, CEO, ANALOG CO. LTD., suzukawa@ana-log.co.jp

3. CONSERVATOIRE ROYAL DE BRUXELLES – AICHI UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS

- Aichi University of the Arts and the Conservatoire royal de Bruxelles have decided to sign an Inter-Institutional Agreement in order to strengthen academic and research cooperation between Belgian and Japanese Higher Music Educations Institutions. This bilateral agreement will foster knowledge and skills exchanges for researchers and faculty members and create new collaborations in the field of Music.



➤ **Websites:**

- <http://www.conservatoire.be/en/>
- <https://www.aichi-fam-u.ac.jp.e.amk.hp.transer.com/index.html>

➤ **Contacts:**

- Mr. GIOVENI Salvatore, International Relations Coordinator and Head of the Music Theory Department, CONSERVATOIRE ROYAL DE BRUXELLES, eramsus@conservatoire.be
- Prof. KOBAYASHI Akira, Director of Social Relations Center, AICHI UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS, akira_kobayashi@mail.aichi-fam-u.ac.jp

4. HASSELT UNIVERSITY – NISSIN ELECTRIC CO. LTD.

- Nissin Electric Group provides products and services that support a sustainable society and industrial infrastructure for more than 100 years, with an emphasis on power system, energy, and plasma equipment. Research activities of Hasselt University are highly renowned especially on energy conversion, energy storage, sustainable materials, sensors & healthcare materials, and quantum technologies. In this consignment agreement for research and development, they will provide new equipment and new materials for future society.

➤ **Websites:**

- <https://www.uhasselt.be/nl>
- <https://nissin.jp/e/>

➤ **Contacts:**

- Dr. HAENEN Ken, Vice- Rector Research, Internationalisation, and Innovation, HASSELT UNIVERSITY, ken.haenen@uhasselt.be
- Dr. TAKAHASHI Eiji, General Manager, NISSIN ELECTRIC CO. LTD., takahashi_eiji@nissin.co.jp

5. HAUTE ECOLE EPHEC – OSAKA GAKUIN UNIVERSITY

➤ **Konnichi Wa!**

From the first meeting between Osaka Gakuin University and EPHEC, the similarities between the missions and vision of the two institutions became apparent.

To be a vehicle for the development of local and international citizens and entrepreneurs contributing to a sustainable society is indeed the vision of both institutions. They also wish to integrate the objectives of sustainable development into their programmes and have created the necessary structures to do so.

The Japanese studies programme will in particular enable students of the Bachelor of International Business to develop their Japanese language skills and understanding of Japanese culture and business in Japan. The students of Osaka Gakuin University will benefit from the expertise in EU Affairs and Doing Business in Brussels developed at the Haute Ecole EPHEC, an institution located in Brussels, the capital of Belgium and Europe.



➤ **Websites:**

- <https://www.ephec.be/>
- <https://www.osaka-gu.ac.jp/english/>

➤ **Contacts:**

- Ms. HAVRENNE Emmanuelle, Vice-Chancellor, HAUTE ECOLE EPHEC, e.havrenne@ephec.be
- Ms. BROOIJMANS Barbara, Director International Relations, HAUTE ECOLE EPHEC, b.brooijmans@ephec.be
- Mr. SHIRAI Motoyasu, President, OSAKA GAKUIN UNIVERSITY inoffice@ogu.ac.jp
- Mr. ARAKAKI Daryl M., Director of the International Center, OSAKA GAKUIN UNIVERSITY, inoffice@ogu.ac.jp

6. HEALTH CAMPUS LIMBURG – OSAKA BIO HEADQUARTERS

➤ **Health Campus Limburg and Osaka Bio Headquarters enter into collaboration**

Health Campus Limburg, the new health & life sciences campus in Belgian Limburg, enters into a memorandum of understanding with Osaka Bio Headquarters, the life sciences networking organization of Osaka prefecture in Japan.

Health Campus Limburg aspires to be a lighthouse location for healthcare innovation in Flanders and beyond. In order to strengthen its ecosystem internationally, the campus is entering into a cooperation with the Japanese Osaka Bio Headquarters. This cooperation is mainly aimed at knowledge exchange and connecting both ecosystems. That international connection will support companies in the ecosystems in international business development, and allow the partners to share experiences in tech transfer and innovation.

Osaka Bio Headquarters was established by Osaka Prefecture for the purpose of strengthening overseas collaborations around life sciences. The two ecosystems are complementary: while Osaka gets to know a dynamic, young ecosystem, the Health Campus learns from the Japanese experience.

➤ **Websites:**

- <https://healthcampus.be/>
- <https://osaka-bio.jp/english/>

➤ **Contacts:**

- Mr. BUCKINX, Roeland, Manager, HEALTH CAMPUS LIMBURG, roeland.buckinx@healthcampus.be
- Mr. OBA Takeshi, Director of the Life Sciences Industry Division, Osaka Prefectural Government, OSAKA BIO HEADQUARTERS, minamic@mbox.pref.osaka.lg.jp



7. THOMAS MORE – DOSHISHA UNIVERSITY

- Doshisha University Japan and Thomas More University of Applied Sciences Belgium Sign Agreement To Exchange Faculty in Education and Research

OSAKA – Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan and Thomas More University of Applied Sciences of Antwerp, Belgium, today (December 8, 2022) signed an Agreement on the Exchange of Faculty. The Agreement for the Exchange of Faculty members further enhances their relationship by developing closer academic and cultural exchanges in the areas of education, research, and other activities, in addition to the Agreement for the Exchange of Student they currently engage since February 6, 2020. This new Agreement for the Exchange of Faculty initially covers faculty members from a wide range of study fields at both institutions. “Enhancing the partnership with Thomas More University of Applied Sciences will create exciting new opportunities for faculty members of Doshisha University to engage globally” said President UEKI Tomoko at Doshisha University.

- **Websites:**

- <https://www.thomasmore.be/>
- <https://www.doshisha.ac.jp/>

- **Contacts:**

- Mr. COENEN Stijn, General Manager THOMAS MORE, stijn.coenen@thomasmore.be
- Prof. ATARASHI Shigeyuki, Vice President for Global Affairs and Executive Dean, Organization for Promotion of Global Cooperation, DOSHISHA UNIVERSITY, satarash@mail.doshisha.ac.jp

8. THOMAS MORE – KYOTO SANGYO UNIVERSITY

- **Kyoto Sangyo University Japan and Thomas More University of Applied Sciences Belgium Sign Memorandum of Understanding**

OSAKA – Kyoto Sangyo University and Thomas More University of Applied Sciences of Antwerp, Belgium, today (December 8, 2022) renewed-a wide-ranging Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish and encourage scientific, technological, educational, and scholarly exchange between the institutions.

The 3-year MOU establishes cooperation on academic programs, joint research, staff/faculty exchanges, student exchanges, teaching and learning research, and other beneficial activities. The MOU is broad and allows both universities to partner in other specific fields as the institutional relationship develops further. The existing cooperation for exchange for the study field of Business is extended to the study field of Life Sciences.

“The partnership with Thomas More University of Applied Sciences enables academic and personal connections to be made between students of Kyoto Sangyo University from social and natural sciences, and provides a welcome platform for the university to achieve its goal to



“foster internationally minded graduates who will actively engage in the globalized world” as proclaimed by Prof. Akira Osaka, President of Kyoto Sangyo University.

“This partnership with Kyoto Sangyo University provides the opportunity for Thomas More students and staff to build international collaborations and connections,” said Stijn Coenen, president of Thomas More University of Applied Sciences. “We are looking forward to working with our Japanese partner for knowledge exchange, joint research activities, student and staff exchanges and mutual visits. “

➤ **Websites:**

- <https://www.thomasmore.be/>
- <https://www.kyoto-su.ac.jp/index-e.html>

➤ **Contacts:**

- Mr. COENEN Stijn, General Manager THOMAS MORE, stijn.coenen@thomasmore.be
- Prof. TSUGE Hideaki, Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences, KYOTO SANGYO UNIVERSITY, cip-ml@star.kyoto-su.ac.jp

9. UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES – DOSHISHA UNIVERSITY

- The Université Libre de Bruxelles and Doshisha University, wishing to enhance the relationship between the two institutions by developing closer academic and cultural exchanges in the areas of education, research, and other activities, have agreed hereby to cooperate and work together toward the shared goal of internationalization of higher education.

The areas of cooperation will include any program offered at either institution which is felt to be desirable and suitable for the development of cooperative relationships between the two institutions. However, any specific program shall be designed and executed upon the mutual consent and approval of each institution. Such programs shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Exchange of faculty members
2. Exchange of students
3. Joint research projects
4. Joint seminars and conferences
5. Exchange of research materials and resources.

➤ **Websites:**

- <https://www.ulb.be/>
- <https://www.doshisha.ac.jp/en/>

➤ **Contacts:**

- Prof. SCHAUS Annemie, Rector, UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES, ikram.sefiani@ulb.be
- Prof. ATARASHI Shigeyuki, Vice President for Global Affairs and Executive Dean, Organization for Promotion of Global Cooperation, satarash@mail.doshisha.ac.jp



10. UNIVERSITY OF LIÈGE - RITSUMEIKAN UNIVERSITY

- The University of Liège and the Ritsumeikan Center of Game Studies of the Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto are pleased to sign an agreement setting up a scientific collaboration between the two institutions. The contract aims at developing joint scientific collaborations in the field of game and popular cultures studies

After different collaborations of researchers during the last years, a new step in this collaboration has been taken during the Economic mission.

- **Websites:**

- https://www.uliege.be/cms/c_8699436/en/uliege
- <https://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/>

- **Contacts:**

- Ms. NYSSSEN Anne-Sophie, Rector, UNIVERSITY OF LIÈGE, rectrice@uliege.be
- Prof. MATSUDA Ryoza, Director of Ritsumeikan University Kinugasa Research Organization, RITSUMEIKAN UNIVERSITY, rmatsuda@ss.ritsumei.ac.jp