

## **One year to go until Expo 2020 Dubai Japan Day**

- **METI Minister Kajiyama appoints Expo 2020 Dubai Japan Pavilion PR Ambassadors**
- **Applications now open for Japan Pavilion Supporters**

Preparations for the exhibits at the Expo 2020 Dubai Japan Pavilion are underway under the leadership of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, co-organized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications; the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, with the Japan External Trade Organization as a participating organization.

### **◇Fourteen Expo 2020 Dubai Japan Pavilion PR Ambassadors appointed from seven groups**

The following individuals and characters have been appointed by Mr. Kajiyama Hiroshi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, to serve as Japan Pavilion PR Ambassadors who will communicate about Expo 2020 Dubai and the Japan Pavilion to a wider audience.

- Mr. KAMON Tatsuo                      Singer/songwriter
- Kanjani Eight                          Pop group  
    Mr. YOKOYAMA You, Mr. MURAKAMI Shingo, Mr. MARUYAMA Ryuhei,  
    Mr. YASUDA Shota, Mr. OKURA Tadayoshi
- Ms. YAMAZAKI Naoko              Astronaut
- Ms. WAKATSUKI Yumi              Actress
- UAE Students in Tokai University Takanawadai High School  
    Mr. Abdulla ALHOSANI, Mr. Abdulla ALMANSOORI, Mr. Abdulla ALSHKEILI, Mr. Rashed ALEBRI
- Gundam                                Anime character from “Mobile Suit Gundam”
- Pokémon

### **◇ Applications for Expo 2020 Dubai Japan Pavilion Supporters now open**

As of today, December 12, the Japan Pavilion has begun accepting applications for Expo 2020 Dubai Japan Pavilion Supporters. To register, simply send a blank email (no subject line or message required) to the registration address at [supporter@expo2020.jp](mailto:supporter@expo2020.jp). Once registered, supporters will be sent a variety of information from the Japan Pavilion, including priority notice of events and information about special campaigns.

#### **Inquiries**

Contact: TANAKA Nozomi  
Expo 2020 Dubai Japan Pavilion PR Office  
Tel: +81-70-4316-1379  
Email: [info@expo2020.jp](mailto:info@expo2020.jp)  
Hours: 9:30–17:30 (JST, closed Sat., Sun., and holidays)

## ■ Expo 2020 Dubai Japan Pavilion PR Ambassadors

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### **Mr. KAMON Tatsuo, singer/songwriter**

Born on March 25, 1959 in Ibaraki City, Osaka Prefecture. Kamon was deeply influenced by his experiences visiting the Expo 1970 Osaka when he was a schoolboy, and he has continued collecting badges from expos held since. His affection toward expos is a common thread running through all his diverse activities as an artist, which span everything from CDs to radio, television, live performances, and writing. He has served as an official supporter of expos in Shanghai, Milan, and Astana. He plans to fulfil his duties as Japan Pavilion PR Ambassador in Dubai with an eye to the upcoming Expo 2025 OSAKA KANSAI, JAPAN. His performances of songs in different languages usually go down a treat!

### ◇ Comment from Mr. KAMON Tatsuo

The 1970 Osaka Expo was held close to my home when I was a sixth-grade elementary school student, and I visited it 21 times over the six months it was open. It was all the rage back then to meet people from around the world and collect badges from the pavilions. I collected 64 badges—the third most in my school! The atmosphere of camaraderie at the expos really struck a chord with me, and I've since served as head of the supporters' group of the Japan Industry Pavilion at Shanghai and as Japan Pavilion supporter at both Milan and Astana. Dubai will play an important role in paving the way for the Expo 2025 OSAKA KANSAI, JAPAN. I'll do my best to make the Japan Pavilion a success to hand over to Osaka.

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### **Kanjani Eight, pop group**

A group that represents Johnny & Associates, Inc. All members are from Kansai and have brightness, a sense of humor, and musical talent. The total attendance of their concerts to date exceeds 10 million, and they are now holding their second 47-prefecture tour, the first such tour in 12 years. They will also be participating in the "70th NHK Kohaku Song Battle," making 2019 their eighth consecutive year. The group also contributes to the development of Osaka tourism by acting as an Osaka tourism symbol character.

### ◇ Comment from Kanjani Eight

The 2020 Dubai International Exposition is packed with many dreams and ideals for the future. In the very honorable role of Japan Pavilion PR Ambassadors, we will do our best to accomplish what Kanjani Eight is capable of, along with what only Kanjani Eight can do, under the theme "Dubai to Osaka, Kansai."



**Ms. YAMAZAKI Naoko, astronaut**

In 2010, Yamazaki was onboard the Space Shuttle Discovery on the crew of STS-131, an assembly and resupply mission to the International Space Station. Currently, Yamazaki is serving as a member of the Japan Space Policy Committee, Representative Director of Space Port Japan Association, Director of Astro Tourism, and a chairperson of “Sorajo (women in aerospace)” under the Japanese Rocket Society, among other roles.

◇ **Comment from Ms. YAMAZAKI Naoko**

I am very honored to be appointed as an Ambassador of the Japan Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. The theme of Expo 2020 Dubai is “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future.” There is actually a big connection between Japan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in space. In 2018, the UAE's first domestically developed satellite, “KhalifaSat,” was launched from Tanegashima with a Japanese rocket. Also, in 2020, UAE's first Mars orbiter, “al-Amal (hope),” will be launched from Tanegashima, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the UAE. I myself have visited the UAE three times so far, and have tried to promote exchange of technology and human resources. As an Ambassador, I would therefore like to connect this friendship to the future.

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**Ms. WAKATSUKI Yumi, actress**

Born June 27th, 1994

Chosen as one of the first members of Nogizaka 46 in August 2011. After her success as one of the central members, she decided to pursue her solo career from November 2018. Since then, she has been featured on various popular works, such as the TV drama series “Kyou kara Ore Wa!!” and “Atama ni Kitemo Tatakauna!” (both Nippon Television) and the movies “Signal 100” and “Wotaku ni Koi wa Muzukashii (Wotakoi: Love is Hard for Otaku).”

◇ **Comment from Ms. WAKATSUKI Yumi**

I am very honored to serve in this important role in the coming event. I visited Dubai in winter and spring 2019 through work and was charmed instantly after seeing Dubai's grand scenery and buildings and its gorgeous and clean streets. I also had the chance to visit the construction site of Expo 2020 Dubai, and was totally overwhelmed by the grand scale of the land. It is really exciting to imagine the number of people who will visit as well as the new interactions and discoveries the event may create. I am really looking forward to the completion of the building where the charms of Japan and Dubai will blend into a space of unimaginable fascination. As a Japanese person, I hope to convey the beauty and the charm of our country to the world through this role.



### **UAE Students in Tokai University Takanawadai High School**

(From left) Mr. Abdulla ALMANSOORI, Mr. Abdulla ALHOSANI, Mr. Rashed ALEBRI, and Mr. Abdulla ALSHKEILI

Members of the first and second classes of students educated at the Japanese Kindergarten and School of Abu Dhabi, UAE, as part of an educational initiative launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

#### **◇ Comment from Mr. Abdulla ALMANSOORI**

I have always hoped to give something back to the UAE in return for my days spent at the Japanese School, as well as my experiences attending a Japanese high school and living in a dormitory, from which I have learned so much about Japan. As an Ambassador, I will work hard to bring our two countries even closer together.

#### **◇ Comment from Mr. Abdulla ALHOSANI**

I see Expo 2020 Dubai as a very important event for the development of the UAE. Like the esteemed Ambassador Alameri, I aim to put all of my experiences and learning to use in order to help the UAE progress.

#### **◇ Comment from Mr. Rashed ALEBRI**

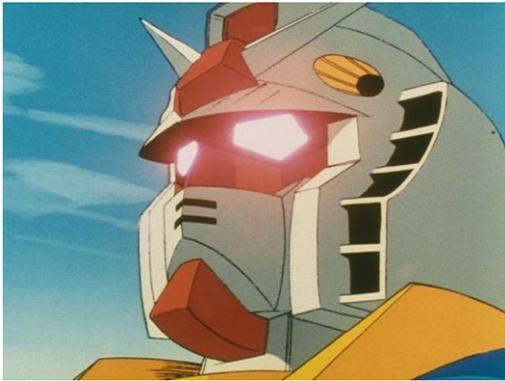
In Japan, the UAE is typically thought of as an oil-producing country. It is my hope that both nations will come to know more about each other's wonderful humanity and culture, and I am eager to help foster a stronger mutual relationship founded on greater cultural understanding.

#### **◇ Comment from Mr. Abdulla ALSHKEILI**

I have a great interest in Japan's construction and civil engineering technologies, especially its superb techniques for mitigating natural disasters such as earthquakes. Through the opportunity provided by the Expo 2020 Dubai, I hope to play a part in introducing the architectural technology of Japan to the people of the UAE.

#### **◇ Comment from His Excellency Mr. Khaled Omran Sqait Sarhan ALAMERI, Ambassador of the UAE in Japan**

I feel so much appreciation for Japan's enthusiastic participation in Expo 2020 Dubai, reflecting half a century of friendship between the UAE and Japan. It is truly significant that Japan Pavilion Ambassadors have been selected from a program which has given such a boost to strengthening this relationship further. These four students from the UAE are a symbol of UAE identity, while at the same time possessing a unique capacity to understand and connect with Japanese culture. They are young people with the precious ability to deepen the bond between our nations. I look forward to the Expo 2020 Dubai as an event that will bring even greater value to this important international relationship.



### **Gundam, anime character from “Mobile Suit Gundam”**

Mobile Suit Gundam, created in 1979, is an animation series that continues to evolve. In a wide range of media such as TV series, videos, films, games, and toys, the Gundam series continues to inspire dreams and affection throughout the world.

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#### **◇ Comment from Gundam**

This year, “Mobile Suit Gundam” had its 40th anniversary. As we take our next step in 2020, Gundam will fulfil the role of Ambassador for the Japanese pavilion at the Dubai International Exhibition. We feel a strong sense of responsibility and are filled with anticipation toward the new challenge.

“Mobile Suit Gundam” has been supported by many people since its first broadcast for its detailed depiction of mankind’s future based on scientific research and its dramatic story in which the characters act according to their own beliefs and philosophies beyond the simple good vs. evil dichotomy. Nowadays, the franchise is very popular not only in Japan but throughout the world, and its fans span a wide range of demographics. With Gundam as Ambassador for the Japanese pavilion, we’re determined to make our best effort to connect people from all over the world to our country of Japan.



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### **Pokémon**

Pokémon are mysterious creatures from the Pokémon video game series, which started in 1996 and still continues today. Some Pokémon live in the wild, such as in the grass, caves or seas, while others live alongside humans. Their ecology is not very well understood yet.

#### **◇ Comment from Pokémon**

As more than 800 Pokémon have been found, the world of Pokémon is full of rich diversity. All Pokémon including Pikachu will support the Expo 2020 Dubai Japan Pavilion with united efforts.



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