

February 4, 2021

**Declaration issued by the Organizers of
the 59th Kansai Economic and Management Summit**

COVID-19 has been continually inflicting a serious impact on society and the economy. In Kansai, the city's bustle generated by inbound tourists and the lively activities of the related industries have gone through a complete change. In addition, the COVID-19 crisis points us to the fact that the response to various issues that we have postponed so far is now an urgent matter allowing no further delay.

COVID-19 has led mankind to keenly reaffirm the importance of “life,” deepening the significance of the World Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, convening under the theme of “Designing Future Society for Our Lives.” We should not miss this opportunity for Kansai to become a world pioneer in presenting and realizing a future society.

Regarding whether or not we will be able to overcome the unprecedented difficulty of the COVID-19 pandemic and lead to creative reconstruction, our determination and ability to initiate action and communication are facing a serious challenge at this very moment. The Kansai Economic and Management Summit this time has experienced the first online meeting in its history. In order to make this Kansai Economic and Management Summit an epoch-making event to create a new future beyond the present pandemic, we declare the following with our determination to exert all potentials of Kansai.

- In order to grasp the essence of digital transformation and green recovery and pioneer a new era, we are going to boldly take on the challenge of developing innovative technologies, implementing them in society, and creating and transforming business. Regarding such global issues like pandemics and climate change, we are going to act on the idea of turning the crisis into an opportunity while reemphasizing the importance of international cooperation.**
- In order to eliminate the restrictions associated with existing economic and social systems and customs as well as harmful effects of the excess concentration in Tokyo, both of which have been revealed by COVID-19, we are going to strive to reform companies so as to have their working styles and business practices fit the new normal society. At the same time, we are going to start promoting wide-area administration in Kansai, aiming at transformation into a decentralized society and**

even realization of decentralization including the so-called “Doshu-sei” regional government system.

- The other things that have had their value and importance highlighted through the COVID-19 pandemic are the experience of interacting with other regions and different cultures and the sharing of emotions through culture and sports. With the World Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai and the World Masters Games around the corner, we are going to take advantage of these events, present new ways of drawing and attracting customers, and thus aim at making Kansai a model destination to attract people.
- In order to be pioneers of change in the era of ever-increasing uncertainty, we need to take on challenges without fearing a paradigm shift and change our behavior with bold ideas. We are going to create a future society of Kansai as well as Japan sharing diverse values with each and every “life” shining within.