

February 10, 2023

Declaration issued by the Organizers of the 61st Kansai Economic and Management
Summit

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shaken the world order significantly and continues to affect the international community. Further, the U.S.–China conflict and the division of the international community, which includes the developing countries, have now forced us to become aware of the prevailing geopolitical tensions. With global affairs becoming increasingly uncertain, Japan has been facing economic stagnation for more than 30 years. As a number of issues, such as slow digitalization and the declining workforce due to the aging population and the declining birthrate, are yet to be resolved, we still see no path to solutions and delay efforts to address these issues.

Kansai will be the first to project Japan's path and realize a growth model that can lead development in Japan. Bearing this in mind, we, the Kansai business leaders, plan to face and tackle the following issues squarely.

- With the world continuing to change drastically, we plan to address the various factors that could threaten the sustainability of businesses and strengthen entire value chains. We shall continue to accelerate digital transformation and green transformation within companies and municipalities in Kansai, enhance the competitiveness of companies by creating innovations, and build a competitive ecosystem.
- Looking back over the past 30 years, we are now aware that “people are not costs but capital.” With this recognition and an eye on future generations, we will implement corporate management that would allow each highly motivated individual worker to fully develop their potential and demonstrate their abilities.
- We aim for a nation where multiple metropolitan areas that drive growth exist across the country and the respective regions show vigorous development. Aiming to create a new community model to achieve this goal in Kansai ahead of other regions, we plan to promote wide-area administration that would cover areas beyond the boundaries of prefectures and public–private cooperation.
- To make “Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan” a success, we will make preparations and accelerate co-creation toward a “Future Society for Our Lives” by involving various players including young generations that are responsible for the future. We

will also cooperate with various stakeholders to deepen discussions on sustaining development in the post-Expo period and examinations of concrete measures, including the Expo's legacy, for using the Expo as an opportunity to enhance the growth foundation of both Kansai and Japan.

Finally, we offer our deepest condolences to the victims of the Turkey-Syria earthquakes and extend our heartfelt sympathies to those who have been affected by the disaster.

We pledge to offer our support to help them and reconstruct the affected areas.