

27 July 2026

## **Italy Pavilion at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai**

### **The “Ansaldo SVA 9” That Made the Historic 1920 Rome– Tokyo Raid Comes to KIX**

#### **— Expo Legacy Project: Italy —**

Kansai Airports is pleased to announce that the wooden aircraft that was on display at the Italy Pavilion during Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai has now been installed at Kansai International Airport (KIX).

The Expo Legacy Project aims to continue sharing the cultures, values, and sustainability messages from many Expo participating countries through airports, even after the Expo. As part of this initiative, actual exhibits and artworks beloved at pavilions from around the world have been installed across the three Kansai airports.

The wooden aircraft that hung from the ceiling of the Italy Pavilion, drawing daily attention throughout the Expo, has now flown from Yumeshima to Kansai International Airport. This is a meticulously crafted full-scale model of the Ansaldo SVA 9, the aircraft that reached Japan from Rome in 1920 after approximately 107 days of arduous travel. Historical records tell us that in both Osaka and Tokyo, where the aircraft landed, crowds of citizens gathered in celebration of this remarkable feat, and welcome ceremonies were held in its honor. This year marks the 160th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Italy and Japan, and hoping that as many people as possible could see this wooden aircraft — a symbol of the long-standing friendship between the two nations — we are delighted that it has now found a new home at the airport.

To mark this installation, a commemorative ceremony was held at Kansai International Airport with distinguished guests in attendance, including Mr. Mario Andrea Vattani, Ambassador of Italy to Japan and former Commissioner General for Italy at Expo 2025 Osaka.

Kansai Airports Group will continue to contribute to the promotion of exchange and collaboration with local communities and countries around the world through the operation of our airports.

#### **Location:**

“Terrace” Area, Aeroplaza 2F, Kansai International Airport

\*Open to visitors 24 hours a day

\*Accessible to everyone

**Display period:** Saturday, 25 July 2026 – around March 2027 (\*end date to be confirmed)

## About the Exhibit

The full-scale model of the Ansaldo SVA 9 exhibited at the Italy Pavilion during Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai is a recreation of the wooden biplane with fabric-covered wings that was used in the historic Rome–Tokyo Raid of 1920. At the time, aviator Arturo Ferrarin embarked on a long-distance flight of more than 18,000 km, setting his sights on Japan by way of Greece, the Middle East, India and China. Along the journey he faced repeated mechanical failures and maintenance challenges as well as severe weather conditions, yet flew on and, after approximately 107 days, reached Tokyo via Osaka. This remarkable feat drew worldwide attention and has been passed down as a symbol of friendship between Japan and Italy. The full-scale model on display was crafted by Giorgio Bonato based on many years of research, conveying to us today the history of that daring endeavor and the evolution of aviation technology.



Ceremony



Italy Pavilion



At daytime



At nighttime



### Contact:

Group Corporate Communications Department  
Kansai Airports  
[pr@kansai-airports.co.jp](mailto:pr@kansai-airports.co.jp)



Kansai Airports was established by a consortium made up of VINCI Airports and ORIX Corporation as its core members. Kansai Airports took over the operations of Kansai International Airport ("KIX") and Osaka Itami Airport ("ITAMI") from New Kansai International Airport Company ("NKIAC") and has been operating the two airports since 1 April 2016.

Kansai Airports Kobe, Kansai Airports' wholly-owned subsidiary, took over the operations of Kobe Airport ("KOBE") from Kobe City and started its business as an operating company on 1 April 2018.

Under the concept of "One Kansai Airports Group", Kansai Airports group strives to continuously improve its services for all airport guests through appropriate investments and efficient operations, with safety and security being the top priority. Kansai Airports group aims to maximize the potential of the three airports, for the benefit of the communities they serve.

For more information, please visit : <http://www.kansai-airports.co.jp/en/>

## Kansai Airports

|                         |                                                                                                       |              |                                                                      |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location                | 1-banchi, Senshu-kuko kita, Izumisano-shi, Osaka                                                      | Shareholders | ORIX 40%,<br>VINCI Airports 40%,<br>Other investors 20% <sup>1</sup> |
| Company Representatives | Representative Director and CEO: Yasuaki Mikami<br>Representative Director and Co-CEO: Benoit Rulleau |              |                                                                      |
| Business Scope          | Operation and management services, etc. of Kansai International Airport and Osaka Itami Airport       |              |                                                                      |

## Kansai Airports Kobe

|                         |                                                                                                       |             |                      |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Location                | 1-ban, Kobe-kuko, Chuo-ku, Kobe-shi, Hyogo                                                            | Shareholder | Kansai Airports 100% |
| Company Representatives | Representative Director and CEO: Yasuaki Mikami<br>Representative Director and Co-CEO: Benoit Rulleau |             |                      |
| Business Scope          | Operation and management services, etc. of Kobe Airport                                               |             |                      |



ORIX Group was established in 1964 and is a global corporate group active in financing and investment, industrial and ICT equipment, environment and energy, automobile-related services, real estate, public infrastructure, and life insurance. We operate in around 30 countries and regions with approximately 36,000 people. We unite globally around our Purpose: "Finding Paths. Making Impact.", combining diverse expertise and innovative thinking to help our world develop in a sustainable way.

For more information: <https://www.orix.co.jp/grp/en/>



VINCI Airports, as the leading private airport operator in the world, manages the development and operation of more than 70 airports located in 14 countries. VINCI Airports draws on its expertise as a comprehensive integrator to develop, finance, build and operate airports, leveraging its investment capability and know-how to optimise operational performance and modernise infrastructure while bringing about their environmental transition. In 2016, VINCI Airports became the first airport operator to commit to an international environmental strategy, setting itself the aim of reaching zero net emissions (scope 1 and 2) across the network by 2050 while supporting its stakeholders' transition.

For more information: [www.vinci-airports.com](http://www.vinci-airports.com)

<sup>1</sup> ASICS Corporation; Iwatani Corporation; Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.; Obayashi Corporation; OMRON Corporation; The Kansai Electric Power Company, Incorporated; Kintetsu Group Holding Co., Ltd.; Keihan Holdings Co., Ltd.; Suntory Holdings Limited; JTB Corp.; Sekisui House, Ltd.; Daikin Industries, Ltd.; Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd.; Takenaka Corporation; NANKAI Co., Ltd.; NTT WEST, Inc.; Panasonic Holdings Corporation; Hankyu Hanshin Holdings, Inc.; Rengo Co., Ltd.; The Senshu Ikeda Bank, Ltd.; Kiyo Holdings, Inc.; The Bank of Kyoto, Ltd.; THE SHIGA BANK, LTD.; The Nanto Bank, Ltd.; Nippon Life Insurance Company; Mizuho Bank, Ltd.; Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Limited; MUFG Bank, Ltd.; Resona Bank, Limited; and the Private Finance Initiative Promotion Corporation of Japan.