

19 March 2026

Kansai Airports acquires additional J Blue Credit - With increased CO₂ absorption by seaweed beds at KIX -

Kansai Airports is pleased to announce that we have acquired additional J Blue Credit* certification on the acknowledgement of the CO₂ absorption by the seaweed beds of the seawalls around the islands of Kansai International Airport (KIX).

Carbon stored in the water through the action of marine organisms is known as “blue carbon”, and it is attracting attention as a new source of CO₂ absorption. At the KIX airport islands, gently sloped rubble-mound seawalls were adopted for most of the shoreline, and efforts have been made to create a rich seaweed bed environment through seaweed seeding, protection and cultivation, and monitoring surveys. In recent years, we have also actively worked on new initiatives such as protecting seaweed with protective nets and placing new substrates to promote the attachment of next-generation seedlings, so as to maintain the stability of and expand the seaweed bed environment.

A survey we conducted in March 2025 confirmed that the seaweed bed area around the airport island seawalls had reached 66 hectares, with 58 species of seaweed growing there. With our continuous efforts, the seaweed bed area was the largest ever with an increase of about 20% compared to the previous survey in 2022. The seaweed beds also serve as habitats that nurture a diverse ecosystem, and various marine species—including red-spotted grouper and Asian sheepshead wrasse—were observed along the airport island seawalls.

In the process for this J Blue Credit certification, we assessed the seaweed bed area observed in the latest survey, collected baseline data not only on large seaweeds, such as wakame, but also small seaweeds, for more precise assessment of the CO₂ absorption of the seaweed beds where diverse seaweed species grow. As a result, a larger CO₂ absorption effect than the previous certification was recognized.

Kansai Airports Group will continue to promote all possible initiatives to reduce environmental impacts, aiming not only to achieve its long-term vision of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 but also to coexist with nature by contributing to the conservation of healthy ecosystems.

*A credit that is certified, issued, and managed by JBE (Japan Blue Economy Technology Research Association). It is certified and issued after review and verification by a third-party committee independent from JBE. [Japan Blue Economy Technology Research Association](https://www.jbe.or.jp/)

● Certification details (the third J Blue Credit certification and issuance for FY2025)

Project name	Creation of a rich seaweed bed environment at Kansai International Airport
Applicable period	3 years (from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2025)
Certified absorption volume	280.3 t-CO ₂

Reference (The previous J Blue Credit certification and issuance in FY2022):

Absorption volume certified for the Credit: 103.2 t- CO₂

Applicable period: 5 years (from FY2017 to FY2021)



Certification ceremony on March 19

Shaping a New Journey



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%, VINCI Airports 40%, Other investors 20% ¹
Company Representatives	Representative Director and CEO:Yoshiyuki Yamaya 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: Yoshiyuki Yamaya 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 corporate group active around the world in financing and investment, life insurance, banking, asset management, real estate, concession, environment and energy, automobile-related services, industrial/ICT equipment, ships and aircraft. 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

¹ 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 Electric Railway 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.