

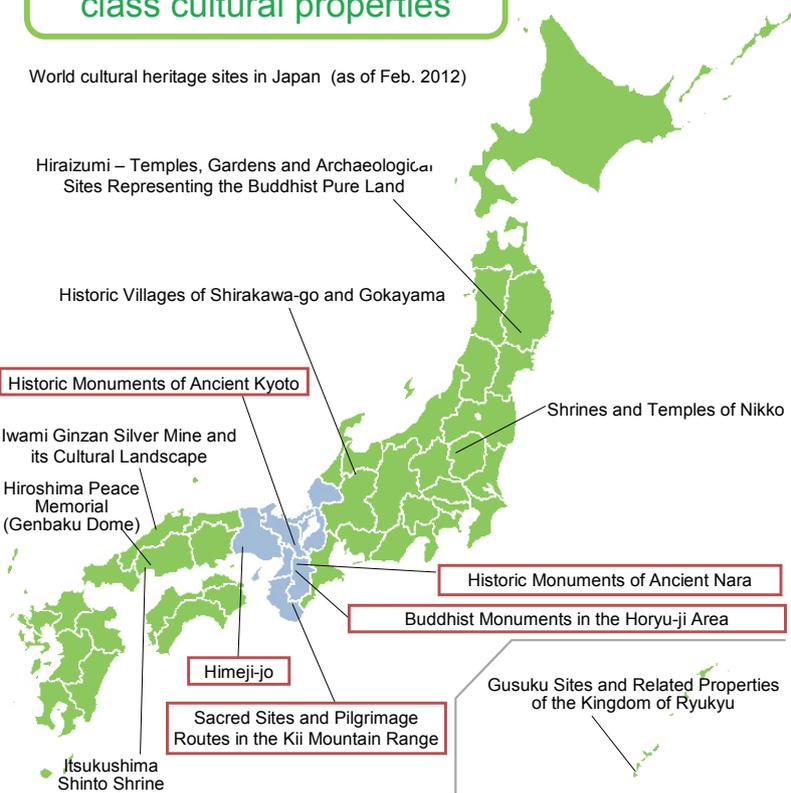
# Kansai: A Source of Japanese Culture

Kansai, where a number of ancient capitals were located, developed as a center of Japanese traditional history, culture and industry. Although the political center shifted to Edo (present-day Tokyo) in the Edo period, Kamigata, a region centering on Kyoto and Osaka, flourished as an advanced region of culture and economy. Since cultural activities have long been a dynamic feature of Kansai, the center of Japanese culture, many traditional performing arts and cultural properties still remain there. Kansai currently has approximately 60% of Japan's national treasures/important cultural properties and approximately 30% of the nation's human national treasures. Furthermore, five World Cultural Heritage sites out of a total 12 sites in Japan are located in the region.

In this way, Kansai, a source of Japanese culture, is a region where high-quality and highly dignified ("real") culture has succeeded in various ways, and has continued to be a driving force for cultural development.

## Kansai: home to world-class cultural properties

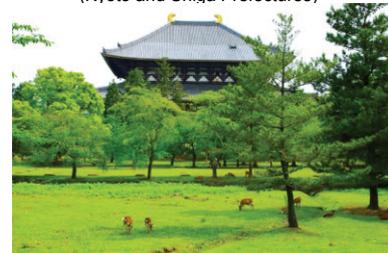
World cultural heritage sites in Japan (as of Feb. 2012)



Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto and Shiga Prefectures)



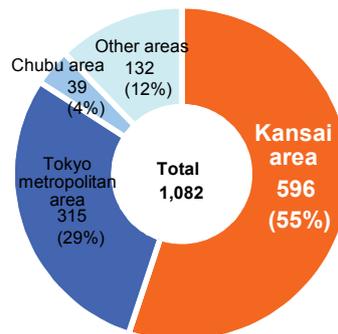
Buddhist Monuments in the Horyu-ji Area (Nara Prefecture)



Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara (Nara Prefecture)



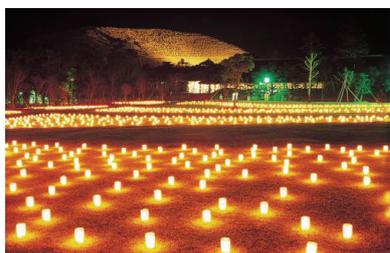
Himeji-jo (Hyogo Prefecture)



Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes in the Kii Mountain Range (Nara, Wakayama and Mie Prefectures)

Number of national treasures by area in Japan

## Marriage of tradition and innovation in Kansai



Collaboration of historic landscape and illumination (NARA TO-KAE; Nara Prefecture)



Design lighting using Japanese traditional umbrellas (Wagasa) technique (Hiyoshiya Workshop "KOTORI"; Kyoto Prefecture)



New performing arts themed on the environment (Yamamoto Noh Theater "Mizu-no-wa"; Osaka Prefecture)



New cuisine using traditional foodstuffs (Local wild boar meat and persimmon stewed in red wine)

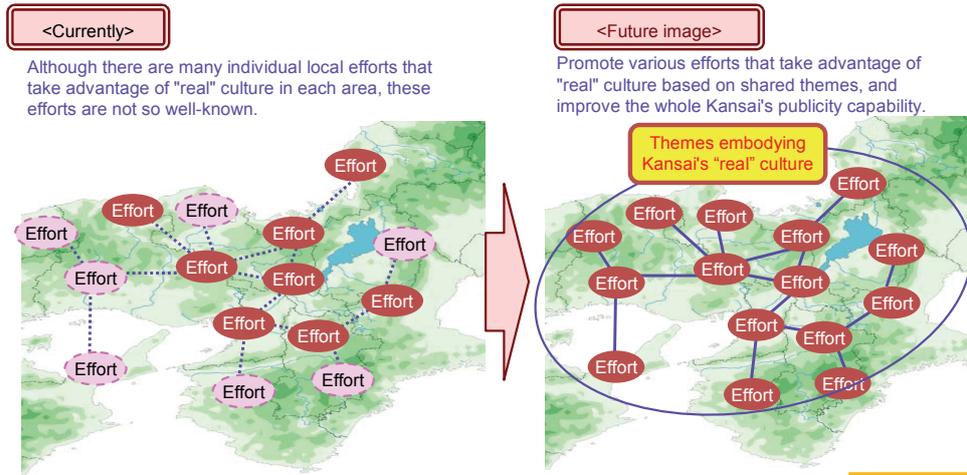
# Forming a Cultural Sphere to Attract the World Hanayaka Kansai – Culture Capital Years –

## “Hanayaka Kansai – Culture Capital Years” Overview

“Hanayaka Kansai – Culture Capital Years” is a program that the whole of Kansai has worked on, with the aim of turning the region into a “Cultural Capital Sphere” and becoming a symbol of the Japanese identity and a driving force for Japan. In this program, one “real” culture that originates from Kansai is selected annually and publicized domestically and internationally in order to develop this unique Japanese culture and link local efforts in the Kansai region.

“Hanayaka Kansai – Culture Capital Years” is a program to promote the Cultural Capital Sphere Project, a main project of the Wide-Area Regional Plan in the Kinki Sphere.

Concerned organizations work together to support local efforts that take advantage of “real” culture in each area.



Efforts to form a cultural capital sphere to attract the world (one theme selected annually)

① Develop culture  
(manufacturing, human resource development and town building)

② Link efforts in the Kansai region

③ Publicized by the whole of Kansai

Supported by “All Kansai”

### Prefectures

Fukui, Shiga, Kyoto  
Osaka, Hyogo, Nara,  
Wakayama, Mie,  
Tokushima, and  
Tottori Prefectures

### Ordinance-designated cities

Kyoto, Osaka, Sakai,  
and Kobe Cities

### Economic associations, etc.

Kansai Economic Federation, Organization of Kansai Unity, Kansai Association of Corporate Executives, Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kyoto Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sakai Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Kobe Chamber of Commerce and Industry

### Government agencies

MAFF Kinki Regional Agricultural Administration Office, METI Kansai, MLIT Kinki Transportation Bureau, MOE Kinki Regional Environment Office, and MLIT Kinki Regional Development Bureau

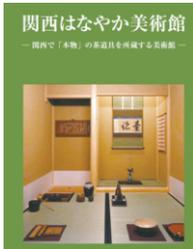
Forming a cultural capital sphere to attract the world

## Themes for “Hanayaka Kansai – Culture Capital Years” in FY2011 and FY2012

### Theme in FY2011: “Tea culture”

Tea culture is deeply rooted in the lives of Japanese. Many of its derivatives, including tea utensils, Japanese-style confectionery served with tea and arranged flowers in tea rooms, originated from Kansai, not to mention the tea ceremony itself, which was perfected by Sen-no-Rikyū. It can be said that tea culture is the starting point of the present-day Japanese culture of hospitality.

In FY2011, the first year of “Hanayaka Kansai – Culture Capital Years,” under the theme of “Tea Culture,” interested organizations established an executive committee and held various programs, including the main event, a forum, private tea room tours and a stamp rally event.



List of museums of tea utensils (booklet)



Private tea room tour



“Tea Culture” Forum



Main event held at Osaka Castle

### Theme in FY2012: “Ningyo Johruri”

The theme of “Hanayaka Kansai – Culture Capital Years” in FY2012 is “Ningyo Johruri (Japanese puppet show).” Ningyo Johruri is a Japanese representative performing art using Kansai-originated puppets. It has had a strong influence on kabuki theater, another well-known Japanese performing art. Bunraku Puppet Theatre, which is a sophisticated, developed version of Ningyo Johruri, has been inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

