

Kansai is the western half of Japan's main island of Honshu. It includes the Osaka-Kobe-Kyoto-Nara metropolis and has a population of 22 million. Located in the centre of Japan, Kansai is at the heart of national and international industrial

and there is considerable demand in the Kansai for concrete measures to preserve the environment.

Limitless R&D potential

The Kansai is home to about 1,000 private research institutes attached to universities and colleges, with limit-

extending through Osaka, Kyoto and Nara prefectures. About 70 cultural, scientific and research institutes have already been established on the site. They include both private and public laboratories, such as the Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth. Among the many companies that have set up research laboratories and centres there are Kyocera, Matsushita Electric Industrial, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, Omron, Canon, Bayer Yakuin and Sumitomo Metal Industries, and more will soon join them. The institutes employ about 4,000 researchers, approximately 150 of whom are foreign residents.

A vast environmental market
Japan's Kansai region

transportation and telecommunications. Its gross regional product is larger than the GDPs of South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Thailand combined. In fact, if Kansai was a separate country, it would have the seventh largest GDP in the world. The region's role in the Japanese economy is surpassed only by that of the Tokyo metropolitan area. Large-scale projects under way include the Kansai Science City and Osaka Bay area developments; these promote balanced growth and help solve problems resulting from over-concentration in the Tokyo area.

Japan is showing increasing environmental awareness and concern about ecological deterioration. Canada is known as having a clean and natural environment, and it can easily capitalize on this reputation in the Kansai. For example, Japanese companies are strongly interested in new technologies for cleaning up PCBs and dioxins. Canadian and Japanese organizations have already formed several partnerships involving the transfer of Canadian technology. Significantly, the only Canadian environmental engineering firm with an office in Japan has chosen to locate in Osaka. Global environmental problems are mounting day by day,

less R&D potential. Kansai boasts many world-class technologies, including photo-quantum, biochemi-



cal and environmental technologies. It also has research institutes dealing with electronic parts and devices.

Aside from private research centres, there are roughly 350 national, prefectural, and municipal experimental and research institutes in the Kansai region. These conduct a wide variety of experiments in various fields. To local enterprises, the institutes provide technical training as well as testing and experimentation services, in order to solve any technical problems that may arise with those businesses' products and production processes.

Kansai Science City

Kansai Science City is a conglomeration of research organizations and institutes focusing on culture and science. It is being built on 15,000 hectares of land in the scenic Keihanna hills

Web sites

- International Institute for Advanced Studies
www.iias.or.jp/top/home_e.html
- Kansai Science City
www.keihanna-plaza.co.jp/KRI/gaken/gktobi_e.htm
- Nara Institute of Science and Technology
www.aist-nara.ac.jp
- "Ni-Ka On-line" (Web site on Canada-Japan relations)
www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/ni-ka
- Research Institute of Innovative Technology for the Earth
www.rite.or.jp

For more information, contact Jean-Pierre Petit, Trade Commissioner, tel.: (613) 996-2467, fax: (613) 944-2397, e-mail: jeanpierre.petit@dfait-maeci.gc.ca or Yoshio Horiuchi, Commercial Officer, Canadian Consulate General, Osaka, tel.: (011-81-729) 52-4628, fax: (011-81-6) 6212-4914, e-mail: yoshio.horiuchi@dfait-maeci.gc.ca ✪

Team Canada Inc • Équipe Canada Inc
1-888-811-1119
exportsource.gc.ca