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Sekisui House Ltd.  
Takenaka Corporation  
Hankyu Corporation  
Mitsubishi Estate Residence Co. Ltd.  
Umekita Development Specific Purpose Company

## **“Umekita Park” in Osaka, Japan is under construction**

— Directly connected to JR Osaka Station, the largest terminal station in western Japan, and seamlessly adjoined to private-sector building lots for the office, core function and other portions!

This public/private collaboration is focused on creating sustainable urban public spaces and ecosystem that realize quality of life improvements for residents and visitors to Osaka, Japan. —

TOKYO, Japan (May 16, 2022) The joint venture of nine companies (“JV9”)\*1, led by Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd., serving as the developers for the “Umekita 2nd Project” (“the project”), an urban development project setting a “base with ‘Integration of MIDORI (green)’\*2 and ‘innovation’”)\*3 as the aim of the urban development that is underway in collaboration with also the Osaka Prefectural Government, the Osaka City Government and Urban Renaissance Agency (“UR”), announced the recent decision that construction will begin in full scale through public and private partnership. The urban park (Umekita Park (tentative name); “the park”) will be constructed with the base-grade development conducted by the Osaka City Government and UR, with the addition of upgrades that enhance the appeal of the larger neighborhood by JV9.

This 11-acre park is located in front of JR Osaka Station, the largest terminal station in western Japan, making it one of the world’s largest urban parks directly connected to a major rail terminal. The park will be seamlessly integrated with the project’s private-sector mixed-use development consisting of offices, commercial and incubation facilities, a convention center, hotels, residential units for sale, etc. In order to contribute to SDGs, United Nations Sustainable Development goals, the park, as well as the project as a whole, is proactively introducing leading CO2 reduction technologies. Additionally, the park will serve to strengthen the resilience of the surrounding areas by functioning as a safety evacuation area in the event of a large-scale disaster. Thus, Umekita Park will contribute to realizing a sustainable society.

Going forward, JV9 will advance the project with the aim of building new urban public spaces and a sustainable ecosystem under the plan concept of creating “Osaka MIDORI LIFE” that realizes healthy and quality lifestyles through “improvement in the quality of life of citizens and visitors” and the “innovation by companies, research institutes, etc.” The park is scheduled to substantially completed be the summer of 2024, prior to the “Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan.” The full opening will be in spring 2027.



## The Project's Plan Concept

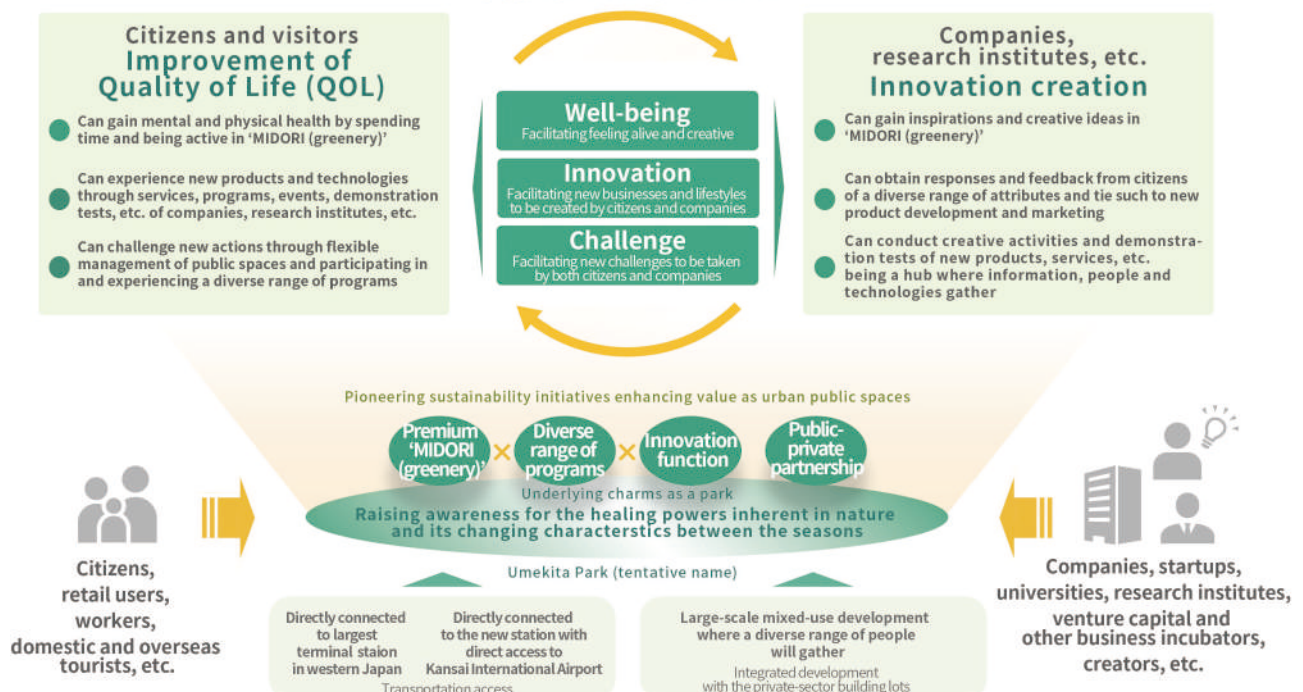
### Creating "Osaka MIDORI LIFE"

#### — 'MIDORI (Green)' and 'Innovation' in Harmony —

The Umekita project challenges the conventional paradigms of urban development to contribute to building a society where we accept the diversity of all nationalities, ages, genders and special needs, understand each other's wisdom, and strive for an improvement in the Quality of Life (QOL) for each person. To meet this goal, we will create an urban space brimming with vitality in harmony with 'MIDORI (green),' facilities as a starting point for innovation activities, places, and structures where citizens and businesses can challenge themselves to engage in new activities, thus delivering the energetic, creative life model "Osaka MIDORI LIFE" from Umekita to the Kansai region, and also around Japan and the world.

Affluent futuristic lifestyles through integration of 'MIDORI (greenery)' and 'innovation'

### Osaka MIDORI LIFE







## Characteristics of the Park (General Park)

### ●Landscape Design Concept

- The globally active landscape architecture firm GGN has been appointed to lead the landscape design, in collaboration with Nikken Sekkei Ltd. (Architect of Record) and a team of consultants.
- With “‘MIDORI (green)’ serving as inspiration and driving force for the future” as a design concept, the entire site, including the private lots, is seamlessly designed as one unified ground.
- The design of the undulating Landforms, as high as approximately 3 meters, across the north and south parks combine to form three key spaces—Reflection Lawn, Umekita Grove and Step Plaza\*<sup>4</sup>. Expanding the sense of scale of this open space enhances the experience for park visitors and increases the value of the park.
- The south park is being designed as an open urban park and the north park as a more naturalistic urban oasis with lush planting, each facing and creating stronger ties with the surrounding areas (in the JR Osaka Station direction and the Shin Umeda City direction).
- The Inspiration path\*<sup>4</sup>, is an elevated walkway and bridge that connects the North and South parks, which are separated by Osakaekikita 1 road. The walkway provides a sense of greater unity and continuity, through features like the step plaza that embraces the road as one space, and the cherry tree hills that flow along both sides of the road.
- The water features and the waterfall in the north and south parks will create symbolic, new landmark.

### GGN



Lurie Garden (Millennium Park, Chicago)



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GGN is a landscape architecture company founded in Seattle in 1999. It has designed a number of representative works, including Lurie Garden (2004) in Chicago's Millennium Park and the National Museum of African American History and Culture (2016) in Washington, DC. This landscape architecture group has received global recognition, having received the National Design Award in 2011 and an award from ASLA, an authority in landscape architecture, in 2017.

“This park is GGN's first project in Japan,” explains Makie Suzuki. The memories possessed by this land, the stone walls of Osaka Castle and other examples of Japanese craftsmanship, Osaka's culture of having built many bridges, and the inspirations coming from being a water city are incorporated into the design. The importance of public space in the city center and connections to the region were also kept in mind. Efforts have been dedicated to the planting design with scenery distinct to the four seasons, with woody plants and flowering plants that are indigenous to Osaka and those that give a sense of Japan. It is our hope that this park will become a new attraction in Osaka and loved by its citizens.”



## ●Overall Site Plan of the Park



## ●Images of the South Park



Reflection Lawn featuring premium natural grass and a water feature. Through integrated use with the large-canopy event space, events of a 10,000-person capacity can be held.





Terraced hills where people can relax in the shade of the trees. A diverse range of activities can take place in the south park.



Entry Garden, a garden space where people can spend time being surrounded by flowering plants that vary season by season



## ●Images of the North Park



Umekita Grove, a resting and relaxation space featuring lush planting and dynamic water features (a pond and waterfall). Cherry blossoms can be enjoyed in the spring at the hilltop level.



A water features designed for a variety of experiences is situated at the southwest entrance to the north park



Stone wall and waterfall that express the quality craftsmanship of Japan. In fall, visitors are immersed in the colors of seasonal foliage.



### ●Initiatives for Environmental Considerations (Sustainability)

- The project, which has been selected for the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism's fiscal 2021 program of leading projects for sustainable buildings and structures (leading CO2 reduction projects), proactively works to contribute to the SDGs through such means as introducing geothermal heat utilization, wastewater heat utilization, solar power generation and other cutting-edge environmental technologies and infrastructure for circulation of resources.
- Various types of environmental certification systems, such as LEED-ND, ZEB, are planned to be obtained for the project, including the park.

### <Planting Design Evoking a Sense of Japan, Osaka and Umekita>

- The planting design aims to evoke the vernacular beauty of Japan's seasons throughout the year, including beautifully colored fall foliage, such as maple and katsura, and spring flowers such as Japanese iris and azalea -and of course cherry blossoms, which will offer a new cherry blossom viewing spot in Osaka.
- The planting palette incorporates native and culturally adopted species, which are especially typical of *satoyama* vegetation (managed foothill boarder zones adjacent to human settlements) in the Uemachi Plateau and surrounding hills and regional mountains, in order to express local Osaka landscape identity.
- The planting is being designed to exhibit Umekita-like essences by introducing waterside planting symbolic of the "moist ground" with the history of Osaka as a water city and connections with Yodogawa and Nakanoshima, inspired by the geography and rooted in the history of the project site.



Main planting layout plan (east-west cross-sectional drawing of the north park)

### <Contributing to Circulation of Water Resources>

- The shades from vegetation and evapotranspiration from the planting, water features, etc. will contribute to the microclimate control effects to create a cooler spot in the city center.
- Green infrastructure technologies, such as bioswales<sup>\*5</sup>, infiltration trenches<sup>\*6</sup> and crushed stone reservoirs<sup>\*7</sup>, will be utilized to facilitate underground infiltration of rainwater and thereby control runoff out of the area, contributing to controlling rainfall inundation<sup>\*8</sup>.
- By using a planting system with irrigation and reservoir functions through reuse of rainwater, the use of clean water will be reduced.

### <Consideration for Biodiversity>

- Based on an ecological survey of Yodogawa and Osaka Castle Park, the birds and insects shown below have been set as target species for the park. The environment is being designed to consider habitat benefits of these species (control lighting level, provide diverse and sequenced swaths of plantings from waterside to woods, etc.), aiming to contribute to the ecosystem network surrounding the Osaka city center.



Illustration of circulation of water resources, etc. (upper portion) and examples of target species to attract (lower portion)

### ●Initiatives for Disaster Prevention (Resilience Building)

- Being developed as an urban park that functions as a safety evacuation area, under the disaster prevention park block improvement project by UR upon the request of the Osaka City Government, the park is designed to be capable of hosting temporary evacuees in the event of an earthquake, fire, or other large-scale disasters.
- In addition to securing the smooth access by evacuees and emergency vehicles, emergency lighting, emergency radio speakers, emergency toilets (emergency manhole toilets), supply storage and other disaster prevention facilities will also be in place.
- A system for electric power interchange to certain facilities of the park, by using the private land's emergency power generators and cogeneration system, will be made available for use in the event of an emergency, enhancing the disaster preparedness of the entire district.
- The project will seek to realize “Umeda, a town strong against disasters’ through maximization of self, mutual and public help” with the disaster prevention functions of the park and the business continuity planning (BCP) measures within the private land. Together these public/private collaborations will contribute to strengthening the resilience of the region.



## Characteristics of the Park Facilities (Facilities Permitted for Establishment)

### ●Applied Functions

- JV9 will develop buildings and other structures with mainly the following three functions as facilities permitted for establishment\*<sup>9</sup> within the park (“the park facilities”). Establishing the park facilities will enhance the park’s convenience and bustle, to raise the appeal of ‘MIDORI (Green)’ overall, drawing an array of people from Japan and abroad, and will also offer new experiences and learning opportunities for park visitors to create innovation through experiments and research data.

① Function of creating bustle	Creating a bustling vibe through event spaces that create a high level of activity for Osaka, attracting a diverse range of local visitors, as well as tourists from around the world.
② Function of innovation	Contribute to the creation of life design innovation* <sup>10</sup> by making the most of the interaction of a diverse range of citizens gathering at the park due to the location of the terminal. (Foster interest and fascination among citizens and users for the innovation activities of companies, universities, research institutes, etc. Serves the role of a venue that creates opportunities for “‘MIDORI (Green)’ and ‘innovation’ in harmony.”)
③ Function of cafes and restaurants	Cafes and restaurants support pleasant park use as resting, relaxation, and gathering spaces for visitors.

### ●Layout Plan for the Park Facilities\*<sup>4</sup>

- The facility layout is being designed so that the expanse of the park and connection of activities can be enjoyed by arranging each of the park facilities with the three functions listed above around the edge of the large green space reserved at the center of the north and south parks.



## ●Overview and Spatial Image of the Main Park Facilities

### <Large-Canopy Facility>



Study model

- Large-canopy event space  
Covered event space connected directly to the new station and capable of holding a diverse range of events
- Information center
  - General information center for the park and town in a location that serves as the gateway to the town
  - Space available for versatile uses that can function to market delivery of advanced lifestyles of high sensibility and where a diverse range of programs targeting park users and companies can be held
- Cafe & restaurant building  
Eating and drinking facilities where people can rest and relax while enjoying Reflection Lawn's high-quality grassy open space and events

#### SANAA



©Aiko Suzuki



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21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa



©SANAA

Louvre-Lens (France)

Established in 1995 by two architects Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa. 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Louvre-Lens (France) and New Museum (U.S.) are among its many architectural works. Winner of numerous awards, including the Golden Lion at the International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia in 2004 and the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2010.

“The large canopy of approximately 120 meters in length from north to south will be gently undulating to be in concert with the landscape of the urban park. Arranging the semi-outdoor large-canopy event space, information center and cafe & restaurant building each under the one roof connects the inside and outside naturally to become a place that is open to the park and region.”



### <Sports Cube>



Facility integrated with an outdoor terrace offering exercise and health exhibitions, events, programs and other experiences

### <Party Restaurant>



Eating and drinking facility that can be enjoyed for all purposes from daily use to special occasions in space surrounded by lush planting and light

### <Next Innovation Museum>



- A museum housing a large exhibition room boasting a ceiling height of 15 meters offering contact with 'tangibles' contributing to life design innovation, such as new products, technologies, services and art, and various 'intangibles,' such as events and programs
- For exhibitors (companies, developers, researchers, artists, etc.), too, it serves as a point of contact with citizens and users that they can apply to their innovation activities
- Also attached with eating/drinking and retail functions for use by park users and facility visitors

#### Tadao Ando (Next Innovation Museum design supervision)



Church of the Light



Modern Art Museum of Fort



Bourse de Commerce

Architect born in Osaka in 1941. After travelling around the world, he self-educated in architecture. Major works include the Pavilion of Japan at the Universal Exhibition of Seville (Expo 1992 Seville) and the Osaka Prefectural Chikatsu Asuka Museum.

Winner of numerous awards, including the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 1995, the International Union of Architects (UIA) Gold Medal in 2005 and the Japanese Order of Culture in 2010.

"The Umekita 2nd Project is an urban development project unlike none other in Japan being in a strategic location for transportation linking Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe. I see the creation of a giant green park in this location where various logistics and information concentrate as an extremely significant project also in terms of thinking about the ideal form of cities of the future.

Next Innovation Museum is being designed to be a green box by embedding much of the functions underground and greening the walls of the portion above ground so as to have an exterior that blends in with the surrounding park landscape. I expect this to become a place where people visiting can ponder about the future in a lush green environment."



### <Everyone's Cube>



Space available for versatile use, including various corporate activities, and also attached with eating/drinking facilities and freely usable space where citizens can rest, relax and gather, serving as a base for community activities

### <Edutainment Cube>



Facility offering 'playing' and 'learning' experiences through outdoor and indoor activities and a diverse range of programs for children to adults

### <Inspiration Path>



Pedestrian walkway connecting the north and south parks and contributing to enhancing accessibility while offering views of the park from above, sparking enjoyment and inspirations

### <View Restaurant>



Eating and drinking facility where the seasonal views produced by the lush green park can be enjoyed

## Direction Aimed for in Park Management and Area Management

- As an initiative for sustainable urban environmental management, JV9 plans to establish a corporate organization for operating the park and managing the area in an integrated manner under the City of Osaka designated administrator system. Maintenance and management of the highest quality is well suited to the Osaka Station vicinity. The high-quality landscape, provision of town information, etc. aim to create the "Osaka MIDORI LIFE," and enhance the value of the entire Umekita area including Grand Front Osaka.
- In addition, as pioneering initiatives for urban public spaces, the plan is not only taking in and support experiments and research tests for new products, services, etc. for creation of innovation by companies, research institutes, etc., but also to carry out placemaking<sup>\*11</sup> for everyday venues contributing to the well-being (state of being physically, mentally and socially well) of citizens, workers, town visitors, etc. Events offering extraordinary experiences are planned.
- Going forward, plans will be put into practice in collaboration with a broad range of attractive service providers, content planners, etc. for the realization of these initiatives, and considerations made to introduce endeavors such as co-sponsorship programs targeting companies that are in alignment with the project's plan concept and the park's sustainability values and measures, as part of the efforts to build an ecosystem supporting sustainable management.



Rental and Provision Services (illustrative examples)		Participatory Programs (illustrative examples)	
Rental and provision of furniture, portable batteries and other equipment for supporting pleasant use and active full use of the park and flexible workstyles outdoors		Luring and holding of a diverse range of programs for enriching everyday life in the city center to participate in after work on weekdays or to enjoy during shopping with family on days off	
 Rosella De Berti/gettyimages	 Radomir Jovanovic/gettyimages	 xavierarnau/gettyimages	 Edward Tan/gettyimages
Making the environment one where people can lay back and relax	Creating space suitable for outdoor meetings	Recreational programs	Programs of musical, theatrical and other shows and performances
Extraordinary Events (illustrative examples)		Demonstration Tests (illustrative examples)	
Luring and holding of events offering special memorable experiences that make use of the park's diverse range of spaces and seasonal charms		Provision of venue for citizens and users to experience advanced products and services of companies, universities, etc.	
 Lasse Torri/EyeEm/gettyimages	 George Pichantouris/gettyimages		 Tim Roberts/gettyimages
Illumination events	Park cinema	Robot demonstration tests	Augmented reality experiences using smartglasses

## Schedule

Summer 2024	Partial opening (Partial area of private lot and the park)
	— Subsequent phased openings —
Spring 2027	Full completion of the park
Fiscal 2027	Full completion of the project

## Designation as Super City National Strategic Special Zone

- The Umekita 2nd Project was set as a target zone, along with Yumeshima, the planned site of the “Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan”, in the proposal by Osaka Prefecture and the City of Osaka to the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan for designation as a Super City National Strategic Special Zone, and the zone designation was approved at a Cabinet meeting on April 12.
- For details, please check with the City of Osaka’s website below.  
<https://www.city.osaka.lg.jp/ictsenryakushitsu/page/0000524676.html> (in Japanese)

## Notes

- \*1: Umekita Development Specific Purpose Company is an SPC funded by Obayashi Corporation.
- \*2: An open space with rich planting that anyone can easily access. The Umekita 2nd Project’s ‘MIDORI’ (green) enhances the dignity and appeal of the city and provides an opportunity to elevate Osaka to the level of an international city with a world-class urban space. This will concentrate capital and superior human resources from all over the world and generate creative and transformative change (innovation).
- \*3: The urban development policy that was formulated by the Osaka Station Area / Nakanoshima and Midosuji Area Urban Renaissance Emergency Development Council.
- \*4: The portions of the park and the park facilities named in this release are all tentative names and subject to change in the future.
- \*5: Landscaped depressions designed to collect and infiltrate rainwater during rain events.
- \*6: Drainage facilities that are excavated trenches filled with crushed stone and lined with perforated pipes designed to evenly distribute the infiltrated water.
- \*7: Drainage facilities that direct rainwater into void storage and infiltration tanks of crushed stone, etc. and infiltrate the water into the ground from the sides and bottom.
- \*8: Urban inundation caused by insufficient drainage of rainwater into rivers and other channels in urban areas.
- \*9: Park facilities being established by JV9 with the permission of the Osaka City Government based on Urban Park Act Article 5 (establishment, etc. of park facilities by parties other than the park administrator).
- \*10: Life design innovation: Creation of products and services for people to live healthily and affluently, including but not limited to wellness, lifestyle and edutainment.
- \*11: To create spaces that are bustling and comfortable based on a multifaceted consideration encompassing not only design but also methods of use and utilization.

The initiatives of the project would contribute to twelve of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).





## ■ Outline of the Park (General Park)

Project location	Within Ofukacho, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi (Osaka city planning park 5, 4 and 32 Ofukacho Park)
Park name	Umekita Park (tentative name)
Park area	Approximately 45,000 m <sup>2</sup>
Development	<p>Development implementing body: Osaka City Government and Urban Renaissance Agency (“public sector”)</p> <p>Development method: Disaster prevention park block improvement project (partly, land readjustment project)</p> <p>The base-grade park development will be conducted by the public sector, followed by the addition of upgrades that enhance the appeal of the entire town through design proposals, etc. by JV9, and then transferred to the Osaka City Government</p>
Design	<p>Schematic design: Nikken Sekkei Ltd.; Mitsubishi Jisho Design Inc.</p> <p>Design development: Nikken Sekkei Ltd.</p> <p>Design proposal, etc.: JV9</p> <p>Design lead: GGN</p> <p>Designer: Nikken Sekkei Ltd.</p> <p>Lighting designer: Satoshi Uchihara Design Office</p> <p>Signage designer: Rian Ihara Design Office</p> <p>Signage project management: MEC Design International Corporation</p>
Construction	Specified construction joint venture of Obayashi Corporation, Takenaka Corporation and Takenaka Civil Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd.

\* Osaka Prefectural Government’s release URL

<https://www.pref.osaka.lg.jp/hodo/index.php?site=fumin&pageId=44421> (in Japanese)

\* Osaka City Government’s release URL

<https://www.city.osaka.lg.jp/hodoshiryo/kensetsu/0000563806.html> (in Japanese)

\* Urban Renaissance Agency’s release URL

[https://www.ur-net.go.jp/west/news/hndcds0000005lx5-att/20220516\\_umekita\\_2nd.pdf](https://www.ur-net.go.jp/west/news/hndcds0000005lx5-att/20220516_umekita_2nd.pdf) (in Japanese)

## ■ Outline of the Park Facilities (Facilities Permitted for Establishment)

Total floor area	Approximately 11,000 m <sup>2</sup>
Development	<p>Development implementing body: JV9</p> <p>Development method: Park facilities establishment permission system</p>
Design	<p>○Park facilities overall (except Large-Canopy Facility)</p> <p>Schematic design and design development: Nikken Sekkei Ltd.</p> <p>*Next Innovation Museum design supervision: Tadao Ando Architect &amp; Associates</p> <p>○Large-Canopy Facility</p> <p>Schematic design and design development: SANAA (Sejima and Nishizawa and Associates)</p>
Supervision	<p>○Park facilities overall (except Large-Canopy Facility)</p> <p>Nikken Sekkei Ltd.</p> <p>○Large-Canopy Facility</p> <p>SANAA (Sejima and Nishizawa and Associates)</p>
Construction	Umekita 2nd Project Joint Venture (Takenaka Corporation; Obayashi Corporation)

\*The contents of this release are subject to change based on future considerations or deliberations.