



Start from Kobe. Innovate in Kobe. /

KOBE Biomedical Innovation Cluster

Business Launch Guide

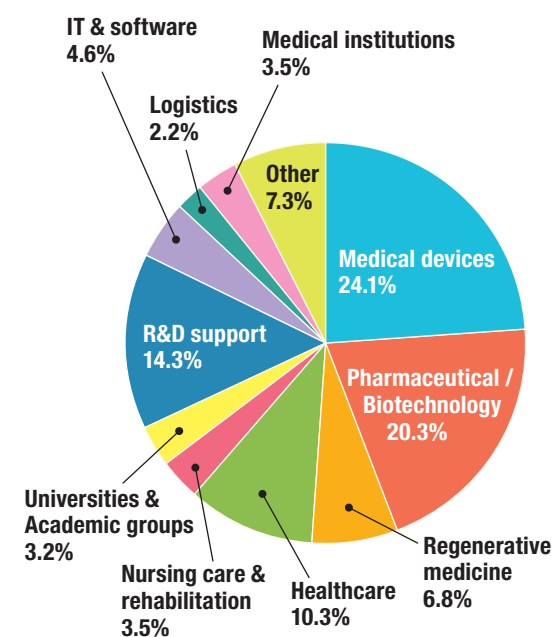


KOBE Biomedical Innovation Cluster

The City of Kobe launched the Kobe Biomedical Innovation Cluster (KBIC) as a recovery project to rebuild the economy of Kobe, which was severely damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake that occurred on January 17, 1995. Since 1998, the City of Kobe has been endeavoring to develop an R&D hub for advanced bio-medical technology on Port Island, an artificial island, and through collaboration with industries, universities and medical institutions. To date, it has grown to become Japan's largest biomedical cluster with a concentration of cutting-edge research institutes, highly specialized hospitals, bio-medical and healthcare -related companies and universities.



Breakdown of companies/ organizations As of end of Feb. 2026



List of KBIC Companies



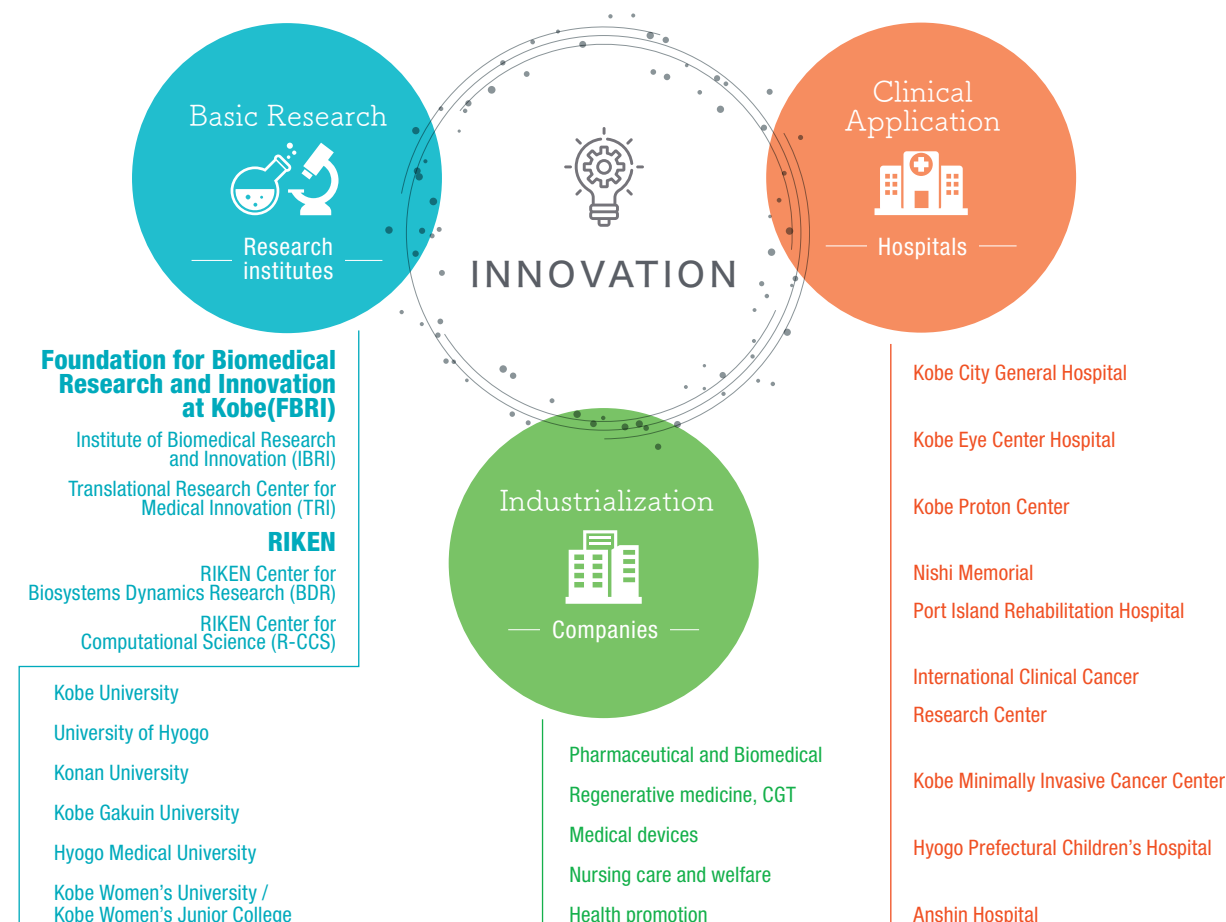
Cluster that creates Innovation

A concentration of more than 300 companies and organizations

- Research institutes, hospitals, and companies concentrated in a compact area; collaboration among them creates innovation
- A concentration of CROs, CMOs, and animal breeding and experimentation facilities responding to a variety of research and development needs
- The Translational Research Informatics Center (TRI) supports clinical research; the medical cluster with eight highly specialized hospital offers an excellent environment for clinical research

Total support system

- Extensive support services for startups including a variety of incubation facilities and acceleration programs
- Kobe City staff, together with dedicated coordinators, provide support for commercialization, business expansion and matchmaking
- Strategic consultation on pharmaceutical affairs by PMDA is available



Foundation for Biomedical Research and Innovation at Kobe (FBRI)

The Foundation for Biomedical Research and Innovation at Kobe (FBRI) is a pivotal supporting organization in the Biomedical Innovation Cluster, promoting and facilitating collaboration and integration between government, industry,

Organizations

Institute of Biomedical Research and Innovation (IBRI)

R&D of novel medical technologies with a focus on immunology aging and regenerative medicine

Translational Research Center for Medical Innovation (TRI)

Support for the clinical development in Japan and overseas.

Center for Cluster Development and Coordination (CCD)

Providing one-stop services to meet a wide range of support needs including business matchmaking, professional consultation and network building.

Foreign affiliated companies

United States

Nihon Medi-Physics, Johnson & Johnson, Progenicyte Japan, Simco Japan, IQVIA Services Japan, Integra Japan, NEI Japan, VectorBuilder Japan, TWIST BIOSIENCE

Germany

Nippon Boehringer Ingelheim, Bayer Yakuin, Dürr Dental Japan, provitro AG, Siemens Japan K.K.

France

Texcell Japan

China

BGI Japan, International Cooperation for Medical Innovation, Hondo Innovation Center, O and R

Belgium

IBP Technologies

Spain

Igenomix Japan

Switzerland

SkanJapan, Electrosuisse Japan, Sucampo Pharma

United Kingdom

Spectris, IMI Critical Engineering Japan

Hong Kong

AILSI

Taiwan

AlleyPin

Singapore

Access-2-Healthcare Japan

Korea

Dexcowin Japan, Celltrion



New Rental Laboratories & Incubation Facilities

2025

Integrated Research Center of Kobe University[Bio Manufacturing Co-Creation Center]



Designed to advance next-generation biomanufacturing, this state-of-the-art research hub features a cutting-edge biofoundry, dedicated R&D laboratories, rental laboratory spaces for biotechnology companies, and collaborative shared lab facilities.

Focused on supporting sustainable innovation and advancing the SDGs, the center drives the development of "bio manufacturing" technologies that transform renewable resources into high-value products.

Kobe University Graduate School of Medicine Medtech Innovation Center (MIC)

The facility will feature R&D laboratories equipped with state-of-the-art engineering and medical equipment, along with a shared medical device studio supporting prototyping and product development.

The center provides a space where industry, government, academia, and medical professionals can collaborate organically, aiming to revitalize the medical device industry through sustained device creation and the cultivation of highly creative development talent.



2026 NEW DP-Lab KOBE



Provided by Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd.



Scheduled for completion in August 2026, the six-story facility will offer a total floor area of 9,027.86 m².

Designed to accommodate a wide range of research needs, the wet lab spaces offer flexible and customizable layouts that support efficient and adaptable R&D environments. The facility will also feature collaboration lounges and coworking spaces, encouraging interaction, idea exchange, and cross-disciplinary innovation.

2027 NEW iPark Kobe

Scheduled for completion in November 2027, this 8-story building will have a total floor area of approximately 12,000 m².

Designed to support a wide range of tenant needs, the facility offers flexible multi-purpose wet lab spaces. Tenants will also have access to a variety of shared amenities, including meeting rooms and coworking lounges. A spacious atrium-style entrance hall creates an open and welcoming atmosphere, and can also be utilized for events, seminars, and other activities.



Provided by Mitsubishi Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation Urban Development, Inc., and iPark Institute Co., Ltd.

Comprehensive support from the idea stage to commercialization



One-stop support

A dedicated coordinator serves as a guide to provide comprehensive support for the market research, R&D, pharmaceutical affairs, and developing sales channels



Accompanied Support by Dedicated Coordinators

- ▶ Pharmaceutical ▶ Medical devices
- ▶ Health promotion ▶ Startups
- ▶ Overseas business expansion
- ▶ Industry-academia collaboration

Commercialization/ Industrialization



Consultations by Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA)

- Regulatory science strategic consultation by PMDA staff
- Pre-consultation handling of various issues and topics by dedicated coordinators

Cooperation/Consultation Desk with Medical Institutions

Provides support for partnerships with medical institutions within the KBIC, including clinical trials, clinical research, and joint R&D.

Networking and Business support



Expanding Business Network

We support business matchmaking through field-specific study sessions and networking events where researchers and companies share information on their activities

Cluster Networking Events / OPEN INNOVATION café

Provides opportunities for business card/information exchanges among companies/research institutes including those from other industries

47 member companies (as of Mar. 2026)

Regenerative Medicine Study Group

Promotes the commercialization of regenerative medicine by providing the latest information in this field networking opportunities among members

Annual Membership Fee: 50,000JPY per company



OPEN INNOVATION café



Regenerative Medicine Study Group



Support System to Drive Innovation



Kobe Vision for the Healthcare of Tomorrow

R&D and human resource development centered on the surgical support robot, "hinotori"

- Hands-on support provided by Kobe University through its Medtech Innovation Center(MIC) medical device development hub.

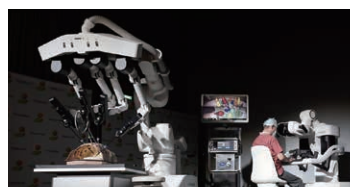


Image courtesy of Mediaroid Corporation



Kobe Health Lab

Comprehensive Support for Commercializing Healthcare-Related Products and Services

- Surveys and monitoring studies conducted utilizing the Health Promotion Citizen Supporter System
- Expert advice on product development and improvement
- Company and researcher matching support

3,500 health promotion citizen supporters (as of the end of December 2025)



Kansai Life Science Accelerator Program

Support for global market expansion and business development

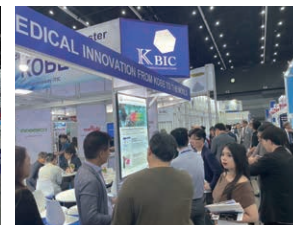
- Mentoring from a group of expert advisors
- Extensive advisory sessions over a 3-month period
- Networking with investors and strategic partners



Joint Participation in International Exhibitions

Exhibited at MEDICAL FAIR THAILAND 2025

- Joint exhibition with market-entry companies

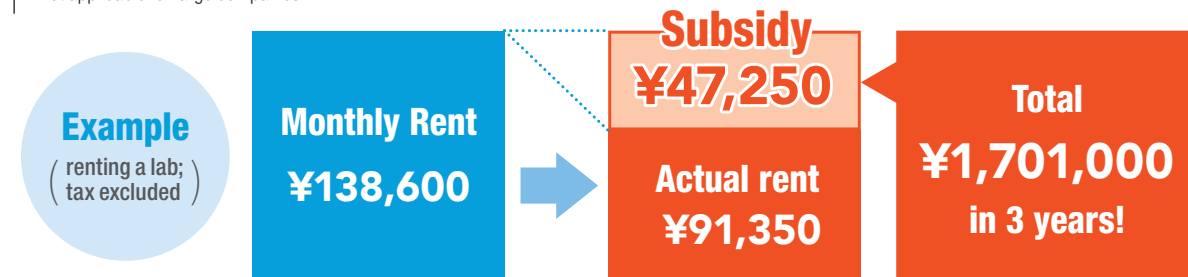


Subsidies and Grants

Office and Lab Rent Subsidy

3-year rent subsidy up to 50%
(Maximum ¥1,500 /m², ¥2 million/ year)

* Not applicable for large companies



Tax Incentives

Business	Eligibility requirements	Tax categories	Reduction rates & duration
Designated projects	Designated projects For leased properties, total floor area must be 200m ² or more	Fixed Asset Tax & City Planning Tax (on land, buildings, depreciable assets)	1/2 5 years
Core projects	For designated projects that involve the acquisition and development of facilities with a total floor area of 1,000 m ² or more, and meet at least one of the following: ① Land acquisition of 1 hectare or more ② Investment of 1 billion JPY or more (excluding land cost) ③ Involvement in R&D in the medical field	Fixed Asset Tax & City Planning Tax (on land, buildings, depreciable assets) + Enterprise Tax (on asset value)	1/2 5 years

* "Special key projects" refer to businesses belonging to industries such as the following, as specified by the Kobe City mayor: Lifestyle & Culture; Information & Communications; Globalization; Tourism & Visitor Attraction; Logistics; Health, Medical & Welfare; Environment; Advanced Manufacturing Technology & New Materials; Aerospace.

* When adding buildings to an existing site and starting a new designated project, a 50% reduction on buildings and depreciable assets applies for 3 years.

Startup Subsidy

- Applicable for Startups to establish a new office in the city outside KBIC
- 3-year subsidy up to ¥8.2 million for office rent, office maintenance expenses, equipment and software acquisition costs, and HR costs

Building Acquisition Support Program

- Eligible Applicants: businesses relocating their head office functions from outside of Kobe City (excluding the 23 wards of Tokyo)
- Up to 5% of building acquisition cost (Maximum: 20% of taxes levied in the relevant fiscal year)

*Eligibility Requirement: Hiring 5+ (1+ for SMEs), subject to additional requirements.

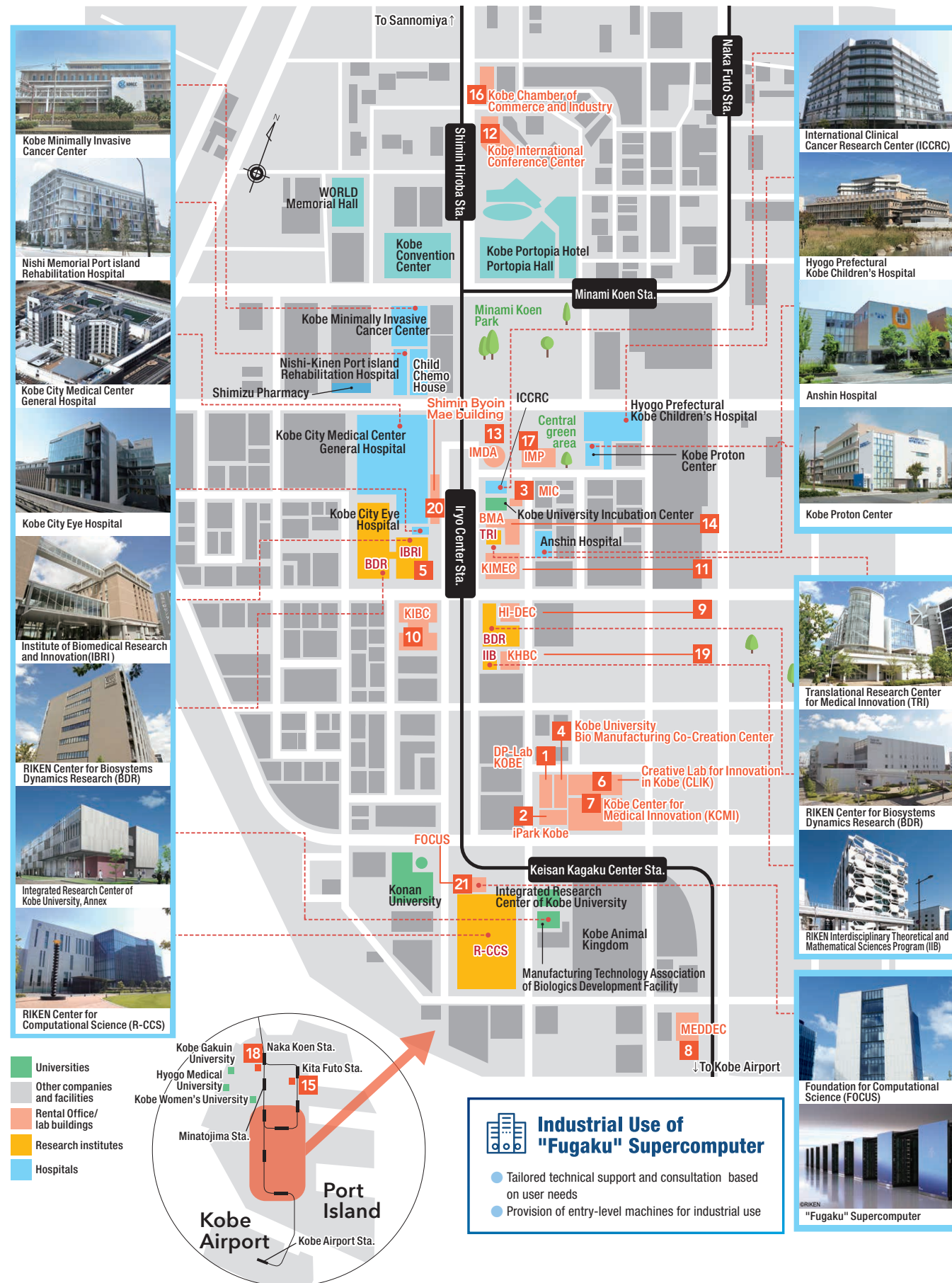
Support for Foreign and Foreign-affiliated Companies with global activities

- Kobe City
 - 3-year (5-year if renting 1,500m²+) rent subsidy up to 25% (Maximum ¥1,500/m², ¥10million/ year)
 - Subsidy of up to ¥1.4 million /employee (Maximum ¥100 million) *Requirement of 5+ regular employees

- Hyogo Prefecture
 - 3-year rent subsidy up to 25% (Maximum ¥750/m², ¥1million/year, ¥10million if renting 1,500m² + with 10 + regular employees)
 - Subsidy of up to 50% of market research expenses, etc. (Maximum ¥1 million)
 - Subsidy of up to 50% of corporate registration expenses, etc. (Maximum ¥200,000)
 - Employment subsidy of up to ¥600,000/person (Maximum ¥300 million)
 - *Employment requirements apply.
 - 50% reduction in corporate enterprise tax (for 5 years)
 - *Investment requirements and employment requirements apply.



KBIC Overview



Rental Offices and Laboratories

Facility Use : O = Office L = Lab
M = Shared equipment S = Small Office
P = Parking available R = Meeting rooms available

Rental Offices & Labs

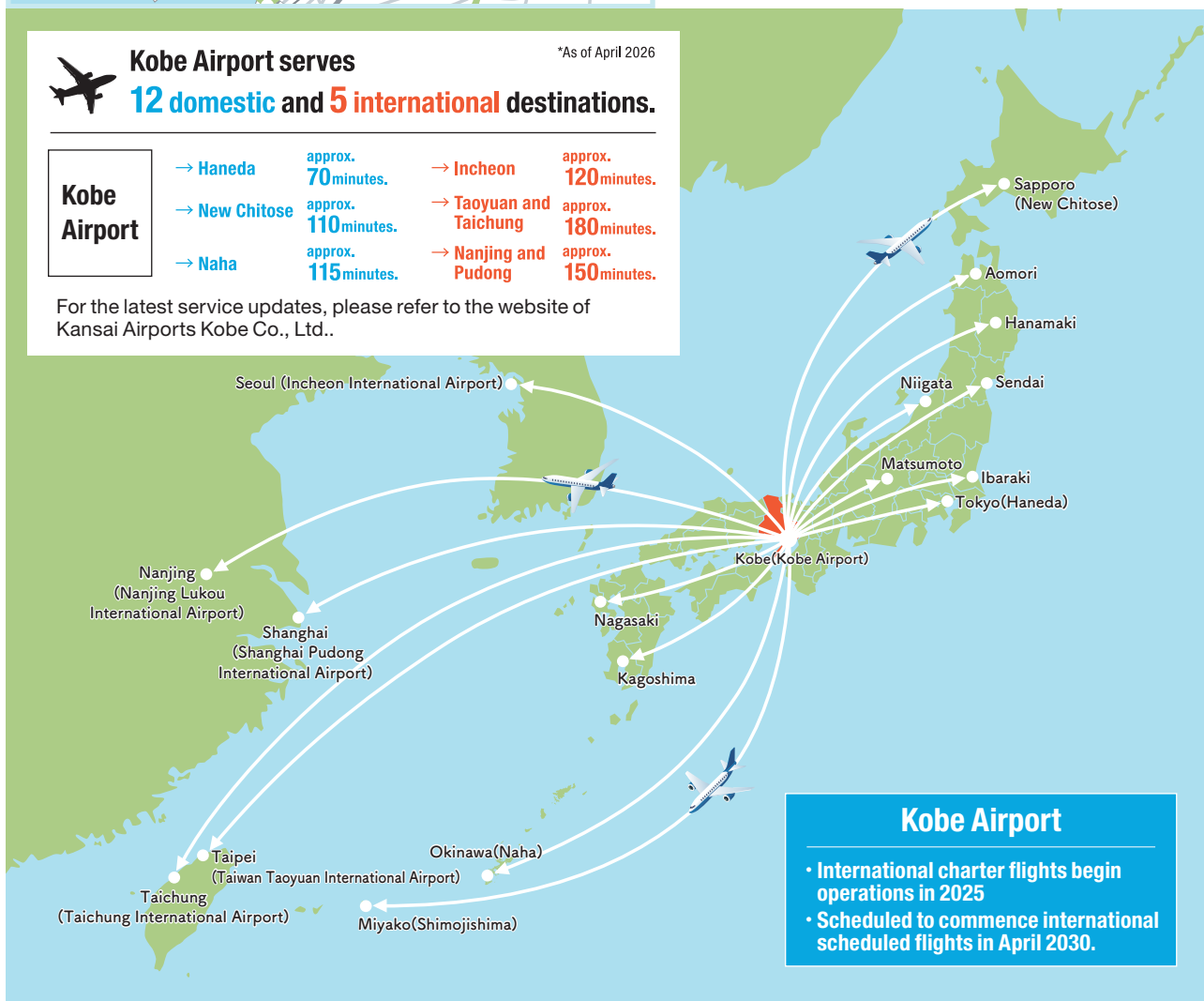
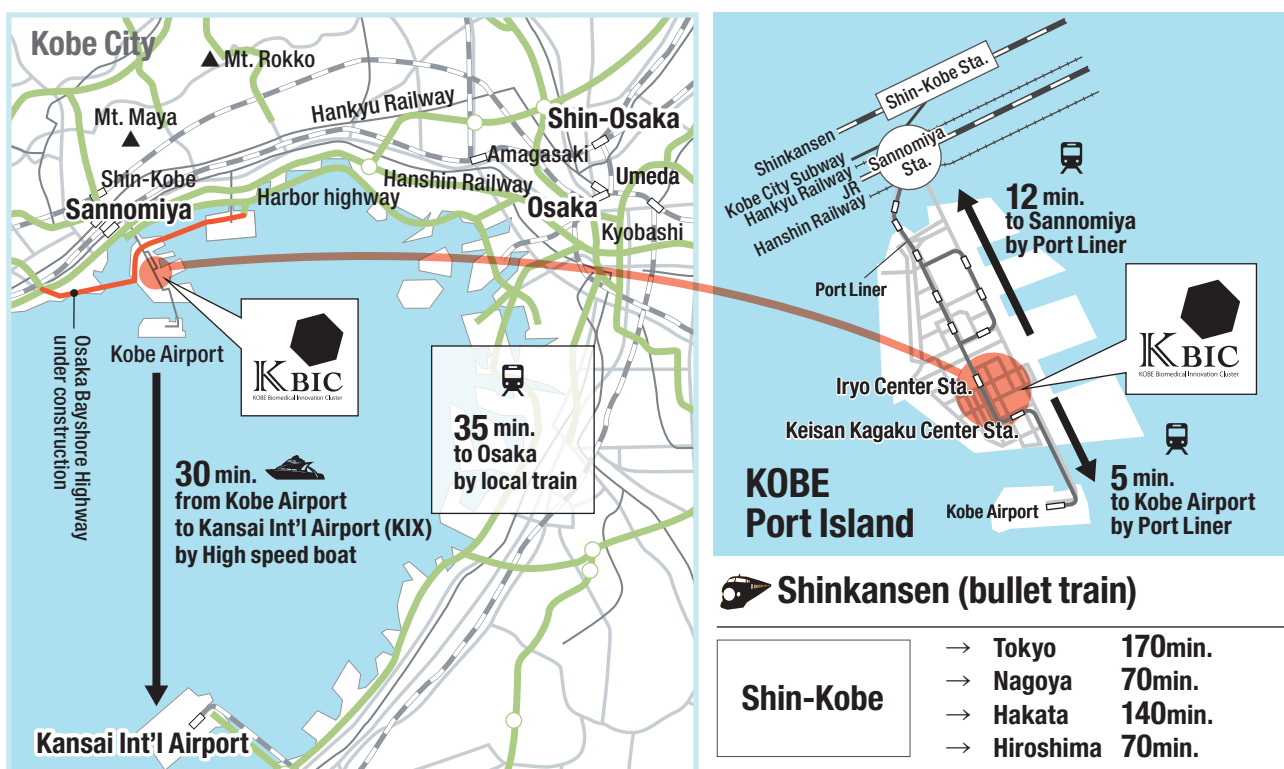
Please contact us for more information

1 DP-Lab KOBE *Scheduled for completion in August 2026 L Exterior image *Subject to change	2 iPark Kobe *Scheduled for completion in November 2027 L Exterior image *Subject to change	3 Medtech Innovation Center (MIC) L R	4 Kobe University Bio Manufacturing Co-Creation Center L R
5 Institute of Biomedical Research and Innovation (IBRI) L R	6 Creative Lab for Innovation in Kobe (CLIK) Installation of shared experiment equipment L M P R Animal experiment facilities	7 Kobe Center for Medical Innovation (KCMi) Wet lab available for CPC installation O L S P R	8 Kobe Medical Device Development Center (MEDDEC) L M P R Operation rooms Animal experiment facilities
9 Kobe Healthcare Industry Development Center (HI-DEC) L	10 Kobe International Business Center (KIBC) O L S P R	11 Kobe KIMEC Center Building (KIMEC) O L P R	12 Kobe International Conference Center O P
13 International Medical Device Alliance (IMDA) O S P R	14 Business Support Center for Biomedical Research Activities (BMA) L M P R Animal experiment facilities	15 Kita Futo Building O P	16 The Kobe Chamber of Commerce and Industry O P R
17 International Medical Plaza (IMP) O L M P R Shared equipment Operation rooms	18 Port Island Building O S P	19 Kobe Hybrid Business Center (KHBC) L O P R Shared Office	20 Shimin Byoin Mae Building O L P R
			21 Computational Science Research Support Center (FOCUS) O R



Excellent location to connect nationwide and globally

70 minutes to Tokyo-Haneda Airport from KBIC, and only 12 minutes to downtown Sannomiya



Living in Kobe

Kobe offers both the convenience of a city and the richness of nature. In this unique environment you can enjoy both work and life to the fullest



© KOBE TOURISM BUREAU

Emergency Medical Center
Kobe City General Hospital

Ranked **1st** **11 consecutive years**
308 facilities
by Ministry of Health,
Labour and Welfare 2024

**Families waiting
for daycare spots:**

0

As of April 2024, according to
the City of Kobe

Ranked **1st** **in urban park area per
capital out of 21 cities**

(As of May 2023)

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KBIC's
official website



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