National Strategic Special Zones: Shaping the Future of Regions

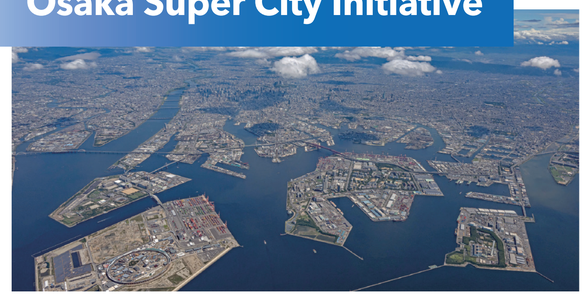
Cabinet Office

Super City
Tech challenges SDGs

Addressing Regional Challenges and Creating New Business Opportunities Through National Strategic Special Zones

National Strategic Special Zones are a system designed to promote regulatory reform across 17 government-designated special areas.
They support the social implementation of new businesses and technologies, thereby fostering innovation and expanding investment.

Osaka Super City Initiative



Osaka Pref. & City

Osaka Prefectural Government　City of Osaka 大阪市

Population of Osaka Pref. : Approx. 8.77 million
(Foreign Residents : Approx. 380,000)
Area of Osaka Pref. : Approx. 1,905.34 km²

Population of Osaka City : Approx. 2.81 million
(Foreign Residents : Approx. 210,000)
Area of Osaka City : Approx. 225.34 km²

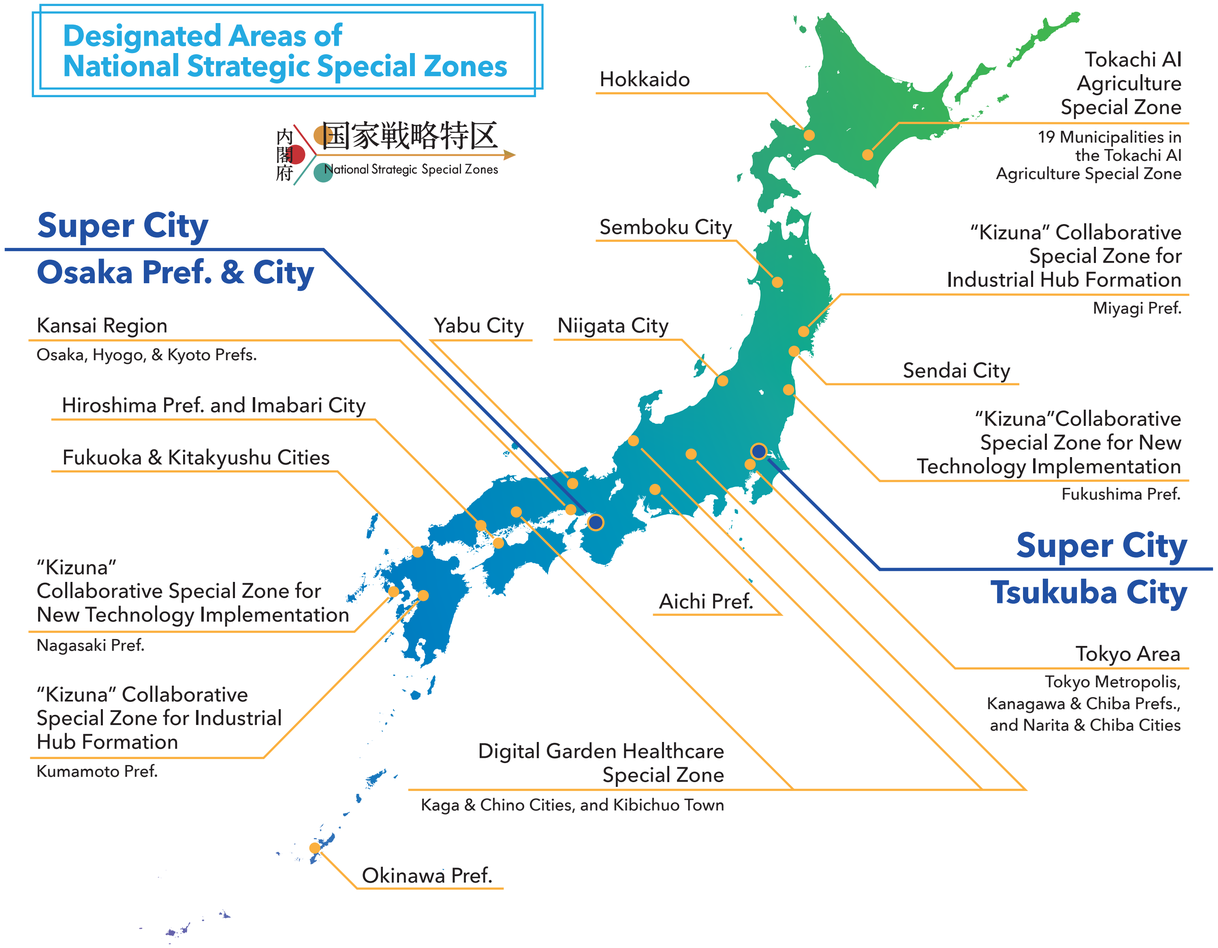
Population of Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City (FY2025)



With the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan as a milestone, we have advanced the demonstration and implementation of cutting-edge services as well as regulatory and institutional reforms in greenfield areas such as "Yumeshima" and "Umekita Phase 2"—new urban developments that attract new residents, with the theme of "Step up Our Health and Lives with Data."
Going forward, while carrying on the legacy of the Expo, we will expand these initiatives to new fields beyond "Yumeshima" and "Umekita Phase 2." Through the implementation of cutting-edge services and mechanisms for their continuous creation, we aim to improve residents' Quality of Life (QoL) and strengthen urban competitiveness.

Designated Areas of National Strategic Special Zones

内閣府 国家戦略特区 National Strategic Special Zones



Tsukuba Super Science City Initiative



Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Pref.

TSUKUBA



Population : Approx. 270,000
(Researchers : Approx. 23,000
Foreign Residents : Approx. 15,000
University Students : Approx. 17,000)
Number of Research Institutions : Approx. 160
Area : Approx. 283.72 km²

Tsukuba City is promoting the Tsukuba Super Science City Initiative in collaboration with universities, research institutions, and companies, utilizing advanced technology to optimize urban functions and improve residents' lives.
To date, it has advanced the implementation of diverse services and regulatory/institutional reforms in various fields, such as mobility, healthcare, administrative services, and data utilization. Going forward, the city will deepen connections with residents and accelerate efforts to realize the Initiative.

Examples of Initiatives in National Strategic Special Zones

● Nagasaki Pref.



Area-Based Level 4 Drone Delivery Demonstration

● Kumamoto Pref.



Establishment of a One-Stop Center for Business Startups

● Osaka Pref. & Osaka City



Courtesy of SkyDrive Inc.

Social Implementation of Advanced Air Mobility

● Tsukuba City



Social Implementation of Autonomous Buses

● Fukushima Pref.



Realization of a Hydrogen Society through Relaxation of Upper Limits on Compressed Hydrogen Storage

● 19 Municipalities in the Tokachi AI Agriculture Special Zone



Demonstration of Autonomous Operations on Public Roads for Robot Tractors