

## Benin Business Forum 2025 in Osaka

# CHOOSE BENIN

Your Gateway to Benin - West Africa's Most Promising Investment Destination

### Invitation

We cordially invite you to attend the *Benin Business Forum 2025* in Osaka, a premier investment showcase designed to connect Japanese businesses with exceptional opportunities in the Republic of Benin - one of West Africa's most dynamic economies.

**Date:** Thursday, August 28th, 2025

**Time:** 2:00 PM - 6:30 PM (JST)

**Venue:** *Creation-Core Higashi-Osaka South 3F, Creators' Plaza*

**Address:** 1-4 Aramotokita, Higashiosaka, Osaka Prefecture, 577-0011, Japan

**Language:** English with Japanese interpretation provided

**Registration:** Please register [here](https://form.run/@BeninBusinessForum2025Osaka) or use link/QR code below:

<https://form.run/@BeninBusinessForum2025Osaka>

**Registration Deadline:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2025



### About This Forum

The *Benin Business Forum 2025* represents a strategic initiative to position Benin as a leading investment destination in West Africa. This exclusive event will showcase Benin's robust investment climate, emerging economic sectors, and the unprecedented opportunities available to Japanese investors seeking to expand their presence in the African market.

Building on the Government's ambitious pro-business reforms and the support of APIEx, the Forum will bring together high-level policymakers, business leaders, and industry experts from Benin and Japan. Participants will gain first-hand insights into Benin's rapidly growing sectors—including **agro-industry, manufacturing, logistics, renewable energy, digital transformation, and tourism**.

Through a strong focus on investment security, streamlined administrative procedures, and a steadily improving business environment, the Forum aims to build lasting ties between Beninese and Japanese private sectors. Attendees will discover how Benin's stable macroeconomic environment, demographic dynamism, and strategic access to regional markets such as ECOWAS make it an attractive gateway for business in West Africa.

The *Benin Business Forum 2025* is dedicated to fostering mutually beneficial international investment partnerships.

The Forum stands as a key moment to explore and seize the new opportunities created by Benin's ongoing economic transformation—co-organized by **APIEx, the Embassy of the Republic of Benin in Japan, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry** in collaboration with **the Municipality of Higashi-Osaka** and the **Japan Institute for Overseas Investment**.



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## Co-Lead Organizers

### Agency for the Promotion of Investment and Exportation (APIEx)



APIEx serves as Benin's premier investment promotion agency, dedicated to attracting high-quality foreign investment and promoting Beninese exports. With a mandate to facilitate investment processes and provide comprehensive support to international investors, APIEx acts as the primary gateway for businesses seeking to establish operations in Benin's rapidly growing economy.

### Embassy of Benin in Japan - DGADE



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The Embassy of Benin in Japan together with the Directorate General for Development Aid and External Relations (DGADE) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, acts as the primary diplomatic link between Benin and Japan. The embassy actively promotes economic cooperation, trade relations, and investment opportunities between the two nations, facilitating partnerships that drive mutual prosperity.

### The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Founded in 1878, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) is a comprehensive economic organization, representing over 31,000 member companies from a wide range of industries and business sizes in the Osaka-Kansai region. OCCI is dedicated to promoting regional economic development, supporting business innovation, and revitalizing commerce and industry in Osaka through advocacy and international collaboration.



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東大阪市  
HIGASHI-OSAKA



OCCI  
大阪商工会議所  
The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry



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## Collaborators

### Higashi-Osaka City



東大阪市

HIGASHI-OSAKA

The Municipality of Higashi-Osaka, renowned for its vibrant manufacturing sector and international business partnerships, serves as the gracious host for this investment forum. Mayor Yoshikazu NODA will provide opening remarks, highlighting opportunities for strengthening Japan-Benin economic relations.

### Japan Institute for Overseas Investment



海外投融資情報財団

Japan Institute for Overseas Investment

The Japan Institute for Overseas Investment (JOI) serves as an information hub for Japanese companies aiming to expand overseas. Its mission is to facilitate smooth and sound foreign direct investment from Japan and expand international business ties, supporting Japanese firms by supplying essential market, legal, and practical information for their overseas ventures.

## Strategic Partners

### Africa Logistics Zone (ALZ)



ALZ represents Benin's commitment to becoming a regional logistics hub, developing state-of-the-art infrastructure and innovation ecosystems. This strategic platform connects investors with cutting-edge logistics solutions and emerging technology opportunities across West Africa.

### Benin Tourisme



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As Benin's official tourism promotion agency, Benin Tourisme showcases the country's rich cultural heritage, diverse tourism assets, and dynamic hospitality sector. It offers unique investment opportunities in sustainable tourism and cultural preservation initiatives, and organizes the Benin Pavilion at the Osaka World Expo 2025, fostering international cooperation.



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## The Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIB)



Established in 1908, the Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIB) is a public institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, serving as the main representative body for Benin's economic operators across commerce, industry, and service sectors. CCIB also plays a leading role in fostering the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, supporting export readiness, and facilitating access to new markets.

## The Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ)



The Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ) is a modern, integrated industrial hub spanning 1,640 hectares located 45 kilometers from Cotonou, developed as a public-private partnership between the Republic of Benin and ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms. Designed to transform local agricultural products such as cotton, cashews, pineapples, and soybeans into higher-value finished goods, GDIZ aims to create up to 300,000 jobs by 2030 and position Benin as a regional manufacturing leader.

## Ministry of Economy and Finance – Generale Directorate of International Cooperation



The General Directorate of International Cooperation (Direction Generale de la Cooperation Internationale in French) is in charge of coordinating all cooperation initiatives and bilateral relationships between the Republic of Benin and all partner countries around the world.

## Event Programme

Time	Session	Duration	Details
2:00 PM	Opening Remarks	10 minutes	Welcome address by <b>Mr. Mahouton Mathieu HOUKANRIN</b> , Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the <u>Embassy of the Republic of Benin to Japan</u>

2:10 PM	Introductory Remarks	10 minutes	His Worshipful <b>Mayor Yoshikazu NODA</b> , <i>Municipality of Higashi-Osaka</i>
2:20 PM	Introductory Remarks + Signing of Memorandum of Understanding	20 minutes	Representative of the <i>Osaka Chamber of Industry and Commerce</i> and Representative of <i>Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry</i>
2:40 PM	Keynote Address	20 minutes	<b>Mr. Sinda CHEKETE</b> – Managing Director, <i>Agency for the Promotion of Investment and Exportation (APIEx)</i> , Republic of Benin
3:00 PM	Toyota Tsusho in Benin: Experiences & Insights	20 minutes	<b>Mr. Hiroumi OHARA</b> – General Manager, Africa Power & Infrastructure Department, <i>Toyota Tsusho Corporation</i>
3:20 PM	Navigating Benin: Perspectives of a Japanese Entrepreneur	10 minutes	<b>Mr. Hirokazu TANAKA</b> – Chairman of the Board, <i>SEIZANKA, Social Welfare Corporation</i>
3:30 PM	Benin Institutional Discussion: Business Climate	20 minutes	<b>Mr. Marc ANANI-ISAAC</b> – Director, Investment Promotion, <i>Agency for the Promotion of Investment and Exportation (APIEx)</i> , Republic of Benin
3:50 PM	Benin Institutional Discussion: GDIZ as a Driver of Agro-Industrial Development	20 minutes	<b>Mr. Faki ADJE</b> – Deputy Managing Director, <i>SIPI-BENIN SA</i>
4:10 PM	Benin Institutional Discussion: Value Adding Logistics	20 minutes	<b>Mr. Pierre GERKENS</b> – Managing Director, <i>Africa Logistics Zone (ALZ)</i>  <b>Mrs. Inge TAILLIEU</b> – ALZ Project Manager, <i>Port of Antwerp-Bruges International</i>
4:30 PM	Benin Institutional Discussion: Cashew Sector	10 minutes	<b>Mr. Tejhash MODH</b> – Managing Director, <i>Benin Cashew</i>

4:40 PM	Benin Institutional Discussion: Final Audience Q&A	15 minutes	Audience Q&A
4:55 PM	Closing Remarks	5 minutes	Mr. Mahouton Mathieu HOUKANRIN, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the <u>Embassy of the Republic of Benin to Japan</u>
5:00 PM	Coffee & Light Refreshments	15 minutes	Coffee and Light Refreshments will be provided.
5:15 PM	Private Consultations	90 minutes	<b>Private consultation opportunities:</b>  • Private scheduled 1-1, 15-minute sessions with relevant Benin institutional representatives. Live interpretation provided.  <b><u>Please request a meeting slot in the registration form.</u></b>
6:45 PM	Event Conclusion		

## Target Audience

This exclusive forum is designed for:

- **Japanese Corporate Executives** seeking African market expansion opportunities
- **Investment Fund Managers** evaluating West African portfolios
- **SME Leaders** exploring manufacturing and export opportunities
- **Government Officials** involved in Japan-Africa economic cooperation
- **Trade Association Representatives** interested in bilateral commerce
- **Academic Researchers** focusing on African economic development

## Why Attend?

### Exclusive Investment Insights

Gain direct access to comprehensive market intelligence and investment opportunities across Benin's most promising sectors.





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## High-Level Networking

Connect with senior government officials, business leaders, and investment professionals from both Japan and Benin.

## Sector-Specific Guidance

Receive detailed presentations from sector specialists covering regulatory frameworks, investment incentives, and market entry strategies.

## Personalized Consultation

Participate in private Business-to-Government sessions tailored to your specific investment interests and requirements.

## Special Requests:

- **B2G Meeting Requests:** Indicate your preferred consultation topics during registration
- **Interpretation Services:** Japanese-English interpretation provided throughout
- **Networking Preferences:** Specify sectors of primary interest for targeted introductions

## Practical Information

### Event Logistics

- **Photography:** Professional photography will document the event
- **Refreshments:** Coffee break and light refreshments included

## About the Republic of Benin

Benin, officially the Republic of Benin, is a vibrant West African nation with a 121-kilometer coastline along the Gulf of Guinea and a population of approximately 14.1 million people. The country has emerged as one of the continent's most compelling investment destinations, **achieving 7.5% economic growth in 2024—the highest since 1990**. This impressive growth trajectory reflects the success of ambitious structural reforms and positions Benin as a vital commercial hub with strong democratic governance since 1991, supported by comprehensive reforms under the *Governmental Action Plan* (PAG) focusing on infrastructure development and business climate improvements.

Benin's economy presents compelling opportunities across multiple industrial sectors. Rich in cultural heritage with three UNESCO World Heritage Sites and renowned as the birthplace of Vodun, Benin combines historical significance with modern economic dynamism, possessing significant natural resources including limestone, marble, gold, and offshore oil deposits. With inflation contained at 1.2%, a young population (41.8% under 15), and pro-business government reforms, Benin offers investors a stable, growing market with exceptional potential across agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and natural resources sectors.

We look forward to your participation in this significant opportunity to explore Benin's investment potential and strengthen Japan-Benin economic cooperation.

Thank you for your interest in the Benin Business Forum 2025 in Osaka.



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