Kyushu Economy International (KEI) is a comprehensive international economic exchange organization in Kyushu that fosters collaborative efforts among various entities in the region, including economic organizations, local governments and private businesses. With the aim of energizing Kyushu and promoting its self-sustaining development, KEI facilitates industry, tourism and people-to-people exchanges between Kyushu and foreign entities. KEI publicizes Kyushu’s attractive features, including an excellent industrial environment and abundant tourist resources, to the rest of the world. By encouraging many more Japanese and overseas companies to establish operations in Kyushu, KEI seeks to develop new industries and promote well-balanced regional development.

Kyushu Tourism Promotion Organization was established in 2005 as a unified public organization representing the 7 prefectures and economic sector of Kyushu, formed for promotion of tourism in Kyushu. The organization engages in publicity and advertising of the Kyushu brand at travel exhibitions and trade meetings, improvement of tourism resources and development of visitor acceptance system for more pleasurable sightseeing for overseas visitors, in addition to communicating the rich tourism resources in the region.

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Kyushu’s southerly position places it within easy reach of Korea and China and the whole East Asia region in general. Proximity, historical ties and a mild winter climate combine to create an excellent business environment.
Kyushu’s Transportation Infrastructure

Linking cities in Kyushu

Kyushu has an expressway network extending over roughly 1,000 km enabling day trips between its major cities. Also, the Kyushu Shinkansen line connects Hakata and Kagoshima Chuo as fast as one hour and 17 minutes.

Linking with major cities overseas

Fukuoka Airport has the largest number of international airlines in Kyushu, and flights from the city link the region with 22 foreign cities mainly in Asia, as well as 27 domestic cities. In addition, every prefecture in Kyushu has its own airport, providing regular flights between not only other cities in Japan, but also China and South Korea.

Kyushu’s major industries

Some of Japan’s leading automobile production centers

Nissan Motor Kyushu Inc., Toyota Motor Kyushu Inc., Daihatsu Kyushu Inc., and Nissan Shatai Kyushu Inc. operate in Kyushu, and the total motor vehicle output capacity exceeds 1.5 million units and accounts for roughly 13% of the national total output. Honda Motor Company Inc. also owns a factory in Kumamoto where motorcycles are manufactured.

Silicon semiconductor production with high added value

Sony Semiconductor Inc., known for its CMOS image sensors used in cameras for smartphones, the Renesas Group, known for its motor vehicle integrated circuits (microprocessors), and Mitsubishi Electric, known for its power semiconductors used in household appliances and automobiles, also own factories located in Kyushu.

Concentration of biotech businesses, universities & research institutes

Kyushu is blessed with an abundance of agricultural, forestry and fisheries resources. In addition to its traditional industry in the fermentation of miso, soy sauce, shochu wine, etc., the region has a concentration of biotech businesses and university research organizations in industries such as the field of health foods.

The Kyushu Regional Bioculture Plan was initiated in 2007 in an effort to facilitate industrial development through leveraging these regional advantages. It aims to build a safe and healthy “Food and Health Island Kyushu” through providing functional foods and health foods in collaboration with the preventive medicine and services industry.

Concentration of businesses in pollution control, energy conservation & recycling and solar power generation technologies

Based on its experience of facing serious pollution issues in the past, Kyushu has focused great effort into environmental remediation and preservation through government and private collaboration efforts. As a result it has created a concentration of a large number of businesses possessing highly advanced pollution control technologies. In recent years, a significant number of businesses have grown in the field of recycling technologies developed through treatment of agricultural and livestock wastes. Furthermore, manufacturing centers for solar cells and modules have been established to take advantage of the fast-developing thin-film solar power generation technology. As a result, Kyushu has become a home of research centers for long-term reliability assessment and standardization for solar cell modules.

Economic overview

Kyushu’s Share in Japan

Kyushu comprises 11.2% of the total area of Japan, and its population 10.3% of Japan’s total population. The gross regional product of Kyushu in FY2011 was 533.1 billion U.S. dollar, which accounted for 8.8% of Japan’s gross domestic product (GDP). Comparing the gross regional product of Kyushu with the GDP of countries throughout the world, Kyushu was more than that of Norway, which ranked 31th in the world.

Major Industrial Centers in Kyushu

Kyushu’s yearly automobile (four-wheeler) production compared to national production

Kyushu’s IC production compared to national production

Concentration of solar cell module manufacturing technologies

Source: Trends in Port Call Records of Foreign Cruise Ships in Kyushu
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Kyushu in Asia

Kyushu’s southerly position places it within easy reach of Korea and China and the whole East Asia region in general. Proximity, historical ties and a mild winter climate combine to create an excellent business environment.

Access to Kyushu by Air

Map of International Airline Routes from Kyushu (as of March 2015)