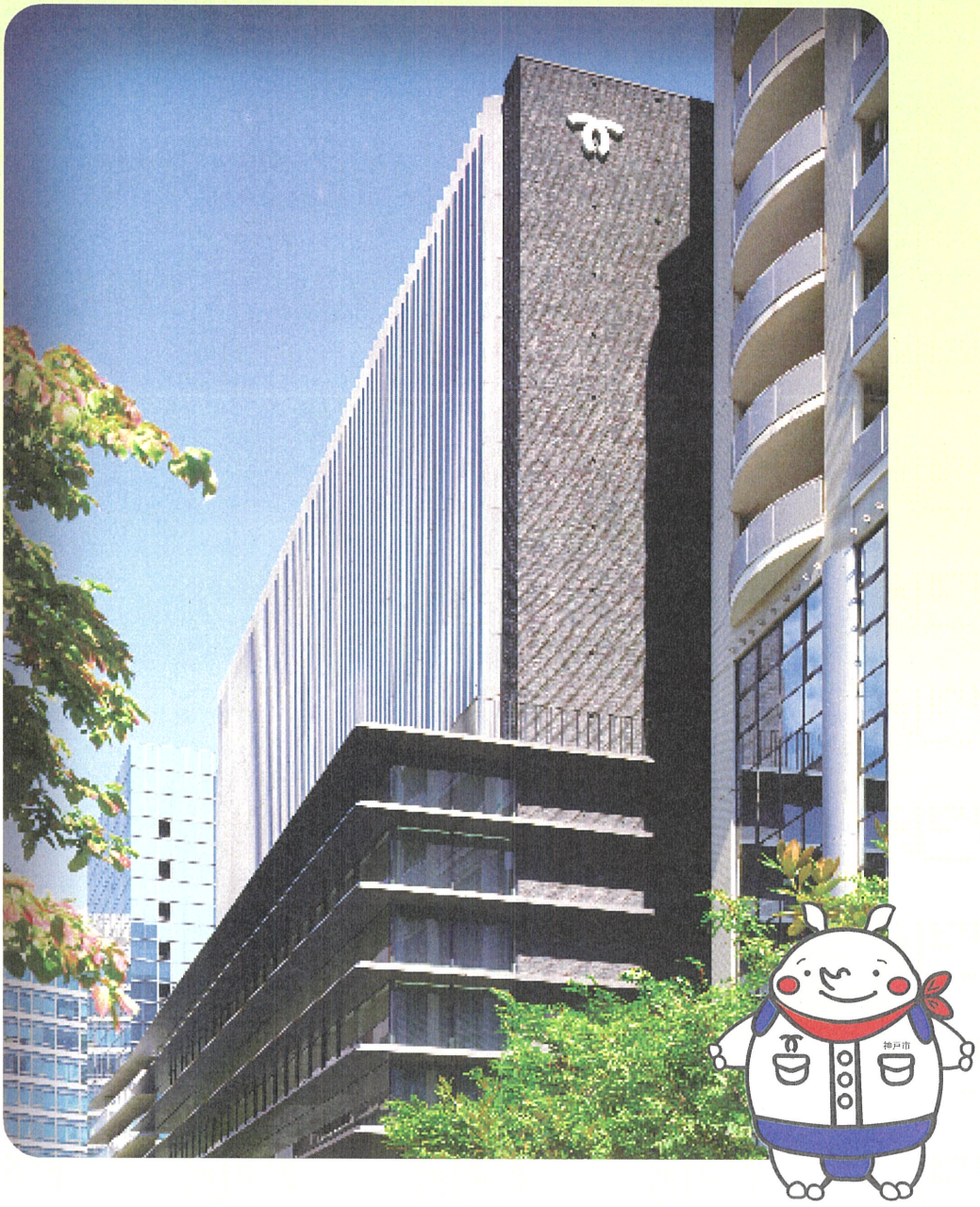
Kobe City Hall Building No.4

(Crisis Management Center)



Kobe City

Greetings from the Mayor

One of the key objectives of Kobe 2010 Vision is to improve our preparedness for disasters and crises. Similarly, saving lives represents a central goal of the Kobe 2015 Vision, our strategic program for future development in the Kobe City. These form the background to a crisis management system that is designed to mitigate the impact of disasters and create a safer city capable of withstanding natural disasters such as wind and flood damage, not to mention the major earthquakes that are widely expected to visit the Tonankai and Nankai regions at some point in the future.

In order to mitigate the impact of natural disasters, we need to harness the capacity of regional areas, in particular through the formation of disaster prevention welfare communities. These structures aim to lessen the impact of earthquakes and other disasters in the Kobe City by fostering the principles of self-help and mutual-help at the local level.

The city administration has been pursuing a raft of policy measures, including the establishment of dedicated structures such as the Crisis Management Office that build upon the history of earthquakes in our city. In order to ensure that these structures function as effectively as possible, we must play a central role in coordinating a range of emergency response systems and procedures that enable us to respond to any and all forms of disaster, particularly wind and flood damage and earthquakes. This is the founding mission of the Kobe Crisis Management Center.

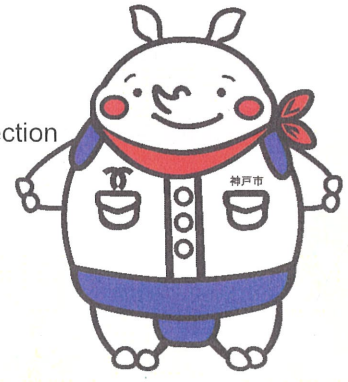
In conjunction with other recent initiatives such as the New Crisis Management Information System, the New Fire Services Management System and the Emergency Services Digital Radio service, the Kobe Crisis Management Center is able to work more quickly and efficiently in a number of key areas, such as initial response and damage assessment, decision-making on deployment of relief services and assistance, and the provision of information to the public and relevant authorities.

Key operational objectives of the Kobe Crisis Management Center

1. Better initial response
2. More sharing of emergency information
3. Improved disaster prevention at the regional level

Key principles of facility design

1. Central crisis management facility with high level of disaster protection
2. Environmentally friendly and people friendly design
3. Urban design consistent with the Design City Kobe philosophy



Key principles of facility design

1 Central crisis management facility with high level of disaster protection

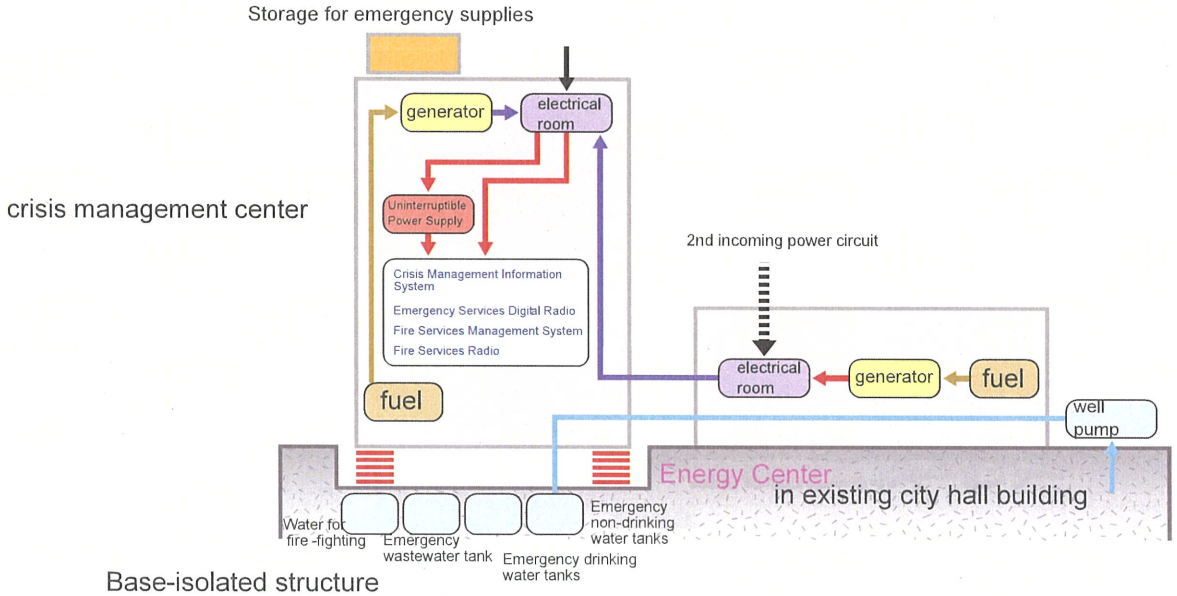
(1) Seismic reinforcement

A major earthquake shakes an entire building, with serious consequences for computers and other devices housed within. The Crisis Management Center features a base-isolated structure designed to prevent disruption to operations in the event of a major earthquake and ensure an uninterrupted initial emergency response. The anti-earthquake structure, designed to reduce the seismic force of a major earthquake by about one-third compared to conventional seismic damping, prevents any impact on computer systems and other systems.

(2) Emergency power supply, etc.

The Crisis Management Center is equipped with a dedicated emergency power generator on the ninth floor that operates for up to three days. This generator complements the power source for the municipal offices tocreate a reliable power supply network for computer systems and other systems.

Separate underground tanks hold drinking water and well water (for non-drinking uses) and also provide emergency wastewater storage. Three days worth of emergency food and water supplies for employees are stored on the ninth floor, along with other emergency supplies such as water and blankets.



Overview of disaster countermeasures at the Crisis Management Center

The Crisis Management Council, the supreme decision-making body when a disaster countermeasures committee has been established, is responsible for determining the response taken by the Kobe City.

The Council has around 40 members including the Chairman (Mayor) and Vice Chairman (Deputy Mayor), the Crisis Management Monitor and heads of relevant departments and agencies.

The Crisis Management Council Room is equipped with a large video screen used to display damage reports and other information.

Disaster Countermeasures Committee

(4) Disaster Prevention Exhibit and Training Room (press corner) (first floor)

The Disaster Prevention Exhibit and Training Room is predicated on two key concepts: earthquake and tsunami protection, and wind and flood damage mitigation. It is dedicated to raising public awareness of disaster prevention, improving disaster preparedness at the local level, and providing earthquake training drills and programs. The permanent exhibit is divided into seven sections: (1) Disaster prevention games and teaching materials, (2) A disaster prevention goods, (3) Liaison structures and first aid in a disaster, (4) How to minimize the impact of an earthquake and keep furniture from shifting, (5) Floor hazard maps, (6) Disaster prevention training manuals and publications, and (7) Panel displays and information.

The Disaster Prevention Exhibit and Training Room runs family disaster prevention training days during the summer holidays in conjunction with NPOs, and provides disaster prevention courses designed in collaboration with universities. In the event of a disaster, a press center is immediately set up to serve as a central liaison point for disseminating information to media organizations as well as furnishing ongoing updates to the public over a wide area.

(5) Operations Center (2nd floor)

The Operations Center performs a variety of roles in a disaster including gathering information, formulating and directing response strategies, liaising with relevant authorities and providing updates to the public. Where necessary, the Operations Center also collaborates with agencies such as fire and police services.

The Operations Center houses the Crisis Management Information System, a tool for assessing damage reports and formulating response strategies, as well as a large screen for displaying video from fire service monitoring cameras, televisions used to source information, and telephones, fax machines and wireless devices for liaising with relevant authorities.

The Radio Control Room for the Emergency Services Digital Radio Service, a vital service that provides the public with evacuation warnings and other important disaster information, is also on the second floor.

Operations Center

Radio Control Room

(6) Fire Services Control Room (4th floor)

The Fire Services Control Room handles emergency 119 calls and coordinates dispatchesof ambulances and fire trucks.

All 119 calls made within the Kobe City are directed to the Fire Services Control Room.

The Fire Services Control Room is a large space with high ceilings. It is equipped with large video screens that provide good visibility of important information, and also features theNew Fire Services Management System, which is designed to help fire-fighters to perform more efficiently.

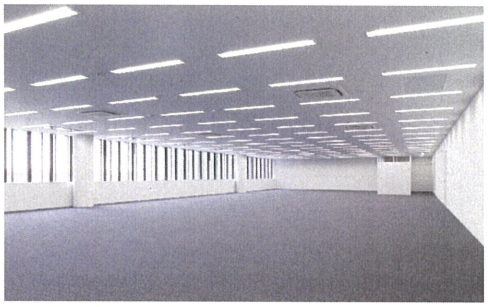
Fire Services Control Room general view

Fire Services Control Room

(7) Offices of the Waterworks Bureau (6th to 8th floors)

The water supply network constitutes a key piece of infrastructure in the KobeCity that is vital to everyday life as well as industrial and commercial operations.

The sixth to eighth floors of the Crisis Management Center are occupied by the Waterworks Bureau, which is responsible for this vital infrastructure. The office floors feature a long-span design with fewer columns to provide an expansive office space with extra flexibility in layout configurations of desks, shelves and other elements. External vertical louvers help to block the afternoon sun and ensure a pleasant working environment.



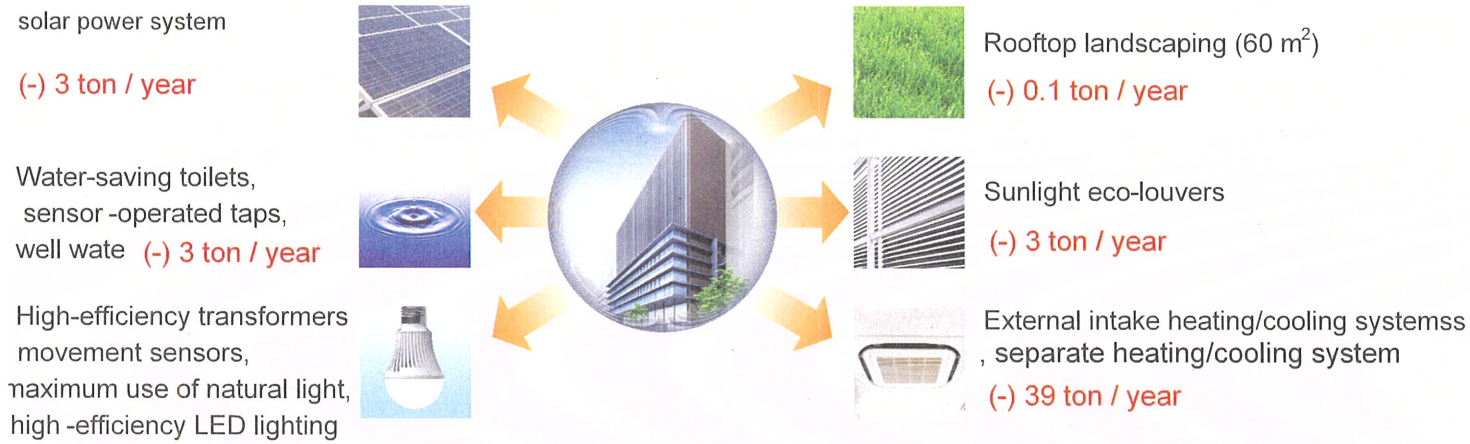
Office floors with maximum layout flexibility

2 Environmentally friendly and people friendly design

(1)The building features a number of people-friendly design elements including wide stairways with gentle inclination, elevators suitable for people with physical disabilities, barrier-free flow paths, naturally intuitive signage, and Kobe Universal Toilets.

(2) The building features a number of energy-saving initiatives including maximum usage of natural light and ventilation, thermal insulation incorporated into the building structure, high-efficiency heating and cooling systems, and LED lighting.

(3) The Operations Center, Fire Services Operations Center, meeting room and office floors are designed to maximize the flexibility of the layout configuration and also facilitate replacement of equipment and fittings.



Alternative energy and energy-saving initiatives employed at the Crisis Management Center

Kobe Universal Toilet

Rooftop landscaping, solar power system

Sunlight eco-louvers

Urban design consistent with the Design City Kobe philosophy

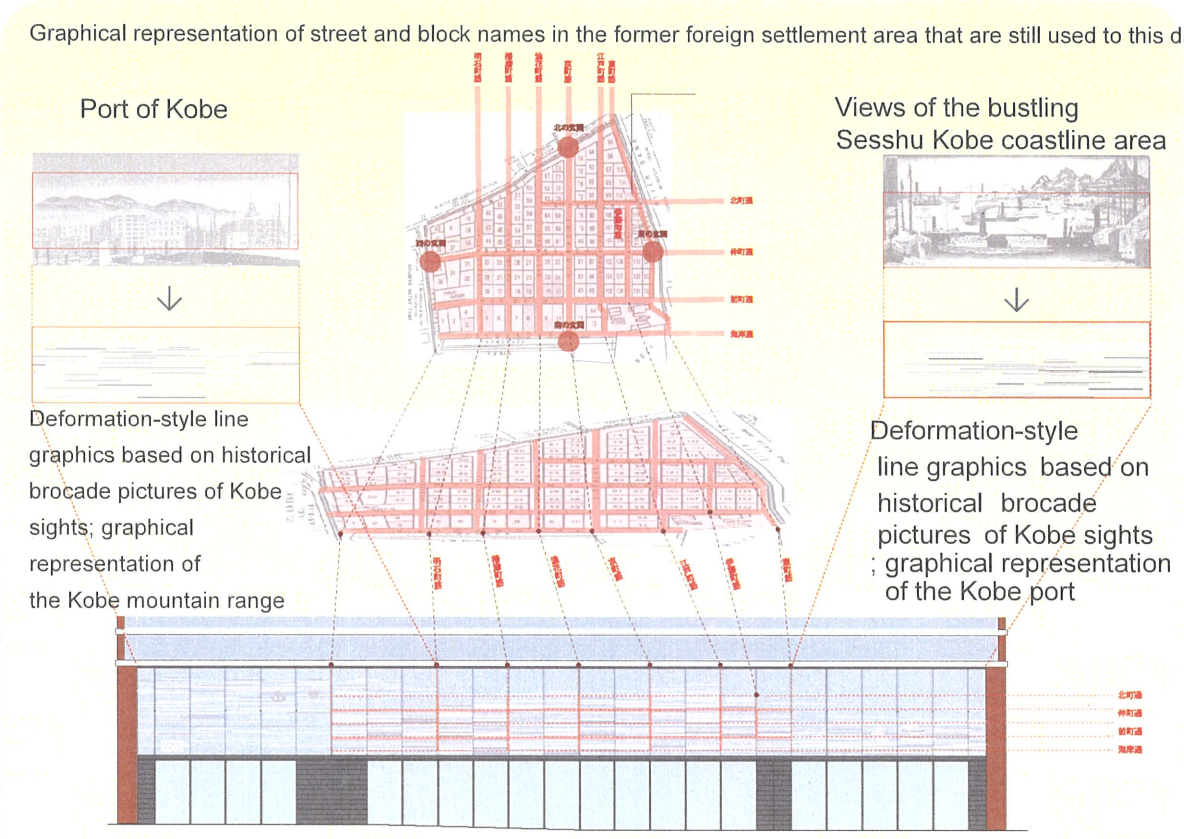
(1) The building is located within the former foreign settlement area of Kobe, which is subject to special regulations on design aesthetics. As such, the building exterior acknowledges the historical nature of the area while at the same time imparting a modern and artistic sensibility commensurate with the commercial heart of the city.
Meiji-era brick structures discovered during initial excavation on the site have been used to create a monument. This exemplifies our commitment to providing an appealing and functional space in the heart of the city in line with the Design City Kobe philosophy.

(2)The main square facing the roadway successfully fuses the interior and exterior of the glass-clad first floor by creating a busy and popular public area.
The glass wall features a deformation-style graphic design of streetand block names. It is lit up at night to form an attractive display.

Main square (open to public)

Glass wall at night

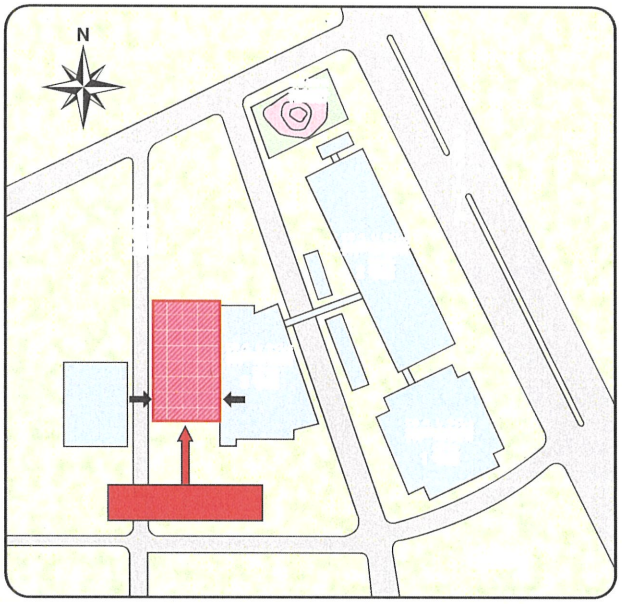
Cultural monument



Glass wall environment graphic

Key statistics

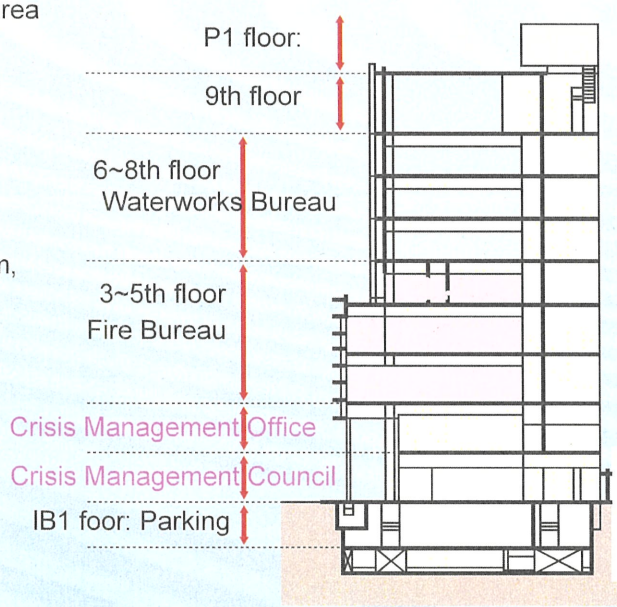
Location: 97-1 Edomachi, Chuo-ku, Kobe City, Hyogo prefecture
Zoning: Commercial district (site coverage 80%, floor area ratio 700%), no height restrictions, fire protection district, central parking lot district, zoning (former foreign settlement area), designated former foreign area heritage district
Road frontage: 11.5-meter wide roadway on west side (Edomachi Street)
Development area: Approx. 1,350 m^2
Total site area: Approx. 9,190 m^2
Building area: Approx. 1,130 m^2
Parking spaces: 20
Floors: Nine above ground, one below ground, one penthouse
Floor level on first floor: 3.4 meters above sea level
Roof height: 45.3 meters above sea level
Maximum height: 49.0 meters above sea level
Standard floor height: 4.8 meters (1st to 4th floors), 4.1 meters (5th to 8th floors)
Structure: Steel and steel frame reinforced concrete structure with some sections reinforced concrete (intermediate seismic reinforcement)



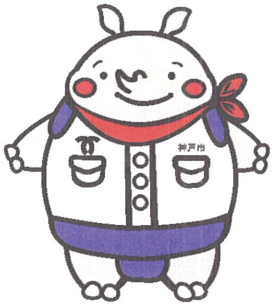
* Height above sea level: TP
The average sea level in Tokyo Bay, called Tokyo Peil (also known as Tokyo point) is the standard sea level used to measure heights throughout Japan. The reference point for actual height measurement is the Japanese Vertical Datum, which is 24.4140 meters higher than Tokyo Peil.

Occupancy

P1 floor:
Elevator machinery rooms, external equipment area
9th floor:
Electrical rooms, generator room, storage rooms
8th floor: Waterworks Bureau
7th floor: Waterworks Bureau
6th floor: Waterworks Bureau
5th floor: Fire Bureau
4th floor: Fire Bureau (Fire Services Control Room, Fire Services Operations Center)
3rd floor: Fire Bureau
2nd floor:
Crisis Management Office
(Operations Center, Radio Control Room)
First floor:
Crisis Management Council Room,
Disaster Prevention Exhibit and Training Room
(press corner)
B1 floor: Parking



Kobe City Hall Building No. 3



Dosukoi Bo-sai-kun

This mascot character was created in conjunction with the completion of the Crisis Management Center under a joint initiative with Kobe Design University in accordance with the Design City Kobe Cooperation Agreement. The character aims to promote awareness of disaster preparedness while fostering a spirit of self-help and mutual-help, based on the lessons of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

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City of Design
KOBE

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since 2008

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