

<Final Trump> Osaka Federation of Wood-Industry Associations to provide "Type Wood" package in time for Expo overseas pavilions, one-stop support

In response to the issue of more than 10 countries being unable to find contractors for pavilions at the 2025 Osaka-Kansai Expo, it was learned on the 18th that the Federation (Osaka City) has put together a package plan called "Type Wood" for foreign governments that will enable pavilions to be completed by the opening in April next year. The Federation will provide one-stop support for design, application procedures, and construction. Existing construction techniques and materials for housing will be utilized to speed up construction. The Federation is calling on countries to "never give up and not withdraw from the Expo."

The Federation's chairman, Ushio Tsuda, revealed this in an interview with the Sankei Shimbun. They will consider how to appeal to each country in the future.

The Federation has about 250 members in Osaka Prefecture, including lumber and construction companies. They are also involved in the construction of the pavilion at the Expo site on the artificial island of Yumeshima (Konohana Ward, Osaka City).

Initially, 60 countries were aiming to participate in the Expo as "Type A" exhibitors, designing and constructing their own exhibits, but rising material costs and delays in preparations have forced many countries to change their type or withdraw. As of the 13th, 12 countries remain unable to find a construction contractor.

"Type Wood" proposed by the Federation uses construction methods used in domestic housing, such as "2x4," and wood that is commonly available on the market, such as sugi (cedar) and hinoki (cypress). Interior materials such as wallpaper and air conditioners are also easy to procure because they are made for residential use.

The Federation has prepared five basic designs. In cooperation with the Osaka Association of Architects and Building Engineers, the Federation will "meet the requests of each country as much as possible," according to Tsuda. Because it is an original design, it will be classified as Type A among the types of overseas pavilions.

A wooden building weighs about one-fifth as much as a steel-framed one. It has sufficient earthquake and wind resistance without having to go deep into the ground to build the foundation, and is easy to build on the soft ground of Yumeshima. The construction cost for the main part of the building is expected that a 350-square-meter building can be built for just less than 200 million yen. This makes it less cost than a steel-framed pavilion.

The Japan Association for the international Exposition, which is seeking completion of main body and exterior using heavy machinery by mid-October.

Ushio Tsuda : We believes this can be achieved and the Federation will also support the application for temporary building permits to the city of Osaka. (by Kurokawa Nobuo)