

Memorandum of Understanding for the Partnership of Friendship and Cooperation between the City of Osaka (Japan) and the City of Barcelona (Kingdom of Spain)

The City of Osaka (Japan), represented by Mr Hideyuki Yokoyama, Mayor of Osaka and the City of Barcelona (Kingdom of Spain), represented by Mr Jaume Collboni, Mayor of Barcelona, assisted by Mr Jordi Cases i Pallarès, Secretary General of Barcelona City Council, acting as notary and mandatory legal advisor in accordance with articles 3 and 7 of Royal Decree 128/2018, of 16 March, which regulates the legal regime of local administration civil servants with national qualifications.

The cities of Osaka (Japan) and Barcelona (Kingdom of Spain) mutually recognise that they have the competence to adhere to this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter the “MoU”).

PREAMBLE

The City of Osaka (Japan) and the City of Barcelona (Kingdom of Spain) -hereinafter referred as “both cities” met together during Barcelona’s visit to the Osaka-Kansai Expo in May 2025, where both cities agreed on facilitating arrangements that would lead to signing a collaboration agreement. Both cities agree to foster cooperation in fields related to the themes of Expo 2025 and to build a strong partnership based on the shared pursuit of knowledge and innovation to address common challenges faced by both parties.

This Memorandum is entered into pursuant to Article 11. 4 of Law 2/2014, of 25 March, on the Action and the Foreign Service of the State and Article 53 of Law 25/2014, of 27 November, on Treaties and other International Agreements, which confirm the power of the Autonomous Communities to sign Non-Normative International Agreements within their sphere of competence, with similar bodies, and observing the principles of unity of action abroad, institutional loyalty, coordination and cooperation, and service to the general interest, contained in Article 3.2 of the aforementioned Law 2/2014, of 25 March.

This Memorandum is not legally binding and is not subject to international law.

Section 1.- PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM

Both cities commit to the following objectives in a spirit of friendship and cooperation:

1. Promote exchanges in the field of smart cities.
2. Share best practices and policies in the field of entrepreneurship and promote exchanges between startup ecosystems.
3. Promote exchanges in the fields of tourism and culinary culture.

Section 2.- MEMORANDUM PROCEDURE

- 2.1. Both cities shall try to make efforts to deepen their understanding and knowledge of the other city.
- 2.2. Following the signing of this Memorandum of Understanding, both parties will be able to pursue the development of specific exchange projects through ongoing dialogue and regular review.

Section 3.- OTHER CONDITIONS

- 3.1. Both cities are responsible for keeping confidential the information exchanged, based on the provisions of the previous articles.
- 3.2. The expenses that both cities may incur with the signing of this MoU will be subject to the existence of ordinary annual budget availability in compliance with current legislation.
- 3.3. The text of this MoU may be modified only with the consent of both cities. Any modification to this MoU must be agreed in writing in the form of annexes or additional MoUs and shall form an integral part of this MoU. If the modifications to be made are substantial, a new MoU shall be signed.
- 3.4. Should any doubts regarding the interpretation or implementation of this MoU arise, both cities shall resolve this without delay through amicable discussions and negotiations.
- 3.5. Any disagreement arising between the cities shall be resolved by negotiation, taking into account the rights and interests of both cities.
- 3.6. Both cities are familiar with the text of this MoU and understand its contents.
- 3.7. This MoU shall enter into force on the day after the date of the signature.
- 3.8. Both cities agree to review the operation and implementation of this MoU 3 years after its signature. At that point, they may decide whether to continue, revise or terminate it.
- 3.9. Each city may terminate this MoU at any time by notifying the other city in writing.
- 3.10. Two original Memorandums in Japanese, Catalan, and English shall be created and signed (6 in total). The Memorandum in each language shall be equally valid, but the English version shall prevail in case of any discrepancy in content. Osaka and Barcelona shall each receive one official Memorandum in the three languages.

This Memorandum was signed on 17 December 2025

For the City of Osaka, Japan

For the City of Barcelona, Kingdom of Spain

Mr Hideyuki Yokoyama
Mayor

Mr Jaume Collboni
Mayor

Mr Jordi Cases Pallarés
Secretary General