

INFORMATION NOTE

16th Meeting of the
Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable
Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)

Kitakyushu, Japan
5–7 November 2025



Dates and venue of the meeting

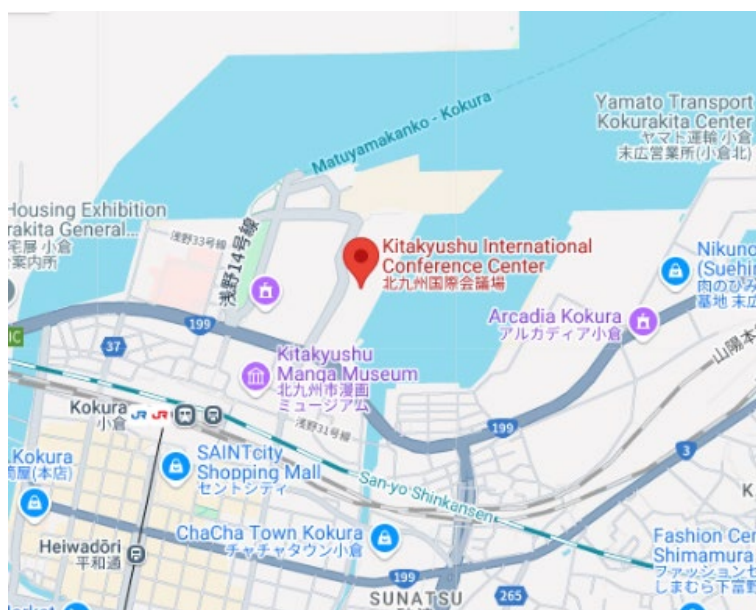
The 16th meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) will take place 5–7 November 2025 in Kitakyushu, Japan. The meeting will be hosted by Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. The meeting comprises a Members' meeting to be attended only by members of the IAEG-SDGs and a plenary session at which international agencies, non-IAEG member countries and other stakeholders are also invited. The plenary session will be held on the 6th and 7th of November 2025 and will be held at:

Kitakyushu International Conference Center

Address: 3-9-30 Asano, Kokurakita-ku, Kitakyushu-shi, Fukuoka 802-0001

Phone: +81935415931

Website: <https://hello-kitakyushu.or.jp/kokusai-kaigi/>



Meeting information

Website address and documentation

The documents for the meeting will be available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-16/>, Participants are kindly requested to bring copies of all meeting documents as no documents or printing facilities will be made available in the venue. Free Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms (a mobile phone number may be required).

Inquiries

For substantive information about the meeting, please contact the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) (statistics@un.org).

Note: Neither the UN Statistics Division (UNSD), nor the Government of Japan offer supporting funds to facilitate the travel of participants. Attendance must therefore be completely self-arranged, including travel, accommodation and any other related expenses.

Travel information

Visa information

Participants are required to obtain an appropriate visa issued by an embassy, consulate-general, or consular office of Japan before entering Japan.

For your reference, please refer to the following link (https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/) and the website of the Japanese embassy or consulate with jurisdiction over your place of residence (https://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/mofaserv.html) for information on visa applications.

Please note that Japan has visa waiver arrangements with certain countries and regions; please refer to the links below.

- Diplomatic and official passport holders
https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page22e_000692.html
- United Nations Laissez-Passer holders
https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page22e_000930.html
- Ordinary passport holders
https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html

You may apply for a visa at the consular section of the Diplomatic Mission of Japan with jurisdiction over your place of residence, at an accredited agency, or online, according to the method specified by the Diplomatic Mission of Japan (https://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/mofaserv.html) where you will submit your application. Detailed information on visa application procedures is available on the website of the Japanese embassy or consulate with jurisdiction over your place of residence. You can download the visa application form from the link below. https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html#section4

The time required from visa application to visa issuance is 5 working days from the day following the date of receipt of the application, provided that there is no particular problem with the content of the application. However, it may take longer than usual if there is any problem with the content of the application or if a large number of visa applications are received in a short time period. Visa applicants are reminded to apply early for their visa, well in advance of the anticipated travel date.

Visa-related inquiries

Please refer to the website of the relevant Japanese diplomatic mission listed above.

Accommodation and travel arrangements

Participants are requested to make their own hotel and travel arrangements. For hotels close to the meeting venue, please visit any of the booking sites available and choose an area close to the venue.

The following hotels are considered comfortable options.

- RIHGA Royal Hotel Kokura (about a 5-minute walk from Kokura Station)
- JR Kyushu Station Hotel Kokura (about a 3-minute walk from Kokura Station)

If you would prefer a room in a traditional Japanese style with tatami-mat flooring, this hotel could be a good choice.

- Art Hotel Kokura New Tagawa
*About a 2-minute walk from Tanga Station (Tanga Station is a 2-minute ride from Kokura Station on the Kitakyushu Monorail.)
*About a 15-minute walk from Kokura Station

How to get to the city center (Kokura Station) from the airport

Kokura Station is conveniently accessible from two nearby airports: Kitakyushu Airport and Fukuoka Airport.

1. From Kitakyushu Airport to Kokura Station (<https://english.kitakyu-air.jp/>)

○Kitakyushu Airport Express Bus

The Kitakyushu Airport Express Bus takes approximately 40 minutes to reach Kokura Station (Shinkansen Side). The bus fare is paid after boarding. You can purchase a ticket in advance either online (credit card payment only) or at the on-site ticket vending machine (cash only), or pay the fare when getting off the bus using either a transit IC card or cash. *Please note that ¥5,000 and ¥10,000 notes cannot be exchanged on board.

Seat reservations are not available, so please board the bus at your preferred departure time.

*Please note that buses may be full, so we recommend allowing extra time in your schedule.

For more information, please visit this website: <https://english.kitakyu-air.jp/rev-access/rev-bus.php>

○Taxi

Taking a taxi is not recommended due to high rates. Kitakyushu Airport taxis operate on a shared-ride basis. For more details on taxi transport, please refer to the following URL (https://app.nearme.jp/en_us/airport-shuttle/).

2. From Fukuoka Airport to Kokura Station (<https://www.fukuoka-airport.jp/en/access/>)

○Train

Please take the subway from Fukuoka Airport Station to Hakata Station. From there, transfer to the Shinkansen (bullet train) and travel to Kokura Station. This route takes approximately 40 minutes to 1 hour in total from Fukuoka Airport to Kokura Station.

○Taxi

Taking a taxi is not recommended due to high rates. For more information on taking a taxi, please refer to the Fukuoka Airport website (<https://www.fukuoka-airport.jp/en/access/taxi.html>).

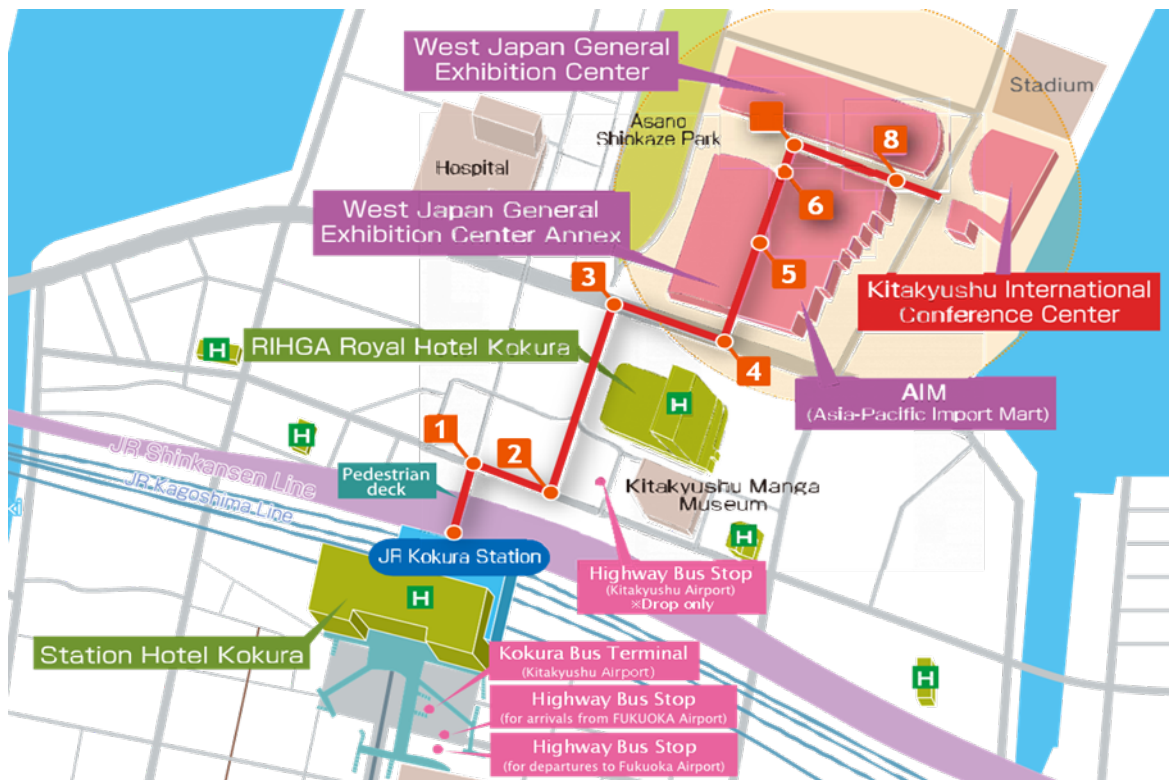
* Regarding transit IC cards

Transit IC cards can be used not only for public transportation, but also in a variety of other settings such as convenience stores and vending machines. For more details, please refer to the following URL (<https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/ic-card/>).

How to get to Kitakyushu International Conference Center from Kokura Station

From Kokura Station

Kitakyushu International Conference Center is located about a 10-minute walk from Kokura Station. Please consult the map below.



If you use Google Maps on your phone, enter the two points below or [click here](#):

Depart from "Kokura Station" and arrive at "Kitakyushu International Conference Center".

Arriving at the venue (badge collection)

forthcoming

Currency

The currency used in Japan is the Japanese Yen (JPY). 1 EUR equals approximately 163 Yen, and 1 US dollar equals approximately 145 Yen (as of June 2025). Major credit cards are generally accepted, but it is recommended to have some cash on hand as credit card payment may not be accepted at small stores and in rural areas.

Tipping is not expected in Japan. Some restaurants and hotels may charge “service fees” automatically included in the bill, ranging from 10 to 15%.

For more information, please visit this website: <https://www.japan.travel/en/plan/currency/>

How to Get Around in Kitakyushu City

The Kokura city center area of Kitakyushu City, where the venue is located, is more compact compared to other areas and is within walking distance of major attractions:

- From JR Kokura Station South Exit to the entrance of Uomachi Shopping Arcade: about 3 minutes on foot.
- From JR Kokura Station South Exit to Izutsuya Department Store: about 10 minutes on foot.
- From JR Kokura Station South Exit to Riverwalk Kitakyushu (shopping complex): about 12 minutes on foot.
- From JR Kokura Station South Exit to Kokura Castle: about 15 minutes on foot.

For a leisurely exploration, consider renting a bicycle.

Bus Services

Kokura City Center is well-connected by bus, with frequent services operated by Nishi-Nippon Railroad (Nishitetsu) and Kitakyushu City Buses.

- Bus intervals: Every 5–15 minutes.
- Major destinations: Kokura Castle, Tanga Market, Mojiko Retro Area, and more.

Kitakyushu Monorail

The Kitakyushu Monorail runs through Kokura City Center, connecting JR Kokura Station to southern parts of the city. Elevated tracks offer scenic views of the city. Two stops from JR Kokura Station is Tanga Market, a local favorite for fresh produce and street food.

- Service intervals: Every 7–10 minutes.

Weather

Daily high temperatures in November in Kitakyushu City are from 15°C to 20°C, while daily low temperatures are from 7°C to 12°C.

In early November, the temperature may still rise above 20°C during the day but can get cooler in the morning and at night, so it is recommended to bring some warm as well as light clothes.

Tourist information

Kitakyushu City, located at the northernmost point of Japan’s Kyushu island, is surrounded by beautiful landscapes of the sea and mountains. It offers abundant natural blessings such as fresh seafood and produce. As an industrial city, Kitakyushu has preserved and utilized its rich history, culture, and UNESCO World Heritage sites to welcome and connect with visitors from around the world.

About the Kokura City Center Area

During the Edo period (1603-1868), Kokura flourished as a castle town. This area now functions as the core of the Kitakyushu City metropolitan area for commerce and conventions, while its grid-

like city design, inspired by Kyoto, and historic street names remain intact, offering glimpses of its past. Walking through shopping streets from JR Kokura Station to the riverside along the Murasaki River, you can experience the vibrant spirit of Kokura and its seasonal beauty.

In addition to Kokura City Center, Kitakyushu offers many other attractions.

****Mojiko Retro Area****

Located at the northernmost tip of Kyushu, Mojiko opened as an international trading port in 1889. The area is home to Western-style buildings such as the iconic Mojiko Station, the former Moji Mitsui Club (once accommodating Albert Einstein), and the Kyushu Railway History Museum. These historical sites evoke Japan's Meiji and early Showa periods.

- Travel time from JR Kokura Station: Approximately 18 minutes by train.

For more information on Kitakyushu's attractions, please visit the official site:
[Kitakyushu City Guide] (<https://kitakyushucity.guide/en/>)

****Upcoming Event Before the IAEG-SDGs****

****Kokura Castle Bamboo Light Festival****

Dates: October 24–November 3, 2025

This event features 30,000 bamboo lanterns carved with intricate designs by local artisans and volunteers, illuminating Kokura Castle and its surroundings. It showcases the beauty of bamboo art while promoting sustainable practices by reusing bamboo that would otherwise be discarded.

For details:

[Kokura Castle Bamboo Light Festival] (<https://kokurajotakeakari.com/en/>)

[Japan Nightscape Heritage] (<https://yakei-isan.jp/spot/detail.php?id=296>)

****Exploring Japan Beyond Kitakyushu****

If you are considering an extended stay in Japan, major destinations like Tokyo, Shizuoka (home to Mt. Fuji), Osaka (host of the Kansai Expo), Kyoto, and Hiroshima are all accessible from JR Kokura Station via Shinkansen.

In Kyushu, famous destinations like Beppu and Yufuin are reachable by limited express trains or buses. For easier travel to outside of Kyushu, we recommend using Kitakyushu Airport instead of Fukuoka Airport.

Dining options (close to the venue)

There are many restaurants and eateries around Kokura Station, which is close to the venue. For more details, please refer to the tourism website linked below.

<https://kitakyushucity.guide/en/>