

A record high of 1,918 participants. The rise of Hybrid Conventions !

「The 49th Annual Meeting of the IVR Society of Japan at Kobe Portopia Hotel ! 」

Implementing a safe and secure convention while preventing further spread of COVID-19.

The 49th Annual Meeting of the IVR Society of Japan (Chairman: Professor Takamichi Murakami, Department of Radiology, Graduate School of Medicine, Kobe University) was held at Kobe Portopia Hotel from Tuesday, August 25th to Thursday, August 27th 2020. The Society, which adopted the hybrid style of meeting (combined use of in-person and online meetings) that symbolizes “the age of corona” was attended by a record high of 1,918 people. By finishing successfully it marks the beginning of a new era of hybrid conventions. For two consecutive years Kobe Portopia Hotel has taken first place amongst all hotels in Japan in number of hosted international conferences. The hotel boasts a highly experienced staff and facilities that can be utilized for a variety of purposes, leading the way forward in the field of conventions. Portopia Hotel has taken thorough measures in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and will work to fulfill the requests of organizers and participants.



49th Annual Meeting of the IVR Society of Japan hosted as a hybrid style convention.

Kobe Portopia Hotel Co., Ltd. (General Manager: Tsuyoshi Ito <https://www.portopia.co.jp/en/>) hosted the 49th Annual Meeting of the IVR Society of Japan (Chairman: Professor Takamichi Murakami, Department of Radiology, Graduate School of Medicine, Kobe University) from Tuesday, August 25th to Thursday, August 27th 2020. Initially scheduled to be held in May, but due to the pandemic, the Society was forced to postpone and ultimately changed the date of the convention. IVR (Interventional Radiology) treats certain diseases by inserting thin medical equipment

(catheter, needle, etc.) into the body while using diagnostic imaging equipment such as X-ray, CT scan, and ultrasound to view inside. (From the IVR Society of Japan homepage)

The 49th Annual Meeting of the IVR Society of Japan, which contributes in many fields of medical care, adopting the hybrid style of meeting (combined use of in-person and online meetings) is symbolic of conventions in the “age of corona”. IVR, which has achieved remarkable development with various technological innovations and advances in devices, ushers in a new era with this hybrid convention which fuses the real and virtual by making full use of remote live broadcasting. The number of registered participants was a record high of 1,918 people in which 383 (20%) participated on-site.

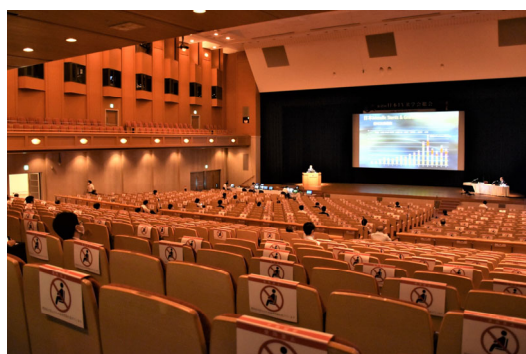
In addition, the hotel and Society aimed to operate a safe meeting by taking the necessary precautions in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- A thermographic camera is placed at the entrances to check the temperature of visitors.
- The capacity limit for the venues has been adjusted to allow enough space to follow physical distancing rules.
- The style of the Luncheon Seminar changed in order to ensure the safe distribution of food for the participants.
- Hand sanitizer stations were provided throughout the venue and the overall facility.
- Participants and organizers were also encouraged to register with the contact tracing systems set-up by the government.

According to statistics released by the Japan Tourism Bureau (JNTO) in 2018, Kobe Portopia Hotel held the number one position in hosted international conventions among hotels in Japan for two years in a row. Portopia Hotel has followed the 3 C's Rule (avoidance of closed-spaces, crowded places, and close contact) in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The hotel has a strong support system in place thanks to experienced staff and a wide range of facilities that can lead the way in conventions which place the safety and security of participants first. From now on, Kobe Portopia Hotel is ready to guide the way toward a successful convention real, virtual, and beyond.

The outline of the 49th Annual Meeting of the IVR Society of Japan is as follows:

Name:	49 th Annual Meeting of the IVR (Interventional Radiology) Society of Japan
Theme:	「IVR -be the best for patients-」
Session:	August 25 th (Tues.) ~ 27 th (Thurs.), 2020
Venue:	Kobe Portopia Hotel
Chairman:	Professor Takamichi Murakami (Department of Radiology, Graduate School of Medicine, Kobe University)
Attendees:	1,918 (383 on-site attendees)
Society Homepage:	https://site.convention.co.jp/jsir2020/english/
General Assembly Secretariat:	Department of Radiology, Graduate School of Medicine, Kobe University
Management Office:	Japan Convention Services Co., Ltd.



Venue (Portopia Hall)



Registration

Kobe Portopia Hotel's Approach to Conventions

Since April 2016 Portopia Hotel has been a designated administrator of the Kobe International Convention Center and Kobe International Exhibition Hall. One of the hotel's greatest strengths is understanding the needs of both organizers and participants,

providing a one-stop-shop with the hotel, conference center, and exhibition hall facilities. Portopia Hotel is proud to promote itself with its long list of past achievements. In addition, the hotel has developed with Kwansei Gakuin University's Graduate School the nation's first "MICE/Regional Tourism Personnel Training Program for Inbound Demand", and are looking to further develop personnel in the MICE field through a collaboration between industry and academia. Portopia Hotel aims to provide a high quality experience to organizers and participants while contributing to Kobe city by hosting conventions that have a high economic ripple effect. As Kobe Portopia Hotel celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2021, the hotel aims to further strengthen itself in both "software" and "hardware".

※「Kobe Portopia Hotel's Hybrid Online Meeting Plan」

<https://www.portopia.co.jp/convention/plan/hybridOnline/> (Japanese Only)

Efforts to Protect Against COVID-19

Kobe Portopia Hotel maintains a thorough hygiene regiment in order to prevent further spread of COVID-19 and provide guests with peace of mind when visiting the hotel.

The following protocols are current as of August 18, 2020 and is subject to change in accordance with the policies put forth by the government and related organizations.

<https://www.portopia.co.jp/information/detail/223/>

(Initiatives Throughout the Hotel)

1. A thermographic camera is installed at the entrance of the hotel to check each guest's temperature.

Customers with a temperature of 37.5°C (~99.5°F) or higher, or those who are feeling unwell, may be asked to refrain from entering the hotel.

2. Hyogo Prefecture has introduced a COVID-19 tracking system.

https://web.pref.hyogo.lg.jp/kk39/covid19_chase.html (Japanese Only)

Applied Locations

- restaurants • Oval Club Lounge (Main Bldg. 26th floor) • outdoor pool (South Wing 4th floor)
- LUANA Fitness Gym and Spa (Main Bldg. 4th floor) • Member's Salon (Main Bldg. 4th floor)
- banquet rooms (Main Bldg. 2nd floor • B1 floor • South Wing 1st floor • 3rd floor • 4th floor • 5th floor • 16th floor • B1 floor • Portopia Hall 1st floor)

3. Disinfection Procedures

Locations of hand sanitizer stations

- lobby • elevator hall • restrooms • front desk • cloak room • banquet lobby • venue entrance
- bridal salon

Increased Disinfection Procedures

- every door/doorknob • escalator handle • elevator buttons • restroom doors
- front desk counter • room keys • cloak room counter • cloak tag • cashier counters

※Various facilities, surfaces that are frequently touched, and equipment are disinfected when necessary.

4. Elevator buttons and interior have been treated with an antibacterial solution.

5. Hand dryer service has been stopped in the hotel's public restrooms.

6. Various rooms and facilities in the hotel are ventilated according to the standards for each area of use (standards set by the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare). Depending on the situation, air purifiers and room disinfectants are installed in the facility.

7. Customers are asked to use the elevators at half its indicated capacity.

8. Service and kitchen staff will wear face masks.

9. If there is a reception desk or line waiting for admission to the meeting, restaurant, banquet room, etc. customers and participants are required to maintain proper physical distance.

10. Table seating in the restaurants, banquet rooms, and cultural classes is set-up so as to provide adequate space between customers.

11. Instead of handing cash payment directly to hotel staff, please place the money on the tray provided at the register. In addition, contact-less payment such as QR codes and advance payment at time of reservation are available for some accommodation plans, restaurant services, etc.

12. Preventative measures are based on the Japan Hotel Association's [「Guidelines for Preventing the Spread of the New Coronavirus Infections」](#).

<https://www.j-hotel.or.jp/uploads/jhotel-admin/3729ece1a25771a8e66bb4b8bad8c239-1.pdf> (Japanese Only)

13. An in-house Health and Safety Promotion team has been established and a designated public health nurse is on hand to ensure the health and safety of both customers and employees.

14. If a customer or employee is suspected of being infected by COVID-19, or if an individual is diagnosed with the new coronavirus while in the hotel, the response will be based on Portopia's 「Business Continuity Plan (BCP) for Infectious Diseases」 .

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