SURF2026

The 10th Symposium on Pavement Surface Characteristics

Driving Innovation of Road Surface Characteristics and Social Interaction

The Second Announcement

NOVEMBER 9-11, 2026

CONGRÈS SQUARE HANEDA, TOKYO, JAPAN

JAPAN ROAD ASSOC.

PIARC JAPAN

JRCA

PIARC

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1. Welcome Message

SURF (Symposium on Pavement Surface Characteristics) is the only international academic symposium dedicated to presenting and exchanging the latest research findings and technologies related to pavement surface characteristics. Since the first meeting in 1988, the symposium has been hosted by organizations in various countries and co-organized with PIARC. On behalf of the organizers, we are pleased to announce that the 10th symposium (SURF2026) will be held in Tokyo, Japan. This is the first time this symposium is being held in the Asian region. We are greatly honored to welcome researchers, engineers, and government officials involved in the pavement field from around the world to Japan.

Roads connect people and society, and road characteristics are fundamental elements that significantly impact safety, comfort, economy, and even the surrounding environment. Pavement is an important infrastructure that supports social mobility, playing a role in realizing the performance that the road surface should inherently provide. In recent years, challenges such as sustainable development, resilience to climate change, and promotion of digital transformation have created a demand for new innovations in the field of pavement.

The theme of this symposium, 'Driving Innovation of Road Surface Characteristics and Social Interaction,' was decided with the aim of providing a platform to share and discuss approaches to these diverse challenges. For example, roughness, one of the representative pavement characteristics, affects not only ride comfort but also vehicle fuel consumption and the traveling speed of emergency transportation. It is an important indicator from the perspectives of carbon neutrality and life-saving. Pavement technology has a broad impact on society, and through this symposium, we hope for active knowledge sharing and exchange of opinions from participants with various backgrounds.

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In recent times, new pavement management technologies utilizing Information Communication Technology (ICT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and sensing technologies are rapidly advancing. Considering the wide-ranging impact of these technologies, it is highly meaningful not only to work individually in each country or region but also to strengthen the sharing of international knowledge and collaboration. Additionally, Japan's pavement technology has uniquely developed under weather conditions characteristic of Asia, such as high temperature and humidity . We believe that the experience and technology of Japan has been sophisticated over many years can also contribute to the development of pavement technology in other Asian countries with similar climate conditions.

In Japan, many historical buildings remain, including shrines and temples in Kyoto, Nara, and the country is blessed with beautiful scenic spots such as Mt. Fuji. The number of tourists from overseas has been increasing year by year, and November, when SURF2026 will be held, is an ideal season for sightseeing, with the summer heat easing and the autumn leaves at their most beautiful. We hope that in addition to participating in this symposium, you will have the opportunity to visit various parts of Japan and experience its traditions and culture.

We sincerely hope that this symposium will serve as a platform for the further development of technologies related to road surface characteristics and for deepening international exchanges among stakeholders. On behalf of the organizing committee, we wholeheartedly look forward to your participation.



Shigeru KIKUKAWA
Chairman
Japan Road Association SURF2026 Organizing Committee

2. Message from PIARC

On behalf of PIARC, the World Road Association, I am pleased to invite you to attend and participate in the SURF 2026 – 10th Symposium on Pavement and Surface Characteristics, which will take place from November 9–11, 2026, in Tokyo, Japan.

This flagship event is open to road and pavement experts, researchers, road authorities, engineers, practitioners, and industry professionals from across the public and private sectors. SURF brings together a global community committed to advancing high-quality, safe, sustainable, and resilient road surfaces for all users.

The 2026 edition will provide an exceptional opportunity for our international community to exchange knowledge, share practical experience, and reflect on the evolving role of pavement and surface characteristics in road transport. In line with PIARC's mission, the symposium will bring together diverse viewpoints to consider emerging developments, such as new approaches to surface monitoring and data collection, eco-friendly surface and recycling technologies, and the needs of next-generation vehicles and users, while also offering space to appreciate the historical and cultural dimensions that shape our road networks. The strong response to the Call for Abstracts reflects both the vitality of this field and PIARC's growing engagement with the SURF community as we continue to expand opportunities for knowledge sharing and international collaboration. Building on the success of previous SURF Symposia, including the most recent edition held in Milan, Italy, in 2022, this 10th edition reaffirms PIARC's long-standing commitment to fostering global dialogue and promoting best practices in pavement engineering and surface management.

On behalf of PIARC, I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to our Japanese partners: the Japan Road Association (JARA), the PIARC Japan National Committee, and all supporting organizations and experts for their dedication in hosting and preparing this important event. I am also pleased to acknowledge the leadership of PIARC Technical Committee 4.1 Pavements, chaired by Margo Briessinck, which is guiding the technical coordination of this symposium.

We look forward to welcoming you to Tokyo in 2026 for what promises to be an engaging, forward-looking, and impactful PIARC conference for professionals around the world.



Emanuela Stocchi
PIARC President

3. Message from Scientific Committee

Road surface is an interface between the pavement and vehicles, and how they interact with each other. Road surface characteristics affects things like ride comfort, skid, fuel efficiency and noise, while vehicles, in turn, cause cracks, rutting, roughness, and wear on the pavement. With the period of rapid economic growth over, the ratio of paved road surface has reached about 83%, and almost all national highways are paved today in Japan. For people, pavement is taken for granted and goes unnoticed as long as it functions properly. Roads are visible to people, but pavement has become an "invisible infrastructure" to them.
In our country, the budget and workforce needed for pavement maintenance have become chronically insufficient, and thus pavements are rapidly deteriorating. To address this, we need people to recognize the importance of pavements again (for visualization) and to acknowledge that investing in them is worthwhile. For that reason, in addition to the traditional scope of pavement research, we believe it's important to approach it from the perspective of 'the interaction between road surface and society.' So, the theme for SURF2026 includes how pavements have influenced our society, daily life, and culture, and conversely, what pavement conditions are needed to address various modern social challenges (like recycling, carbon neutrality, emergency transport, and autonomous driving)—in other words, ‘Driving innovation of road surface characteristics and social interaction.’

Papers submitted by May 2026 (those that had passed the abstract review) were peer-reviewed by overseas members of the TC 4.1 and experts from the SURF2026 scientific committee, resulting in about 160 papers being accepted. The accepted papers originate not only from Japan but also from Asia, Europe, North America, Central and South America, making the proportion of overseas papers high for an international conference held in Japan.
At SURF2026, there will be sessions on eight themes with both oral and poster presentations, where a variety of high-level papers related to road surface characteristics are expected to be presented. We hope that researchers and engineers from both overseas and Japan who specialize in road pavements will gather in Tokyo, leading through their presentations and discussions to a deeper understanding and advancement of technology and knowledge.



Shuichi KAMEYAMA
Chairman
Japan Road Association SURF2026 Scientific Committee

4. Message from PIARC TC 4.1

It is my great pleasure, as Chair of PIARC Technical Committee 4.1 on Pavements, to invite you to the 10th SURF Symposium on Surface Characteristics in Tokyo.

This symposium has become one of the most important international forums for exchanging knowledge on road surface characteristics and their impact on safety, sustainability, comfort, and infrastructure performance. The strong participation from experts around the world demonstrates the continuing importance of these topics and the value of international collaboration.

TC 4.1 has a long history of addressing surface characteristics related issues. During the current cycle, TC 4.1 is working to advance knowledge and best practices related to pavement monitoring, functional wearing courses and surface treatments, and carbon footprint. Surface characteristics are at the heart of these challenges. Skid resistance, texture, noise, rolling resistance, evenness, etc. directly influence road safety, environmental performance, maintenance strategies, and the overall service delivered to road users.

The themes addressed during this symposium contribute significantly to the work of our Technical Committee. They help us better understand how surface characteristics evolve throughout the pavement life cycle, how innovative materials and technologies can improve performance, and how data-driven approaches can support more effective decision making. The knowledge shared during SURF will strengthen our efforts to develop practical guidance and recommendations that can benefit road administrations and practitioners worldwide.



Margo Briessinck
Chairman
PIARC TC 4.1 Pavements

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5. Overview of Symposium

Date：November 9th(Monday)-11th(Wednesday) , 2026

Venue：Congrès Square HANEDA（https://congres-square.jp/Haneda/ ※)

1-1-4, Hanedakuko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo

※ Japanese site only

Web site : https://pub.confit.atlas.jp/en/event/surf2026





What is SURF ?

SURF stands for Symposium on Pavement Surface Characteristics. It has been held every four years since 1988, featuring presentations and discussions on the investigation, research, and management of paved surfaces for roads and runways. Key themes include pavement skid resistance, evenness, and rolling resistance performance. This symposium is based on the concept that focusing on pavement surface characteristics and implementing countermeasures can contribute to improve road circumstances.

	Venue	Year	Month
1st	Pennsylvania, United States	1988	6
2nd	Berlin, Germany	1992	6
3rd	Christchurch, New Zealand	1996	9
4th	Nantes, France	2000	5
5th	Toronto, Canada	2004	6
6th	Portorož, Slovenia	2008	1
7th	Norfolk, VA, United States	2012	9
8th	Brisbane, Australia	2018	5
9th	Milan, Italy	2022	9

6. Hosted by / Co-Hosted by / Supported by / Sponsored by

Hosted by
Japan Road Association SURF 2026 Organizing Committee

Co-Hosted by
Japan Road Contractors Association

Co-Organized by
PIARC World Road Association
Japan Society of Civil Engineers

Supported by
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan

Sponsored by

Japan Asphalt Mixture Association
Japan Emulsified Asphalt Association
Japan Modified Asphalt Association
Pavement Consultants Association
East Nippon Expressway Company Limited
Central Nippon Expressway Company Limited
West Nippon Expressway Company Limited
Metropolitan Expressway Company Limited
Hanshin Expressway Company Limited
Honshu-Shikoku Bridge Expressway Company Limited
Public Works Research Center

7. Symposium Topics

Main theme

Driving Innovation of Road Surface Characteristics and Social Interaction

Symposium Topics

- Surface Monitoring and Data Collection
- AI-enabled Data-driven Decision Support
- Eco-Friendly Surfaces and Recycling Technologies
- Relationship between Functional and Structural Performance
- Surface Improvement with Innovative Materials
- Next-Generation Vehicles and Social Needs for Pavement Surface
- Cycle Path and Walkway Safety and Comfort
- History and Cultural Roles of Pavement Surface*

  *e.g. historical changes of surface properties in pavement technologies, relationship between social culture and pavement surface improvement

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8. Overall Program

※Details of the oral presentations (time and place for each paper) and the list of poster presentations are to be posted on the website in mid-October.

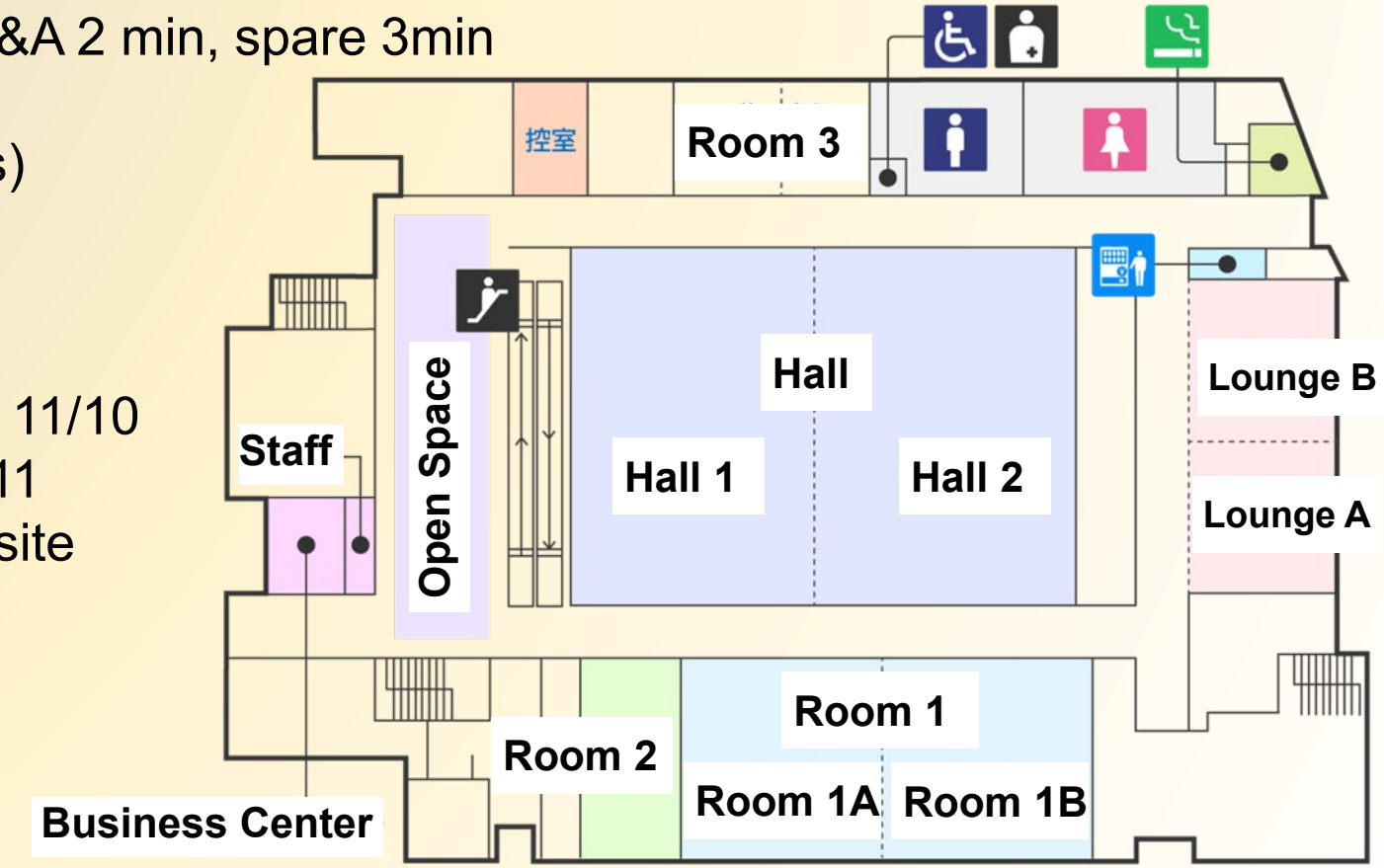
	Monday, Nov 9th	Tuesday, Nov 10th	Wednesday, Nov 11th
AM		9:00-10:30 at Hall (giving a Simultaneous interpretation receiver) Opening ceremony	9:00-12:30 at Hall and Room 1 Oral presentations
		11:00-12:40 at Hall and Room 1 Oral presentations	
			Technology display
PM	12:45-16:30 at Hall (with AI-based simultaneous interpretation app.) Presession	12:40-14:00 at Hall Poster	12:30-13:30 at Hall Poster
		Lunch	Lunch
	17:00-18:30 at Lounge A Welcome reception	14:00-17:30 at Hall and Room 1 Oral presentations	13:30-16:20 at Hall and Room 1 Oral presentations
		Technology display	
		18:20-20:30 at Hall & others (with Interpretation) Gala dinner	16:40-17:10 at Hall (giving a Simultaneous interpretation receiver) Closing ceremony

9. Technical Session

Technical session is to be done in the following two sessions.

1. Oral presentation
   20min for each (presentation 12 min, Q&A 2 min, spare 3min
   Place: Hall and Room 1
   (each partitioned with four rooms)
2. Poster presentation
   Place: Hall backward at lunch time
   Poster attachment:
   Opening ceremony after on Tuesday, 11/10
   Coffee break AM on Wednesday, 11/11
   Poster specs will be posted on the website in mid-October.

(There is no interpretation service.)



10. SURF Presession

- Commencing PM on Monday, 11/9 at Hall
- Hosted by Japan Road Contractors Association dealing with paving projects for its biannual technical discussion
- SURF2026 participants from oversees are welcome
- Good opportunity for meeting most updated information on Japanese road and paving technologies
- Spoken in Japanese, but AI-based simultaneous interpretation app is provided

Discussion topics (planned)

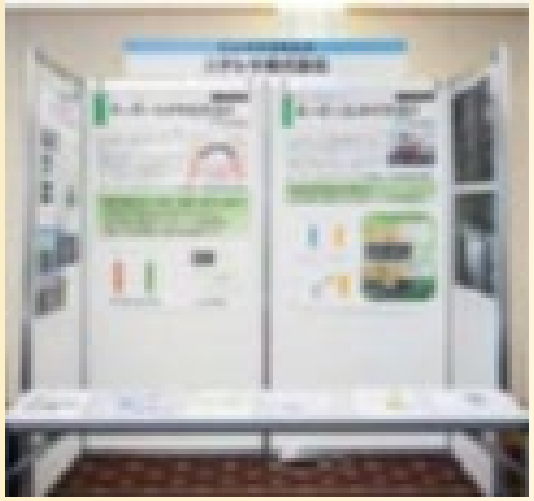
Interaction of pavement and society – Future to which Pavement should Lead

Special lecture by Shuichi KAMEYAMA, SURF2026 Scientific Committee chair

Panelists: pavement engineers from Japanese industry, academy and government
Topics: Technical standard of pavement, Condition of pavements, Road surface survey technologies and Pavement recycling

11. Technology Display

Japanese pavement and road surface techs are showcased here.



Indoor display



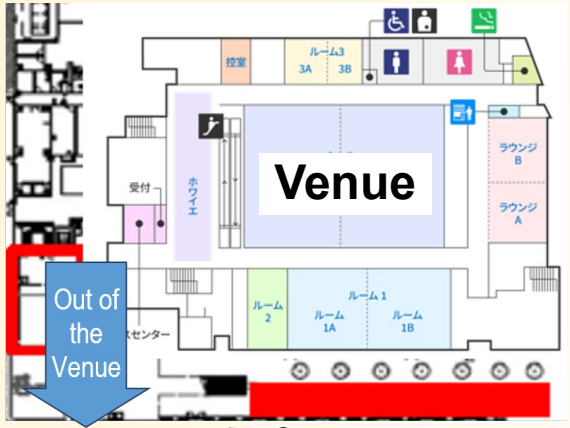
Outdoor display

<u>Indoor panel displays at Lounge B</u>

Japanese leading High-durability pavement, Recycling, Warm mix for decarbonization, etc.

<u>Outdoor full-scale displays alongside the venue</u>

Japanese road surface monitoring machine, Moving wheel deflectometer and AI-based road surface detector, etc.





Please come by as displays are available during the two-day sessions of the SURF2026!

12. Social Gathering

Welcome Reception

Evening on Monday, November 9th, 2026





Gala Dinner

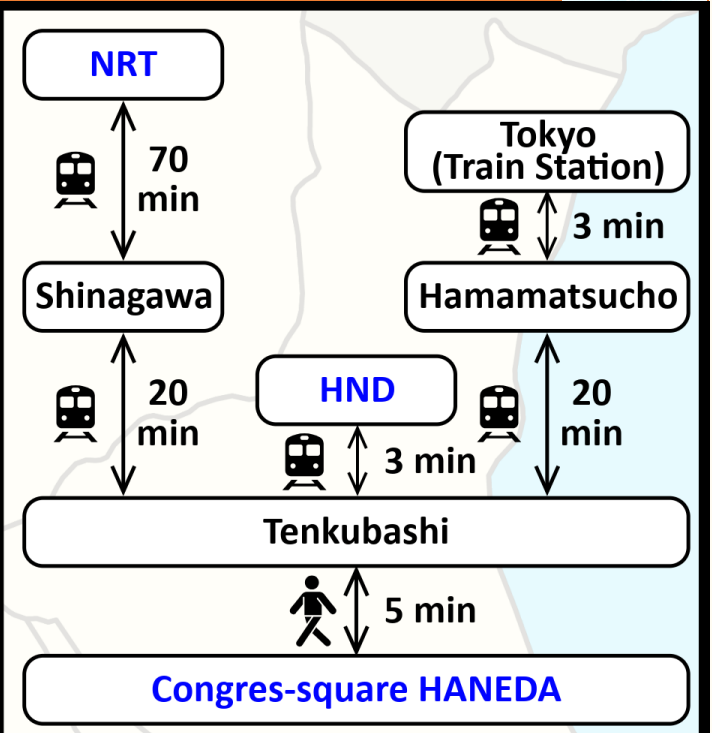
Evening on Tuesday, November 10th, 2026

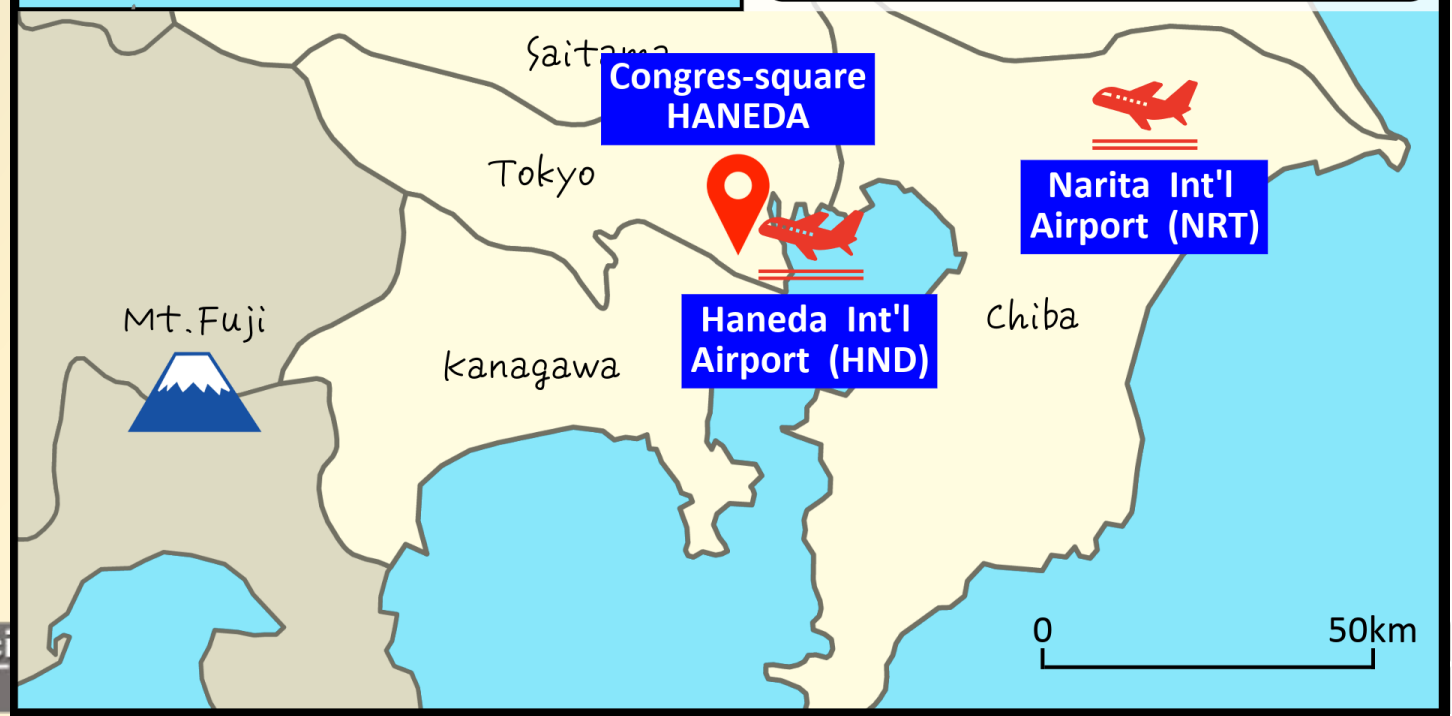
13. Venue Access

Venue
Congrès Square HANEDA
(https://congres-square.jp/Haneda/)
Innovation city zone J 1-1-4,
Hanedakuko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo

The Venue is directly connected to Tenku-bashi Station on the Keikyu Airport Line and Tokyo Monorail







14. Registration Fee

	Ordinary Participant	Student	Accompanied person
Registration fee	¥120,000JPY (※€648EUR)	¥20,000JPY (※€108EUR)	¥10,000JPY (※€54EUR)
Pre-session	✓	✓	
Opening/Closing Session	✓	✓	
Technical Session	✓	✓	
Coffee Break	✓	✓	
Lunch	✓	✓	
Welcome Reception	✓		✓
Gala Dinner	✓		✓

https://pub.confit.atlas.jp/en/event/surf2026/content/registration

※Payment must be made in Japanese Yen (JPY)
¥1(JPY) = €0.0054(EUR) (2025/24/Dec)

15. Accommodation

A. Keikyu EX INN Haneda Innovation-city
https://www.keikyu-exinn.co.jp/en/hotel/innovation-city/

B. Hotel metropolitan Haneda
https://haneda.hotel-metropolitan.com/

C. Airport Hotel Jal-city Haneda-Tokyo
https://www.okura-nikko.com/jal-city/

D. Mercure Tokyo-Haneda
https://www.mercure-tokyo-haneda-airport.com/en/

E. Royal Park Hotels Tokyo Haneda
https://www.royalparkhotels.co.jp/en/the/tokyohaneda/

F. Villa Fontaine grand Haneda Airport
https://www.hvf.jp/eng/hanedaairport-grand

