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08 June 2026

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 39TH SCUFN MEETING
SCUFN Letter No. 01/2026

To: SCUFN Members and Observers
SCUFN Proposers

Copy: IOC Secretariat
IHO Secretariat
GEBCO Guiding Committee Chair/Secretary

Subject: Announcement of the 39th Meeting of SCUFN (SCUFN-39), Monday 9 to Saturday 14 November 2026 – Kanazawa-Ishikawa, Japan

References: A. Decisions SCUFN38/12/01 (SCUFN-39 dates and venue)
B. SCUFN Rules of Procedure

Annex: A. SCUFN-39 Draft Timetable
B. SCUFN-39 Logistic information paper (courtesy of JHOD)

Dear colleagues,

1. As agreed at the last SCUFN meeting (Reference A), SCUFN-39 will be held as a face-to-face event in Japan, precisely in Kanazawa (Ishikawa Prefecture) from Monday 9 to Saturday 14 November 2026, thanks to the generous offer from the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, Japan Coast Guard (JHOD). In accordance with SCUFN Terms of References (Reference B), all SCUFN Members are expected to attend in person. Proposers and Observers are more than welcome.

Meeting Repository

2. As for the previous meeting, all documents related to SCUFN-39 (logistic, information, documents, registration) will only be made available through the [IHO Portal](#).
3. All participants/delegates are reminded that an individual account will be necessary to access the IHO Portal.
4. All participants/delegates are advised to monitor the [SCUFN-39 Documents Section](#) periodically, as documents will be published upon receipt by the SCUFN Secretariat.

Registration – Logistic Information

5. This letter constitutes a formal invitation to all SCUFN members and observers/proposers to participate in SCUFN-39. Delegates who require invitation letters to facilitate their visa application are kindly requested to contact the SCUFN Secretariat (eric.langlois@iho.int).
6. It is highly recommended not to wait for the approval of your travel requests at the national level to request these invitation letters: letters can be provided in advance of travel approvals.
7. A logistic Information brief kindly prepared by the host country is annexed to this letter and made available on the SCUFN-39 meeting section on the [IHO Portal](#) (see 'information' Tab).
8. All delegates intending to participate in SCUFN-39 are invited to register through [the IHO Portal](#) **no later than 10 August 2026**.
9. The Conference room capacity being limited, participants should register as early as possible. Priority for in-person participation will be for SCUFN Members. Other participants will be registered on a *first come, first registered basis*.

Agenda and timetable

10. In accordance with Reference B, a provisional agenda and timetable for SCUFN-39 is provided as Annex A.
11. SCUFN Members and Observers are invited to submit their proposals and/or new agenda items to the SCUFN Secretariat, if any, **no later than 10 August 2026**.

Proposals submission

12. In accordance with Reference B (ROP 2.8), "*Proposals which are to be considered at SCUFN meetings must be submitted two months before meetings...*". Therefore, submission deadline is set as of **Friday 4 September 2026 (12:00 UTC)**. All participants/delegates are reminded that the number of proposals to be reviewed by SCUFN Members annually is capped to 250 proposals.
13. Having considered some lessons learned from the SCUFN-38 submission process, The SCUFN Secretariat has created a dedicated online form to receive all SCUN-39 proposals. This intake process is similar process to what proposers will experience once the new version of the SCUFN Operational Web Services (SCUFN OWS) platform enters into force (i.e. proposal

submitted one-by-one). It also provides an automatic confirmation of receipt for each submission to the proposer.

14. The online form is accessible through the following link:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/bYCJEbMs75>
15. Other documents (i.e. paper, report) intended for consideration and decision making at the meeting should be submitted to the Secretary **no later than 4 September 2026**. It is highly recommended to use the SCUFN-39 templates made available in the SCUFN-39 Section on the IHO Portal.
16. Offers from SCUFN Members' supporting organization, IOC and IHO Member States, or Observers for hosting SCUFN-41 in 2028 (and SCUFN-42 in 2029 if possible) are welcome any time prior the start of the meeting.

I very much look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Y. Ohara', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Dr Yasuhiko OHARA
Chair of SCUFN

SCUFN-39 PROVISIONAL AGENDA & TIMETABLE

Date	Time (UTC+9)	Action	Comments / Lead
9 November	09:00 – 10:00	Meeting room setting, layout, and IT testing	Host, SCUFN Secretariat
9 November	10:00 – 12:00	Chair Team preparation meeting	Closed session – Chair/Vice-Chair/Secretary
9 November	13:30 – 17:00	SCUFN-39 Closed session	SCUFN Members/Secretary
9 November	17:30 – 19:00	Informal gathering, Icebreaker	All participants
10 November	09:00 – 12:30	SCUFN-39 – Opening ceremony & address – Objectives – Adoption of agenda and timetable	Open session – Corporate matters
10 November	13:30 – 17:00	SCUFN-39 Plenary Session	Open session – Naming proposals
11 November	09:00 – 17:00	SCUFN-39 Plenary Session	Open session - Naming proposals
12 November	09:00 – 12:00	SCUFN-39 Plenary Session	Open session - Naming proposals
12 November	13:30 – 17:00	SCUFN-39 Plenary Session	Open session – Corporate matters (cont.), Reports from UFN PT and reports from side ad hoc meetings (SCUFN Operational Web Services, GEBCO Gazetteer)
12 November	17:30 – 19:30	Farewell Dinner Reception	All participants
13 November	09:00 – 12:00	SCUFN-39 Plenary Session	Open session –SCUFN Naming 2030 - Review of decisions and actions.
13 November	13:30 – 17:00	SCUFN-39 Closed session (if needed)	SCUFN Members/Secretary
14 November	09:00 – 17:00	Technical & cultural ¹ visit to the Noto region	All participants (via reservation)

¹ Visit end time may vary depending on traffic conditions. Participants are recommended that the return flight for home be set for the next day (15 November). Nonetheless, it is possible to reach to Tokyo on the night of 14 November from Kanazawa.

SCUFN-39 LOGISTIC INFORMATION

LOCATION: KANAZAWA

Ishikawa Prefecture is located in the Hokuriku region and is characterized by a diverse landscape extending from the Hakusan mountain range to its coastal and peninsular areas. This geographical setting creates a wide range of natural environments, including mountains, plains, coastlines, and peninsulas, making the region significant for understanding the geological formation of the Japanese archipelago.

The Noto Peninsula nearby is known for its complex geological structures and well-exposed stratigraphy. On the new year day of 2024 (1 January 2024), a big earthquake, named “2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake”² hit this region, making severe damage there. In turn, the seismic activity has further made notable landform changes and geological features, providing valuable insights into active tectonic processes. These characteristics form an important natural context for discussions related to seafloor morphology and undersea feature naming.

Kanazawa City, the capital of Ishikawa Prefecture, is a historic castle town that flourished during the Edo period. The city has carefully preserved its traditional districts and cultural heritage, offering visitors opportunities to experience iconic sites such as Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa Castle, and historic teahouse districts.

At the same time, Kanazawa is a well-equipped modern city with excellent transportation access, accommodation, and conference facilities, making it an ideal venue for international meetings. The harmonious blend of tradition and contemporary urban infrastructure ensures a comfortable and enriching stay for all participants.

For more information visit: <https://visitkanazawa.jp/en/>

VENUE

The meeting will be held at TKP Garden City PREMIUM Kanazawa Station West Exit, a modern conference facility conveniently located within walking distance of Kanazawa Station. The venue is well equipped with meeting rooms and amenities suitable for international conferences.

Detailed directions from Kanazawa Station to the venue are provided at the end of this document.

Please also refer to the following website (in Japanese):

<https://www.kashikaigishitsu.net/facilitys/gcp-kanazawa-nishiguchi/>



TRANSPORT

From Tokyo Station to Kanazawa Station

Kanazawa Station is directly accessible from Tokyo Station via the Hokuriku Shinkansen. The journey takes approximately 2.5 hours. Trains operate frequently, with departures roughly every 20–30 minutes throughout the day.

The one-way fare is approximately: JPY 14,000–14,600 (ordinary class).

Directions

Transit

10:20 AM - 12:50 PM

JR Shinkansen Kagayaki

2 hr 29 min

450.7 km

Price: ¥14,600

11:22 AM - 2:18 PM

JR Shinkansen Hakutaka

2 hr 55 min

450.7 km

Price: ¥14,070

10:31 AM - 1:37 PM

JR Shinkansen Hakutaka

3 hr 5 min

450.7 km

Price: ¥14,070

From Haneda Airport to Kanazawa Station

From Haneda Airport, participants may first travel to Tokyo Station by train:

- Tokyo Monorail and JR Line: approx. 25–35 minutes, ~ JPY 690
- Keikyu Line and JR Line: approx. 30–40 minutes, ~ JPY 470–600

From Tokyo Station, take the Hokuriku Shinkansen to Kanazawa.

Alternatively, domestic flights are available from Haneda Airport to Komatsu Airport (the nearest airport to Kanazawa):

Flight time: approx. 1 hour

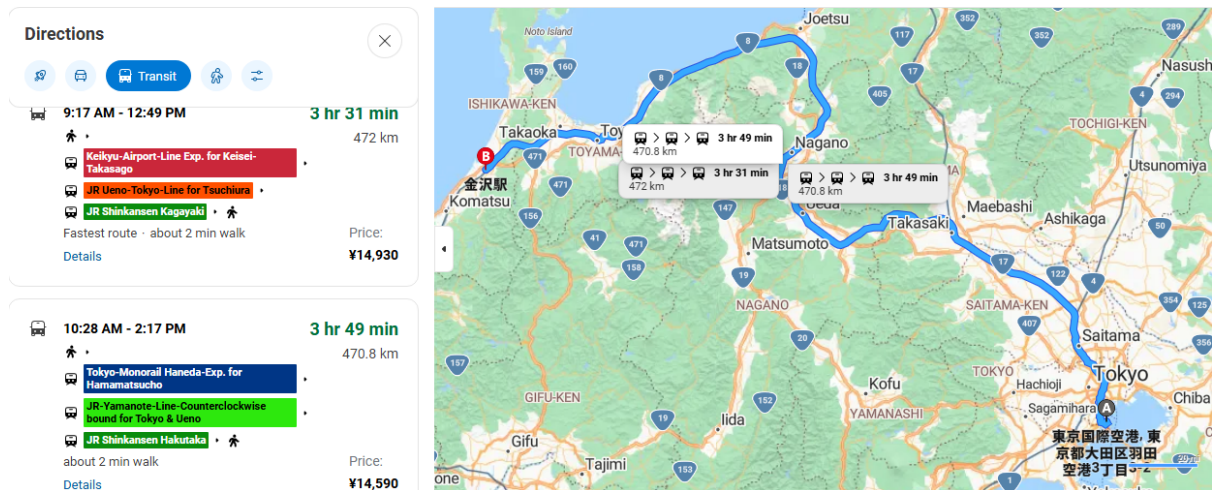
Frequency: approx. 6 flights per day

Typical fare: approx. JPY 8,000–20,000 (one-way, depending on booking conditions)

From Komatsu Airport, direct limousine bus services operate to Kanazawa Station (West Exit).

The journey takes approximately 40–45 minutes, and the one-way fare is around JPY 1,300. Buses run approximately once per hour, with services timed to coincide with arriving flights, typically departing 10–15 minutes after arrival.

No reservation is required. Tickets can be purchased at the airport or paid upon boarding (cash, IC card, or contactless payment available). The bus provides luggage storage and offers a convenient, direct connection to Kanazawa Station.



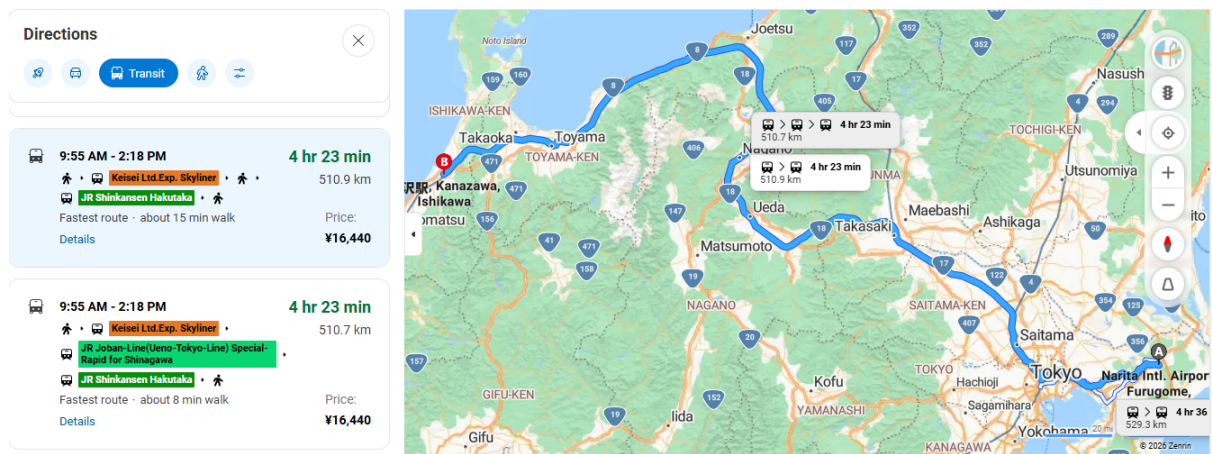
From Narita Airport to Kanazawa Station

From Narita Airport, participants may travel to Tokyo Station by rail:

- Narita Express (N'EX): approx. 1 hour, direct service, ~ JPY 3,140
Trains operate frequently (approximately every 30 minutes).

Alternatively, other rail options such as the Keisei Skyliner or local trains are also available.

From Tokyo Station, take the Hokuriku Shinkansen to Kanazawa.



For further information, please refer to the following websites:

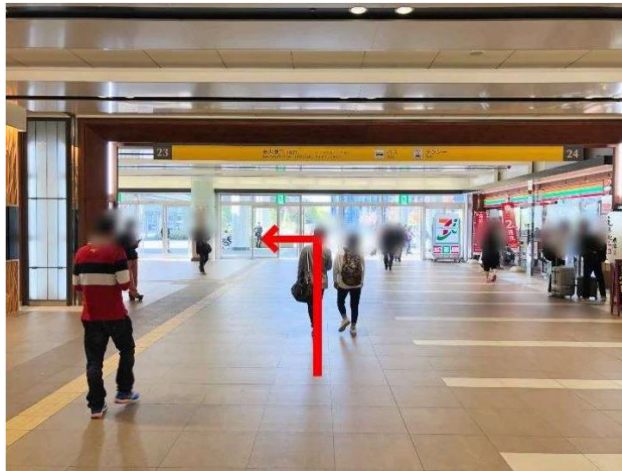
- Haneda Airport: <https://tokyo-haneda.com/en/>
- Narita Airport: <https://www.narita-airport.jp/en/>
- JR East (Shinkansen information): <https://www.jreast.co.jp/e/>
- Route Search (NAVITIME): <https://japantravel.navitime.com/en/>

From Kanazawa Station to the meeting venue

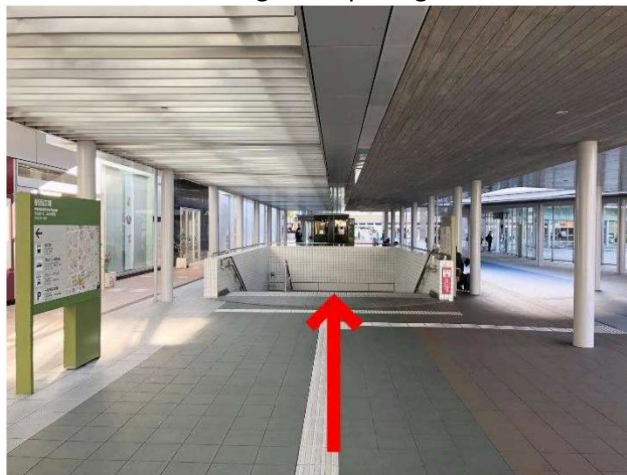
1. Please proceed to the Kanazawa Port Exit (West Exit) of Kanazawa Station.



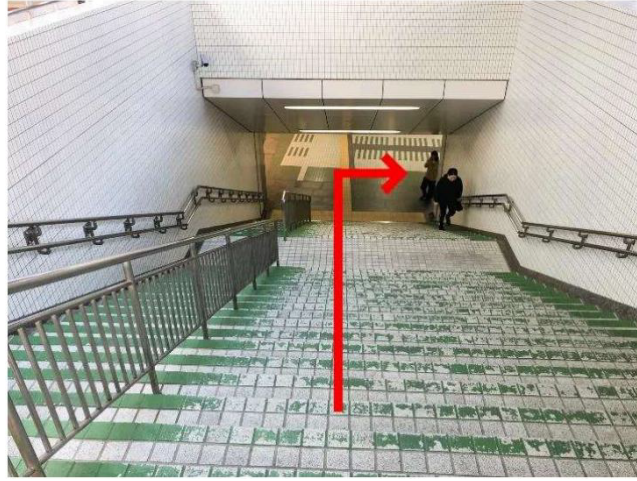
2. After exiting from the Kanazawa Port Exit (West Exit), turn left.



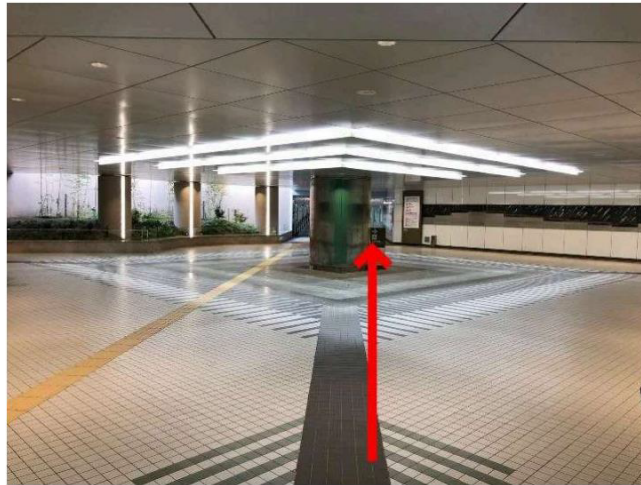
3. Walk straight ahead and enter the underground passage.



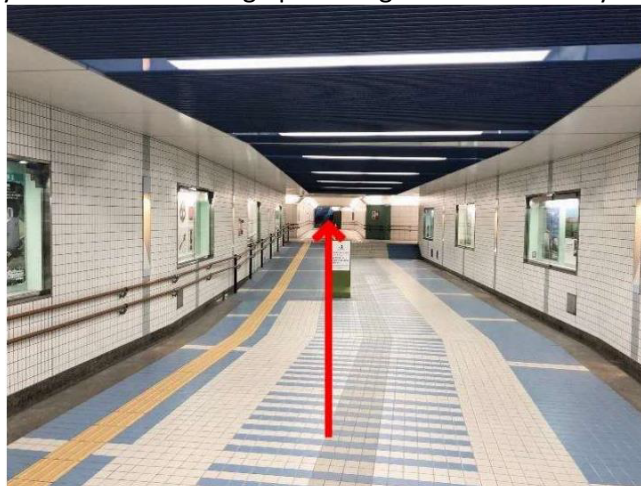
4. Go down the stairs, turn right, and continue straight.



5. Pass the large pillar and continue straight ahead.



6. Keep walking until you see stairs leading up to the ground in front of you.



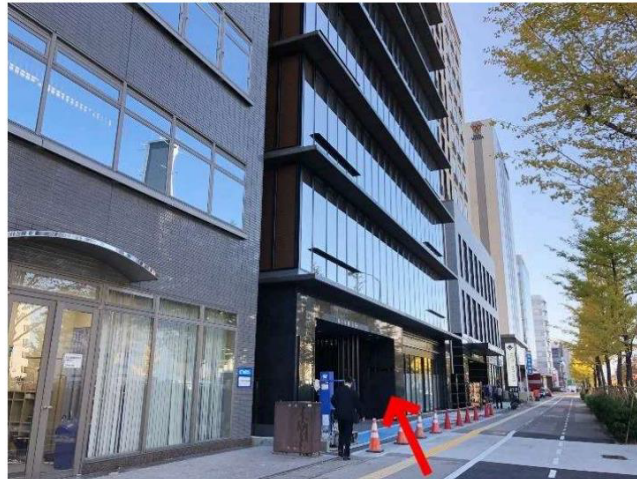
7. Go up the stairs and continue straight along the road ahead.



8. Once you reach street level, walk straight toward the glass-fronted building.



9. The venue is located on the 2nd & 3rd floors of the glass building just before “HOTEL MYSTAYS”.



HOTEL INFORMATION

For your stay in Kanazawa, we recommend selecting a hotel near Kanazawa Station (West Exit). The conference venue (TKP Garden City PREMIUM Kanazawa Station West Exit) is located approximately a 5-minute walk from the station. All hotels listed below are within walking distance of both the station and the venue.

Daiwa Roynet Hotel Kanazawa Ekimae (West Exit)

<https://www.daiwaroynet.jp/en/kanazawa-ekinishi/>

Approx. 4-minute walk from Kanazawa Station (West Exit)

Approx. 5–7-minute walk to the venue

Modern, clean, and well-suited for business travelers

➔ **Most convenient and well-balanced option**

Hyatt Centric Kanazawa

<https://www.hyatt.com/hyatt-centric/en-US/kmqct-hyatt-centric-kanazawa>

Approx. 2-minute walk from Kanazawa Station (West Exit)

Approx. 5-minute walk to the venue

Slightly higher-end with spacious rooms

➔ **Suitable for more premium stay**

APA Hotel Kanazawa Ekimae / AB Hotel Kanazawa

<https://www.apahotel.com/en/hotel/hokuriku/ishikawa/kanazawa-ekimae/>

Approx. 1-minute walk from Kanazawa Station (West Exit)

Approx. 5–8-minute walk to the venue

Simple and budget-friendly options

➔ **Suitable for short business stays**

❖IMPORTANT NOTES❖

We do not have a fixed hotel block or group reservation for this event.

All participants are requested to make their own hotel reservations individually.

As hotels around Kanazawa Station tend to fill up, , we therefore recommend booking your accommodation **as early as possible**.

Please choose a hotel based on your preference and budget.

SOCIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

An Icebreaker Reception will be held in the evening of Monday, 9 November, providing an opportunity for participants to meet and network in an informal setting.

A Farewell Dinner Reception will take place in the evening of Thursday, 12 November, to conclude the conference.

A technical & cultural visit to the Noto region to see the geological and morphological landmarks related to the “2024 Noto Peninsula earthquake” will be held on Saturday, 14 November, following the conclusion of the conference. Transportation will be arranged by JHOD.

Participants who wish to join this technical & cultural visit are kindly requested to indicate their interest at the time of conference registration. Participants are also recommended that the return flight for home be set for the next day (15 November) as the visit end time may vary depending on traffic conditions. Nonetheless, it is possible to reach to Tokyo on the night of 14 November from Kanazawa.

MEALS

Lunch will be provided free of charge during the meeting, exception made for Monday 9 November.

VISA INFORMATION

Participants who require a visa to enter Japan are kindly requested to inform the SCUFN Secretariat at the time of registration.

Upon request, JHOD will provide supporting documents, such as an invitation letter, to facilitate the visa application process.

Participants are advised to submit the necessary information and documents **as early as possible** to ensure sufficient time for visa processing.

OTHER INFORMATION

Electricity

The standard voltage in Japan is 100V / 50–60 Hz.

Japan uses Type A plugs (two flat parallel pins).

Participants are advised to bring appropriate adaptors if needed.



Currency

The local currency is Japanese Yen (JPY).

USD 1 $\doteq$ JPY 159 (as of May 22, 2026).

Weather

In November, the average temperature in Kanazawa ranges from a minimum of approximately 10°C to a maximum of around 17°C (average: 13°C).

Kanazawa has a relatively humid climate, and rainfall is frequent during this period. The average rainfall in November is approximately 250 mm, with rain occurring on many days.

Participants are advised to bring appropriate clothing such as a light coat and rain gear (e.g., umbrella or waterproof jacket).

POINT OF CONTACT (JHOD)

Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, Japan Coast Guard (JHOD).

Office Phone: +81 (0)3 3595 3605

Email: iao@jhod.go.jp

In the subject of your email, please indicate **SCUFN_39 (Respective Country)**

Ex: **SCUFN_39 (UK)**