

AI salad vending machines promote healthy eating in Japan



Japan, often referred to as the "Land of the Vending Machines," showcases a diverse array of automated offerings beyond the typical drinks and snacks. The latest development in Tokyo highlights advanced technology and healthy eating, areas where Japan excels.

Kompeito, a Japanese wellness company, has introduced the Salad Stand vending machine service, expanding its Office De Yasai ("Vegetables at the Office") initiative. This service, launched over a decade ago, aims to provide office workers with healthier meal options. Kompeito recognized that convenience plays a role in dietary choices, leading to the expansion of this service to the general public.

The Salad Stand vending machine integrates AI technology, utilizing built-in cameras to monitor foot traffic and expiration dates. This allows for dynamic pricing adjustments, potentially reducing food waste by lowering prices for items nearing their expiration. The vending machine offers a variety of salads, juices, and "fruit granola," with salads being the main attraction. These salads incorporate farm-fresh vegetables, meats, fish, fruits, and nuts, paired with selected dressings.

The cold-pressed juices aim to retain vitamins, minerals, and enzymes, available in 250 and 400-milliliter sizes, containing up to 1.5 kilograms of fresh produce. Additionally, Kompeito repurposes vegetable leaves and peels into crunchy fruit granola snacks, meeting daily fiber intake recommendations.

The Salad Stand vending machine is located at Tokyo Solamachi, near Tokyo Skytree, and operates from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Another machine is available at Kyoto Shiyakusho-mae Station. This innovative approach to vending machines offers an opportunity to explore healthy eating and reduce food waste.

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