

E-MAIL MAGAGINE

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1. NEW OCCI MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER; CHAIRMAN SATO'S THIRD TERM BEGINS

On November 4, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) held the first extraordinary general assembly to elect the board of directors upon the expiration of their term, and reelected



Shigetaka Sato, Chairman of Advisory Council, Keihan Electric Railway Co., Ltd. as its Chairman. Chairman Sato took office in March 2010, and this will mark his third term. Then, the elections for Vice Chairmen, President, Board of Executive Councillors, and Auditors were held. All the current Vice Chairmen were reelected. Reelected as Vice Chairmen were: Teiichi Nishimura, Chairman, Sakura Color Products Corporation; Atsushi Kojima, Senior Adviser, Osaka Restaurant Management Association; Minoru Furukawa, Chairman & CEO, Hitachi Zosen Corporation; Haruo Kuramochi, Director, Daido Life Insurance Company; Isao Teshirogi, President and CEO, Shionogi & Co., Ltd.; Hiroshi Ozaki, President, Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.; and Shingo Torii, Vice Chairman of the Board, Representative Director, Suntory Holdings Limited. The term of these executive directors is three years.

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As successor to outgoing President Masahiro Nadamoto, Mr. Tsutomu Miyagi was elected the new President of OCCI. Mr. Tsutomu Miyagi is a former official of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) who later served in various posts such as the Director of the Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI-KANSAI) and a director of the Japan Finance Corporation for Small and Medium Enterprises (JASME), and most recently Managing Director of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Chairman Sato, who was reelected unanimously, stated his aspirations in his inaugural address: “With our eyes set on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which will happen 14 years from now, toward the revitalization of the Osaka/Kansai economy, I would like to gear up our efforts to achieve our medium-term business vision launched in April this year, “Plan for Osaka Metropolis of Endless Visitors (second term),” through participation by all—OCCI directors, member companies, governments, economic organizations and citizens. Chairman Sato also mentioned that the number of inbound tourists to Kansai are rapidly increasing, by citing that in the first half of this year, the number of foreign passengers at Kansai International Airport has exceeded the number of Japanese passengers. He said that taking advantage of this opportunity, OCCI would vigorously pursue the eight strategic projects listed in the above-mentioned Plan, including the Project to Promote the Inbound Flow of Tourists, Project to Access Overseas Markets and Project to Become a Market Creating City -Osaka.

The extraordinary general assembly also discussed the establishment of committees, especially a new committee, to support the holding of sports and culture-related events, including the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the 2016 Sports Culture Davos, which was proposed by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Hakubun Shimomura. The assembly agreed to set up a new “Sports and Culture Promotion Special Committee.”, approving in total the establishment of 3 Standing Committees, 13 Expert Committees and 2 Special Committees.

2. KANSAI INTERNATIONAL MEISHI EXCHANGE HELD



The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) held the fifth Kansai International Meishi Exchange on November 5. This event is the one of the largest international business networking events in the Kansai region, this time attracting a record-high 305 participants. The event was hosted by three organizations: OCCI, the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, Kansai Chapter (ACCJ Kansai) and Kansai Canada

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Business Association (KCBA), and supported by a number of organizations including the Chambers of Commerce in Japan of Ireland, India, Britain, Australia/New Zealand, Netherlands, Switzerland, France, South Korea, Taiwan, China, Germany and Brazil, and the Japan External Trade Organization, Osaka (JETRO Osaka) and the Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC).

At the beginning of the event, OCCI Vice Chairman Shingo Torii and Akira Miwa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for the Kansai Region gave opening remarks, which were followed by a toast by U.S. Consul-General Allen Greenberg and Canadian Consul Matt Fraser. The two-and-a-half-hour-long exchange event was a great success, with participants—international business people, representatives from foreign consular offices and Kansai-based companies—actively networking and communicating with one another. During the event, a raffle was also held. All proceeds (a total of 164,500 yen) from the raffle will be donated to Ashinaga, a non-profit organization in Japan that supports children affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The Meishi Exchange is greatly anticipated by the Kansai business community and has been attracting an increasing number of supporting organizations and participants each year. This event is planned to be held annually each year.

3. THE 7TH OVERSEAS MARKET EXPANSION EVENT FOR MADE-IN-JAPAN PRODUCTS— “BUSINESS TALKS WITH BUYERS FROM MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES” HELD



On Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th November, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) held the event “Business Talks with Buyers from Middle East Countries” to support Osaka-based companies in their efforts to expand into emerging markets. This is the seventh time for OCCI to hold the Overseas Market Development Fair for Made-in-Japan Products, by inviting buyers from overseas countries.

This time, as with last year, focusing on the Islamic economic zone, which is attracting increasing attention, OCCI invited to Osaka four buyer companies looking to purchase made-in-Japan products from the three countries of UAE (Abu Dhabi), Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the Middle East Gulf region, where many wealthy people are concentrated.

The buyers were looking for a wide range of products, such as frozen foods, health and beauty related products, daily necessities, textile products, automobile parts, small medical devices and baby care products. Many Osaka-based SMEs seeking to enter new markets eagerly promoted their products to buyers.

During two days of the event, there were 42 participating Japanese companies, and a total of 83 negotiations took place, of which 38 negotiations are to be continued with the aim of signing contracts.

As part of its efforts to support business expansion into the Islamic Economic Zone markets, OCCI has already held Halal-related study sessions twice this year, and will continue its efforts on promoting business exchanges with the Islamic world.

The 8th Overseas Market Development Fair for Made-in-Japan Products is planned to be held in mid-February next year by inviting several buyer companies from Thailand and Myanmar.

4. OCCI INTERNATIONAL DIVISION REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

11/10 Mr. Jan Mladek, Minister of Industry and Trade, the Czech Republic
Mr. Tomas DUB, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Embassy of the Czech Republic in Japan

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