



nanomaterials; and WATA from the Republic of Korea, which harnesses 3D lidar to create innovative industrial spatial management technology. For an overview of GIF Osaka 2022, online exhibits, and sign-up for various events, check out the GIF Osaka website at

<https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/en/>

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**2. PARTNERING WITH LOCAL COMPANIES TO BOOST JAPANESE GREENTECH BUSINESSES IN THE ASEAN REGION**

At the OCCI, we are seeking to leverage initiatives such as Osaka’s city-to city collaboration with Thai counterparts under the Eastern Economic Corridor framework and an administrative partnership with Ho Chi Minh to turn potential into real benefits. For instance, we are working to match Japanese and local businesses with a view to introducing Japanese technologies and products that can contribute to lower carbon footprints.

A webinar on November 21 provided an audience of 60 Japanese SMEs with an overview of the Joint Crediting Mechanism and case studies on how other companies have used the mechanism to their advantage when expanding into the ASEAN region.

We are also looking to partner with chambers of commerce and local governments in Thailand and Vietnam to identify local companies interested in Japanese green technologies and seek opportunities for Osaka businesses to cater to unmet local needs. In the longer term, we hope to expand these initiatives to the rest of the ASEAN region, India, and beyond.

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**3. THE REBORN CHALLENGES: 26 SUPPORT PROJECTS FOR SMES HOPING TO EXHIBIT AT THE 2025 WORLD EXPO OSAKA PAVILION**

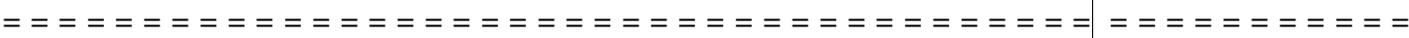
On October 27, 2022, the SME & Startup Exhibition Promotion Committee, a joint initiative by the OCCI and

the Osaka Business Development Agency which is organizing exhibitions at the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka (chairperson: Junzo Tateno, vicechair of the OCCI and president of the OBDA) has selected 26 “challenges” from among many submissions for its Reborn Challenges project. Under the project, SMEs and startups that aspire to exhibit in the pavilion undergo a program of support.

Entries will open for SMEs and startups eager to take on the Reborn Challenges starting in January 2023. The challenges are aimed at uncovering and supporting potential exhibitors, and the outcomes of that support will be featured as part of the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion’s exhibitions.

Five of the 26 challenges were posed by the OCCI, including those relating to wellness, fashion, Osaka’s famous small-scale factories, and tech.

For an overview of the Reborn Challenges, see the committee’s website at <https://www.obda.or.jp/jigyō/expo-support/oppc/oppc-rebornchallenge.html>(Japanese only)



**4. OCCI SURVEY SHOWS MEMBER BUSINESSES ARE STRUGGLING WITH THE WEAKER YEN**

On November 11, 2022, the OCCI released the results of its survey of members on the effects of the recent devaluation of the yen against the US dollar. The results revealed that 55.7% of respondents felt the weakening of the yen had a negative or somewhat negative effect. That trend was even more pronounced among SMEs and midscale companies (i.e., with a capital of no more than 300 million yen), with 63.5% responding negative or somewhat negative effect.

The most common answer to a question about the precise nature of those negative effects was “rising cost of raw materials, products, and energy, etc.” (83.3%). The next most common response was “difficulty in passing on rising costs in sale prices” (64.8%) and “rising importing costs” (37.0%). The most common answer to a

question about

how respondents were dealing with the negative effects was “passing on costs by raising sale prices” (63.0%).

In response to a question about the ideal yendollar exchange rate for business, the most commonly chosen response (54.7%) was “at least 120 yen to the dollar.” The most commonly chosen predicted rate for the foreseeable future was “140-149 yen to the dollar” (28.9%).

In response to a question about what respondents would seek to strengthen over the midtolongterm assuming a weaker yen, the most commonly chosen response (37.1%) was “increased procurement of raw materials, products, etc., within Japan.” The next most commonly chosen responses were “added value products and services” (28.9%),

“better capturing of demand from inbound overseas visitors” (16.5%), and “boost exports” (12.4%).

Conducted between October 26 and November 2, 2022, the survey polled 457 companies, and responses were received from 97 (VRR: 21.2%).

We at the OCCI provide a variety of support for businesses impacted by the weak yen. This includes a new page on the Business Mall website dedicated to helping members find new suppliers, support for export development via trade fairs and meetings with relevant parties, trade admin support including issuing certificates of origin, helping local arcade stores attract foreign tourists, and much more.

Further information available online (Japanese only)

[https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Chousa\\_Kenkyuu\\_Iken/press/20221114m\\_order.pdf](https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Chousa_Kenkyuu_Iken/press/20221114m_order.pdf)

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## < EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN >

Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, “International Planning Meeting” Ended 2-day itinerary

On October 26, 2022, the Japan Association for the 2025 Japan World Exposition completed the two-days schedule of the International Planning Meeting, the first international conference in Japan with regard to Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

Further information available online

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20221026-01/>

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**<COURTESY VISIT (1ST-30THNOVEMBER)>**

(Kingdom of Thailand) 10th November

-Professor Sirirurg Songsivilai, M.D., Ph.D., Permanent Secretary Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation Thailand

(Canada) 10th November

-Mr. Chenier La Salle, LL. M., General Delegate of Government of Quebec

(Republic of Panama) 15th November

-Mr. Victor J. Almengor C., Consul General of the Republic of Panama in Kobe, Japan

(Kingdom of Thailand) 18th November

-Dr. Thawilwadee Bureeku, Director of Research and Development Office, King Prajadhipok's Institute

(Ireland) 28th November

-Mr. Derek Fitzgerald, Director Japan of Investment and Development Agency Ireland

(Republic of Uganda) 29th November

Ms. Katwesigye Oliver Koyekyenga, Member of Parliament of Parliament of Uganda/Committee on Trade and

National Economy

(Kingdom of Thailand) 30th November

-Mr. Narit Therdsteeerasukdi, Secretary General of Thailand Board of Investment (BOI), Bangkok Head Office

(Taiwan) 30th November

-Mr. Guann-Jyh Lee, Deputy Director General of Bureau of Foreign Trade Ministry of Economic Affairs

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**INFORMATION FOR COVID-19**

Osaka Prefecture Government

<https://covid19-osaka.info/en/>

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[O-BIC as one-stop service center for creating a foothold in Osaka]

<http://o-bic.net/>

[Information about scheduled events (in Japanese only)]

<https://intl.osaka.cci.or.jp/>



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<http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/emagazine/>



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to inform us of your change of e-mail address, or of your wishes not to receive OCCI e-Magazine.

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\* No official English translation could be reliably confirmed for this term. This is our own unofficial translation.

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