



Chamber of Commerce, and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the intention is to expand the range of participants in future.

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## **2. OCCI TO SHOWCASE TEN FASCINATING LOCAL COMPANIES AT THE JAPAN TECH PAVILION AT CES 2023**

The OCCI will co-host the Japan Tech pavilion in the startup-focused Eureka Park area of the 2023 Consumer Electronics Show (CES), the world’s largest tradeshow, between January 5 and 8, 2023. In a break with Japan Tech pavilion tradition, the OCCI Area focuses on companies with no prior overseas experience, and provides more modestly sized, cheaper exhibition spaces than typical booths to lower the barrier to entry for the first-timers. The OCCI Area will showcase ten innovative companies from the Kansai region, including Science, an Osaka-based manufacturer of microbubble-generating showerheads; Lu-Nao, an Osaka-based company that produces silica and biomass graphene from rice husks; and Direct RF, a Hyogo-based manufacturer of compact defrosting devices. The OCCI Area will be packed with the best and most unique startups that Japan has to offer, so if you’re going to CES 2023, don’t miss it.

Where: Venetian Expo, Level 1, Hall G, Eureka Park 62633

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## **3. SHAPING THE ENTIRE OSAKA REGION’S URBAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY WITH A VIEW TO 2050**

On November 24, 2022, the OCCI’s Metropolis Development Committee submitted to the Osaka city and prefectural urban planning bureaus opinions received regarding the draft Grand Design Osaka.

A broad range of views were received, including:

- \* The need to establish a new, intrinsically Osaka style in which the government and private sectors work together to create Osaka’s future, focusing not just on planning but also on nurturing;
- \* Incorporation of the philosophies and specific initiatives of the

Greater Minami Concept, which seeks to foster wide-area cooperation to help communities overcome their challenges; and

\* The need for a process to incorporate the views of the younger demographics (e.g., Gen-Z and Millennials) into the building of tomorrow's Osaka.

Details are available (in Japanese) here:

[https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Chousa\\_Kenkyuu\\_Iken/press/20221124gt\\_minami.pdf](https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Chousa_Kenkyuu_Iken/press/20221124gt_minami.pdf)

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#### **4. FINAL SESSIONS CAP OFF A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL GIF OSAKA 2022**

The final round of GIF Osaka 2022, the nation's foremost forum for matching international start-ups with Japanese companies, featuring exciting startups from East and Southeast Asia, was a roaring success, with eight startups from four countries, including our first entries from the Philippines.

All the exhibiting startups were eager to make Osaka their foothold for establishing a presence in Japan and collaborating with local businesses, and all of them brought the wow factor. They include LLVision from China, which has developed a communication aid for hearing-impaired people and nonnative language speakers; the Crust Group from Singapore, which boasts technologies that contribute to food loss reduction and upcycles food scraps for use in beverage production; Nanotronics from the Philippines, which produces recyclable nano materials; and WATA from the Republic of Korea, which harnesses 3D lidar to create innovative industrial spatial management technology. The live pitch session drew a large audience from the Japanese corporate community, and lively Q&A sessions. The pitches were followed on December 19 and 20 by one-on-one meetings between the eight startups and many local companies interested in collaborating.

In terms of outcomes, GIF Osaka 2022 was successful indeed, with the four rounds (North and South America, Middle East & Southwest Asia, Europe, and East and Southeast Asia) resulting in more than 50 one-on-one meetings.

The winners of each round's Best Live Pitch Contest were Human Bionics (Colombia), WankaTanka (Israel), Tokamak Energy (UK), and LLVISION (China), and these four will be invited to Osaka in February 2023 for in-person exhibitions and meetings.

For more information

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

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## **5. A FRUITFUL MEETING WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INNOVATION AGENCY OF THAILAND**

On December 2, members of the OCCI met with Dr. Pun-Arj Chairatana, executive director of the National Innovation Agency of Thailand, and exchanged views regarding how the two countries could cooperate on innovation projects in the biotech and other fields.

As part of the OCCI team suggestion of collaborating around the chamber's Global Innovation Forum and green tech projects, Yoshiyuki Taenaka, honorary fellow at the National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Center and vice-chairperson of the OCCI's Sports Industry Promotion

Committee spoke about Japan's efforts and Osaka's competitive advantages in the field of life sciences, and Shiori Nagata, Chief Strategy Officer of Yanmar Holdings and a member of the OCCI's International Business Committee talked about Yanmar's innovations in the agricultural business.

Following this, Dr. Pun-Arj Chairatana and the rest of the four-strong Thai delegation visited the Entrepreneurial Museum of Challenge and Innovation, where they learned about food and manufacturing entrepreneurs who had connections with Thailand, thus getting a feel for Thailand's ties with the Osaka economy.

Both the OCCI and the Thai NIA affirmed their commitment to furthering cooperation with a view to matching Thai startups with Osaka-based businesses.

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### **<COURTESY VISIT (1ST-27TH DECEMBER)>**

(Kingdom of Thailand) 2nd December

-Mr.Pun-Arj Chairatana, Director, National Innovation Agency of Thailand

(Philippine) 7th December

-Mr.Tereso O. Panga, Deputy Director General Policy and Planning, Philippine Economic Zone Authority

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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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Back Numbers of OCCI e-Magazine:

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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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