



The Manufacturing x Innovation program includes the Global Innovation Forum (GIF) Osaka, a popular series of events that matches startups from throughout Japan and around the world with companies from around Osaka and the Kansai region, and the SDGs & ESG Platform, which helps Japanese decarbonization technologies gain a foothold overseas.

The aim of the Wellness Business Generation project is to discover and nurture startups in the medical and healthcare sectors, and provide support for expansion into international markets and development of sales channels through a variety of initiatives. These include the International MedTech Acceleration Project\* and the Helping Japanese Medical Device Businesses Set Up in Emerging Markets\* project.

The Making Our Cities Attractive Again project includes multiple initiatives in the run-up to the 2025 World Expo, including City Exhibition, which seeks to spread the word among overseas visitors to Japan about what makes Osaka great, and an effort to promote shopping arcades as tourist destinations. In addition, we will pursue our ongoing Revitalization of the Greater Minami Area project, which encompasses a variety of efforts to support employment of, and entrepreneurship by, foreign nationals in Osaka's southern reaches.

The Urban Living Lab program incorporates ongoing endeavors by the 2025 World Expo's host city to spread the word about the People's Living Lab, one of the core themes of the expo, and drum up support for unique demonstration testing opportunities available to local and international companies alike.

The Stronger Business Foundations Package helps reinforce the bedrock of business, including support for financing and business planning, as well as business revitalization and ownership succession. We also offer a variety of services aimed at improving profitability and productivity.

Another initiative is the Stronger Human Capital Package, which not only offers help for workforce development, reskilling, and diversification, but also seeks to generate opportunities for career development, especially among young people.

We also offer a Building Trade Routes & Global Expansion package, in which we assist with meetings and operate an international trade support website as a means of helping companies open up new sales channels locally and internationally and provide the support needed for enterprises to take their business worldwide.

Our line-up of services aimed at promoting trade is quite extensive. Not only are we authorized to issue trade certificates (including those for EPAs), but we also offer support to help Osaka businesses take advantage of EPAs and broaden their sales channels. For instance, we hold seminars and advisory events regarding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the new “mega-EPA” that represents Japan’s first ever EPA with China and the Republic of Korea.

Moreover, attracting investment by overseas companies is a major focus of our work. The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC), which is jointly operated by Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City, works with related organizations to actively promote the attractiveness of the Osaka business environment both domestically and internationally, and to attract and support foreign companies to Osaka by matching them with Japanese companies.

This year will see the launch of the ASEAN-JAPAN Business Promotion Platform, with the aim of strengthening business relations between Japan and Southeast Asia in particular. The platform will serve as a vehicle for multiple economic organizations in the participating regions to cooperate on a broad spectrum of initiatives.

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

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## **2. A NEW FRAMEWORK TO BOOST JAPAN-ASEAN BUSINESS**

The OCCI hosted the Representative Online Meeting on ASEAN-JAPAN Economic Exchange Promotion on

April 11, 2023. The chamber, together with meeting participants the Singapore Business Federation, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade of Thailand, and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, formalized the establishment of a new organization: the ASEAN-JAPAN Business Promotion Platform.

The platform will promote exchanges between companies belonging to the member organizations, focusing chiefly on opening up and expanding sales channels, startups, and green technology as a pathway to expanded business and stronger economic relations between Japan and ASEAN countries.

A kick-off symposium was held on April 18 to mark the platform's inauguration, and attracted some 200 people from the Japanese business community. Attendees expressed high hopes that the platform would result in steadfast support for business with the ASEAN region.

Moving forward, we will strive to grow the platform to include members from the whole ASEAN region and to stimulate business exchanges in the run-up to Osaka's hosting of World Expo 2025.

Read more about the Representative Online Meeting on ASEAN-JAPAN Economic Exchange

Promotion at: <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/abp/>

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### **3. TAIWANESE DELEGATION VISITS OSAKA, EXCHANGES RESUME**

We at the OCCI were delighted to receive a delegation from the Third Wednesday Club, one of our partner organizations in Taiwan, and enjoyed a get-to-know-you banquet. The OCCI was represented by nine people, including Vice-Chairs Junzo Tateno and Kyoko Hirose, who renewed old friendships and exchanged opinions on future business cooperation.

The delegation consisted of members from both the Third Wednesday Club and the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce (CNAIC), Taiwan; a total of 23 people came, including Por-Fong Lin, chairman of the Third Wednesday Club, and Chiao-Chang Huang, vice-chairman of CNAIC. After opening

remarks by Messrs.

Lin and Huang, Vice-Chair Tateno spoke on behalf of the OCCI, outlining MoTTo OSAKA, the platform for presenting the technological needs of Osaka’s major corporations, and appealed for stronger cooperation between the Japanese and Taiwanese corporate communities. He also spoke of the possibilities for collaboration between Japanese and Taiwanese companies in the ASEAN region, in light of the OCCI’s establishment of the ASEAN-JAPAN Business Promotion Platform on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of JAPAN-ASEAN friendship and cooperation ties.

We at the OCCI have forged partnerships with some 61 chambers and economic organizations in 25 countries and regions worldwide. With the relaxing of Covid-era restrictions on international travel, hopes are high that these kinds of international exchange will soon regain and exceed their former vigor.

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#### **4. GIF OSAKA 2023 UPDATE: DATES FINALIZED**

Global Innovation Forum (GIF) Osaka has been a fixture of the business calendar since 2019. This year, as always, we look forward to matching international start-ups with Japanese companies in the fifth edition of GIF Osaka.

GIF Osaka provides startups interested in doing business in Japan to exhibit, make pitches, and meet with local business. For the 2023 edition of the event, we are seeking startups from two regions. There will also be parallel events for those from all other areas of the world.

About GIF Osaka 2023 Early event details are as follows.

- 1) This year’s GIF Osaka will be divided into two region-specific editions Online exhibits, live pitch sessions, and business matching to be held separately for each region.

This year’s regions are Europe and the Middle East (events scheduled for late October) and North and

Latin America (late November). In addition, there will be a special pitches-only session for participants from Southeast Asia. This will be held in around September.

- 2) Pitch session winners to be invited to Osaka During each regional event, there will be a vote to select the start-ups that Japanese participants would most like to meet in Osaka. Winners from each region will be invited to visit Osaka in January 2024, allowing the winners the chance to promote their state-of-the-art technologies to Japanese companies in person and pursue business opportunities.
  
- 3) Exhibitors sought from GIF's 7 focus sectors, now including new sectors GIF 2023 is open to start-up companies operating in one (or more) of these seven sectors:
  - (1) Augmented/virtual/mixed reality
  - (2) Robotics
  - (3) Digital transformation
  - (4) Agri-tech, food-tech
  - (5) Health-tech
  - (6) Advanced materials
  - (7) Green tech, carbon neutrality, new energy

To apply to exhibit, contact us at: [gif@osaka.cci.or.jp](mailto:gif@osaka.cci.or.jp)

Dates and Times: (all dates and times JST)

GIF Osaka 2023: Europe & Middle East

GIF Osaka 2023 website and online exhibition launch: September 20 (subject to change)

Live pitches: 16:00~18:30, October 19

One-on-one meetings: November 8 and 9

GIF Osaka 2023: North & Latin America

GIF Osaka 2023 website and online exhibition launch: September 20 (subject to change)

Live pitches: 10:00~12:30, November 21

One-on-one meetings: December 7 and 8

\*Schedule subject to change.

\*Pitch and meeting times will take time zone differences into account and vary by region.

Venue:

Online

To join, please register for GIF Osaka online (registration is required to watch the stream). Details on how to join the event will be provided upon registration.

Pitch winners will be invited to Osaka to take part in business meetings in person.

Program:

1. Online exhibition
2. Live pitches
3. Online business meetings

GIF Osaka Website

The GIF Osaka 2023 website is on track for launch in the summer.

The website will feature helpful information around participant programming, exhibitors, presenters, and more.

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## **5. WORLD EXPO 2025 NEWS**

### **A JAPAN-FIRST! PILOTED “FLYING CAR” TEST FLIGHTS**

On March 14, “Team Osaka,” a field testing group organized by the OCCI and the Osaka city and prefectural governments, provided support for piloted test flights of the “flying cars” by Marubeni Corporation and others at Osaka Castle Park. The purpose of the tests was to help build the popular acceptance needed for flying cars to become a regular part of the landscape, and to build momentum toward making flying cars a part of everyday life.

The vehicle tested was Hexa, a single-seat, electric, vertical-takeoff-and-landing (eVTOL) vehicle manufactured by American manufacturer Lift Aircraft. It experimented with several flight patterns, including up-and-down and circling?all piloted. These tests mark Japan’s first piloted flights of flying cars outdoors, where government permits are required.

The test flight was one of nine projects chosen as candidates for a demonstration testing program to be held on Yumeshima island, the site of the World Expo 2025. The program is the brainchild of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exhibition and the OCCI, and was devised to build momentum for the expo and spark innovation for the future benefit of society.

The project was recommended to Team Osaka to ensure the demonstration testing could be conducted smoothly and effectively, and Team Osaka played its role aptly, providing implementation support, including coordination of issues such as test content and venue.

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## **6. OSAKA IR DEVELOPMENT PLAN FIRST TO GET GOVERNMENT APPROVAL**

The Japanese government gave its approval for the integrated resort facility (IR)

development plan, which includes a casino, put forward by the Osaka prefectural and city governments. Osaka's is the first of multiple plans submitted to the government to receive the official nod.

Osaka's IR plan envisages a large-scale facility incorporating a casino, an international convention center, an exhibition hall, and a luxury hotel. It calls for an initial investment of over 1 trillion yen to build the casino, convention center, and other facilities on Yumeshima, a reclaimed island in Osaka Bay. The plan assumes 20 million visitors sales of 520 billion yen per year. The facility is expected to open as early as late 2029, and when it does it will be Japan's first casino.

The government sees Osaka's IR as a trump card for Japan's tourism industry; it is expected to become a major tourist destination that can showcase Japan on the world stage, and thereby contribute to the development of the broader Kansai region and the nation as a whole in the period following Expo 2025.

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**<COURTESY VISIT (10TH-31ST APRIL)>**

(Royal Thai Consul-General) 25th April

- Akrapong Chalermnon, Royal Thai Consul-General,Osaka

(Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry)

- Merit Fimberg-Espuch, Project Manager Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(Republic of Tunisia) 26th April

-H.E. Mr. Mohamed ELLOUMI,Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of

the Republic of Tunisia to Japan

(Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority) 28th April

- SHAIKH YUSUF HARUN, Executive Chairman Bangladesh Economic Zones

Authority (BEZA)

-LokmanHossain Miah,Executive Chairman Bangladesh Investment Development

Authority

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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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