



mid-scale companies in the enviro-business field, and feedback revealed that tour participants were please to get the chance to meet with interested companies, and that they appreciated the tour afforded them the opportunity to participate in something that would be beyond their reach alone.

Find out more (in Japanese) about the ASEAN Business Promotion Platform at:

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

Tel : 06-6944-6400

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## **2. GIF OSAKA 2023 EXHIBITS OPEN ON SEP. 20. SIGN UP NOW!**

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 is an online event, and registration is required to attend exhibits and pitch sessions and book meetings with participating startups. Exhibits start on September 20 and registrations are already open?sign up now to avoid disappointment.

What's on at GIF Osaka 2023 ?

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

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 October 19) and North and Latin America (November 21). In addition, there will be a special pitches-only session for participants from Southeast Asia. This will be held on September 27.

## 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 early 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

When (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: 09:30 ? 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.

How to Sign up for GIF Osaka

Registration is required to attend and participate in GIF Osaka.

Sign up at: <https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/en/registration/>

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**3. O-BIC: THE ONE-STOP CENTER FOR EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DOING BUSINESS IN OSAKA  
RECENT ACTIVITY PROMOTING FDI INTO OSAKA  
O-BIC PROMO IN CHICAGO**

O-BIC was recently part of an Osaka delegation to Chicago to participate in the Osaka Promotion Seminar and roundtable discussion as part of a broader line-up of talks and forums to celebrate 50 years of sister city relations. The seminar provided an outline of the Osaka economy and showcased the area’s huge potential, illustrated by its attraction of major events such as the 2025 World Expo. Through a wide variety of activities like these, the team at O-BIC is committed to opening Osaka up to the world and spreading the word about its positive business environment and other advantages.

**O-BIC Launches Its Official LinkedIn Account**

O-BIC has launched an official LinkedIn account, where it posts content focusing on four main topics.

1. Events that O-BIC hosts, co-hosts, or otherwise supports
2. FDI-related seminars and other events held by the Osaka prefectural and city governments, OCCI, and other

organizations

3. Reposting articles and other content that talk up Osaka; other content highlighting

O-BIC's activities and their outcomes

4. Updates about FDI-related systems, other news

The very first post on the account was about the Tenjin Matsuri festival, one of Japan's "big three" festivals, held on July 25. The O-BIC team were a part of the festivities aboard the OCCI's boat in the river parade, and the LinkedIn post contained photos gave readers a front-row view of the action. The folks at O-BIC look forward to keeping readers informed and entertained with regular posts, and we'd love it if you would help spread the word by reposting their content.

Check out the O-BIC LinkedIn account at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/osaka-o-bic-2025/>

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#### **4. LIFE SCIENCES PROMOTION COUNCIL SUBMITS POLICY REQUEST TO GOVERNMENT**

Requests Regarding Life Science Industry Promotion

A recent meeting of the Life Sciences Promotion Council, a joint organization of the Osaka, Kobe, and Kyoto chambers of commerce and industry designed to promote ongoing dialogue between the three chambers and produce policy requests, resulted in a policy request sent to the Prime Minister and relevant government organizations on August 1, 2023. In keeping with its aim of invigorating the life sciences industry, one of the mainstays of the Kansai economy, and driving exports, the council's proposal included requests for swifter adoption of digital technologies in the healthcare industry, promotion of software as a medical device (SaMD), and bringing Japan's pharmaceutical regulations into line with international standards.

The proposal was the product of in-depth debate by the council into ways to promote the life sciences industry including challenges faced by startups in developing ventures into viable businesses, exit strategies, as well as

financial and business-matching support.

Requests for Support Measures for SMEs in 2024The OCCI submitted a 42-point proposal to relevant government authorities and ruling party officials, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, as well as the governor of Osaka Prefecture and the mayor of Osaka City. The document outlined requested support for efforts to address labor shortages, boost innovation, and revitalize business. Most notable was the inclusion of a request to expand intake of foreign workers to help alleviate Japan’s chronic labor shortages.

Japan’s shortage of workers has become a serious concern in recent years. This latest policy request seeks to address the situation through a variety of measures to make the Specified Skilled Worker program easier to use, including opening the program up to more industries, allowing foreign workers to stay in Japan for longer, raising the cap on intake numbers, and simplifying procedures. The OCCI also proposed that the review of the Specified Skilled Worker program should look to match the jobs and skills covered by the updated program with those required in the industries to which the program is available, so that program graduates can apply for specified skilled worker status of residence and work long-term at Japanese companies.

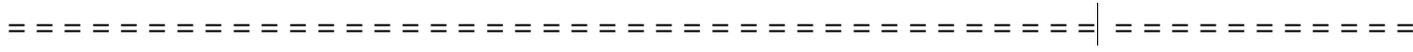
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## **5. SEMINAR ON HIRING FOREIGN STUDENTS IN JAPAN**

The OCCI will hold an online seminar on September 5, 2023, for companies interested in hiring foreign students, either for the first time or to expand existing foreign student worker numbers. There will be a keynote address by Prof. Yuka Kurihara of the Kobe Gakuin University Faculty of Global Communication will be “Hiring Foreign Students: The Common Traits of Popular Employers.” This will be followed by interviews with companies that have employed foreign students, focusing on hiring and their subsequent experiences, and talks by foreign students working with Japanese companies about what convinced them to choose their employers over other companies, and other topics of interest. The seminar comes amid an increase in businesses hiring foreign students in recent years, either as part of efforts to globalize their operations or boost

diversity, or simply to find and retain talented workers. The event is sure to be full of insights, so book your spot now to avoid disappointment.

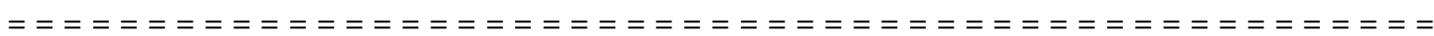
Sign-up here: <https://reg26.smp.ne.jp/regist/is?SMPFORM=mat-pgofo-00155da6a24a017e70071ca33f97fdce>



## 6. OCCI HOLDS FORUM ON ADDED BENEFITS OF WATER-BASED TRANSIT FOR 2025 WORLD EXPO

Osaka is gearing up to host the 2025 World Expo. The big event will be held on Yumeshima, an artificial island in Osaka Bay, and Osaka is keen to make the most of this wonderful location. To that end, the second edition of the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Specific Policy on Visitor Transportation (Action Plan) which was released on May 26, 2023, now provides for the use of water-based transit. Ferrying people to and from the expo by boat is not only an ideal way to showcase Osaka—not for nothing is it known as the Aqua Metropolis—but a fine chance to promote tourism by boat in the broader region, including Kobe, Awaji Island, and even Kyoto via the Yodo River. Expectations are high for value-added transit, with on-board dining, activities, and spectacular views.

To that end, we at the OCCI organized a forum to hear from the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exhibition about potential routes and preparations for water-based transit to and from the expo. The event served as to inform businesses and local residents about ongoing studies into transportation demand management measures, which will include restrictions on general traffic, as well as dispersion and levelling.



[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://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/index.php>



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