

OCCI now has eight vice-chairs, up from seven.

Chairperson

Shingo Torii, vice chairman of the board and representative director of Suntory Holdings Ltd.

Vice-chairs

Junzo Tateno, president of Union Corp.

Kazuhiro Higashi, senior advisor at Resona Bank, Ltd.

Masanori Yoshida, advisor at Kintetsu Group Holdings Co. Ltd.

Akihiro Kuroda, chairman of Kokuyo Co. Ltd.

Kyoko Hirose, president of Hirose Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

Keiichi Yoshii, president and CEO of Daiwa House Industry Co. Ltd.

Takehiro Honjo, chairman of the board of Osaka Gas Co. Ltd.

Gyo Sagara, president, representative director, and CEO of Ono Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.

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2. GIF OSAKA 2023 UPDATES

Hot on the heels of the successful live pitch session for the Europe & Middle East edition of Global Innovation Forum (GIF) Osaka 2023 on October 19, the live pitch session for North and Latin American startups was held on November 21. The Europe & Middle East session featured pitches from two startups each from Israel and Switzerland, and one each from France, Spain, Estonia, and the UK, while the North and Latin American session featured pitches from two startups each from Canada and Brazil, and one each from Colombia and the USA.

Online exhibits and details of the exhibiting startups are available at the URL below.

●GIF Osaka 2023 Exhibiting Startup Info

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

One-on-one online meetings with the exhibiting overseas startups will be held on December 7 and 8, 2023, on Zoom. Please note that meeting times vary depending on exhibitors.

Japanese-English interpreters will be on hand to assist with the online one-on-one meetings for free.

●Sign up to participate in one-on-one meetings at the URL below.

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

Direct inquiries to:

Global Innovation Forum (GIF) Osaka Desk

Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry International Division

Phone: +81-6-6944-6400

The best live pitch at the Europe & Middle East session was Q5D Technology from the UK, and at the North and Latin American session was IPToki from Canada. The winning startups are to be invited to Osaka (current scheduled for February 2024).

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3. ASEAN JAPAN BUSINESS PROMOTION PLATFORM NEWS

OCCI Holds a Live Commerce Event, Demonstrating a New Way for Businesses to Sell

The OCCI held a live commerce event aimed at Singaporean consumers in early November 2023 as part of its ASEAN JAPAN Business Promotion Platform. The event was designed to help Japanese companies develop overseas sales channels.

Live commerce is a new sales method that showcases products online. The OCCI worked in cooperation with Osaka-based wholesaler Hishinuma Trading to organize the event, which featured products from seven suppliers chosen from some 40 companies that applied. A variety of products were shown, including food products and cosmetics.

The event featured highly engaging presenters, who harnessed their communication skills to forge a connection with the audience and promote the products.

We at the OCCI are determined to stay abreast of ever-changing needs and leverage the latest digital technologies to organize events like these to help Japanese enterprises expand overseas.

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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4. OSAKA CITY PROMOTION EVENT ON DEC. 18: PITCHES FROM HEALTHCARE STARTUPS, PRESENTATIONS, NETWORKING, AND MORE!

The OCCI will hold an Osaka City Promotion event on December 18, 2023, featuring pitches from exciting startups, presentations by major figures in the Osaka business community, and a networking session. The event is designed to raise awareness of all the good things Osaka has to offer international enterprises looking to develop their businesses.

Not only does Osaka offer a diverse range of urban attractions, but it also has a wealth of unique venues that are ideal for enjoying art, music, and traditional culture together with the urban landscape of lush greenery and waterfront areas.

One of those venues, Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka, is the scene of the OCCI's Osaka City Promotion Event, the main attraction of which will be a pitch contest for healthcare-related startups. The event will be attended by OCCI Chairperson

Shingo Torii (vice chairman of the board and representative director of Suntory Holdings), a known expert on cultural matters. This is a golden opportunity for you to see how Osaka's unique venues can be put to good use,

and to learn about local attractions and available facilities.

Moreover, Osaka is about to get another exciting new venue. Grand Green Osaka will open in 2024 on the northern side of Osaka Station, making the city an even more attractive place for you and your guests.

The Osaka City Promotion event program also includes a networking session set to a pleasant musical backdrop. We look forward to seeing you there.

When: 10:30-13:00 on December 18, 2023

Where: Nakanoshima Museum of Art, Osaka (4-3-1 Nakanoshima, Kita-ku, Osaka)

Program:

I. Healthcare Startup Pitches

Final screening of startups hoping to exhibit in the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka. (Organized by OCCI) Opening address by OCCI Chairperson Shingo Torii, pitches by startups

II. City Promotion Opening Remarks by OCCI Chairperson Shingo Torii

III. Overview of Osaka by Masaki Fujita, president of Osaka International Convention Center

“Osaka’s Unique Culture, Arts, Venues, and Tours” (title and content TBC) IV. Presentation by Ikuo Ono, senior executive officer of Mitsubishi Estate

“Coming in 2024: The Newest Jewel in Osaka’s Crown, Grand Green Osaka” (title and content TBC)

V. Networking

Networking & Japanese Music Performance (a Team Expo “co-creation challenge” project) (title and content TBC)

●English-Japanese interpreting available

●Free admission!

Sign up here (deadline: noon on December 11, 2023)

<https://reg26.smp.ne.jp/regist/is?SMPFORM=mat-phohq-753bffa6468b1e1d1eaba3ad98ba395f>

Inquiries

For inquiries about sign-up

Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry International Division

Phone: 06-6944-6400

Email: intl@osaka.cci.or.jp

For inquiries about the event

Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Industry Division

Phone: 06-6944-6484

Email: bio@osaka.cci.or.jp

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5. OCCI AND O-BIC EXHIBIT AT G7 TRADE MINISTERS' MEETING 2023

The G7 trade ministers' meeting was held in Osaka and Sakai on October 28 and 29, 2023, and featured exhibitions by the OCCI and O-BIC.

Expectations were high that the globally-watched G7 Trade Ministers Meeting would serve to spread the word about the 2025 World Expo, which is also to be held in Osaka. The OCCI's exhibition sought not only to showcase some of the Osaka-based startups creating buzz at the moment, but also to highlight Osaka's credentials as a hub for business creation in conjunction with the expo. O-BIC teamed up with Osaka promoter Dwayne Grech on a presentation outlining Osaka's excellent business environment.

If you or someone you know is interested in starting a business in Osaka, we can help so contact us today!

Please direct inquiries to:

<https://reg26.smp.ne.jp/regist/is?SMPFORM=mat-pgthk-9e205de85fce5b4914d0e9e3ef44f4e5>

For more information in the G7 trade ministers' meeting, see the LinkedIn article below.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/osaka-o-bic-2025/recent-activity/all/>

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6. EXPO ORGANIZERS UNVEIL FULL CALENDAR OF “THEME WEEKS” EVENTS FOR EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN

The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition has unveiled its calendar for the “Theme Weeks” to be held throughout the expo.

“Theme Weeks” are a fun initiative designed to take advantage of the fact that many countries will gather in one place for six months; the aim is to bring together wisdom from around the world and seek solutions to global-scale issues through dialogue. There will be eight Theme Weeks, and the calendar of events has at last been finalized. Each week, the expo will focus on the theme of a specific global challenge, and everyone?organizers, participants, Japanese central and local governments, co-creation project participants, exhibitors, and the industrial community?will seek solutions through dialogue and business exchange.

The Theme Weeks schedule can be viewed at

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/sponsorship/>

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6-1. ADMISSION TICKETS INFORMATION FOR EXPO 2025 OSAKA

Tickets for Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan have been going on sale since Nov.30, which is 500 days before the expo opening.

- Admission tickets will be available from 30th Nov. 2023, exactly 500 days before the opening of the EXPO 2025.
- Firstly, you need to register yourself to Expo2025 website and get your Expo ID.
You can buy the ticket, reserve your entry date, and enjoy various services with EXPO ID
- Admission tickets will be e-tickets. You can purchase them with a smartphone or PC.
- In addition to the ticket, you need to reserve the entry date in advance. The detail information of entry

reserve will be announced later.

【Click here to purchase admission tickets】

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/tickets-index/>

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7.O-BIC UPDATES

1. O-BIC Osaka Promotion in Melbourne

The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) sent a delegation to Melbourne, Australia, from October 23-27, 2023, in conjunction an Osaka City delegation to celebrate 45 years of sister city relations. The O-BIC delegation joined their city counterparts in visiting local companies and participating in a BPC Round Table discussion.

Visits were also made to the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Melbourne, the Australia Japan Business Council of Victoria, and the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

For more information on the O-BIC delegation's visit to Melbourne, see the LinkedIn article below.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/osaka-o-bic-2025/recent-activity/all/>

2. Come and See Osaka at Its Best: The Festival of the Lights

The Festival of the Lights (November 3-December 31, 2023) is one of the foremost events in the Osaka calendar. Organized by the OCCI, which serves as the executive committee, the Festival of the Lights encompasses a number of programs. These include the Midosuji Illumination, where the city's main street, Midosuji Avenue, is decked in innumerable lights, the artistic lights of the Osaka Hikari Renaissance in the Nakanoshima area, and a variety of smaller local programs, all of which combine to show Osaka at its shining, sparkling, ethereal best.

Official website

<https://www.hikari-kyoen.com/en/>

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<COURTESY VISIT (1TH-31ST NOVEMBER)>

(United States of America) 13th November

- Mr. Jason R. Cubas, Consul General of Consulate-General of the United States of America in Osaka-Kobe

(Republic of Latvia) 14th November

- Mr. Edmunds Valantis, State Secretary of Ministry of Economics Republic of Latvia

(Hong Kong) 27th November

- Mr. Jonathan LAMPORT, Chairman, Asia and Africa Committee, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

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

[linkedin]

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/osaka-o-bic-2025/recent-activity/all/>



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



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