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APRIL&MAY, 2024]**

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1. OSAKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

FY2024 BUSINESS PLAN

The OCCI has released its business plan for FY2024, and it's chock-full of exciting initiatives. Read on to find out about some of the international projects.

2025 World Expo Projects

Website for SMEs to Place and Undertake Expo-related Work OrdersThe OCCI will operate Mozuyan Mall, a buyer-supplier matching website where businesses in Osaka Prefecture and companies from chambers and associations of commerce and industry nationwide to apply for and propose various order and supply projects related to the World Expo to be held in Osaka in 2025.

Check our Mozuyan Mall at

[website] <https://www.expo-mozuyanmall.jp/en/>

OCCI International Projects

*Global Innovation Forum (GIF) Osaka

A platform designed to provide a foot up for startups throughout Japan and around the world.

[website] <https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/>

※This site is only available in Japanese.

*Global Startup Expo 2025, a Momentum-Building Event in the Run-up to the 2025 World Expo

An international showcase of Japanese startups to be held at the 2025 World Expo venue.

[website] https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/j/24_03.pdf

※This site is only available in Japanese.

*MoTTo Osaka Open Innovation Forum

Matching the technical needs of major corporations in Japan and around the world with the solutions offered by local SMEs.

[website] https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/innovation/open_innovation/motto_osaka.html

※This site is only available in Japanese.

*ASEAN-Japan Business Promotion Platform

Working in cooperation with chambers of commerce throughout the ASEAN region to offer seminars, meeting-and-matching events, inspection tours and more, focusing on high-interest themes such as innovation, sales channel development, and improving green credentials.

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

※This site is only available in Japanese.

*Osaka International Business Promotion

Work closely with the Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) to leverage the 2025

World Expo as an opportunity to promote Osaka.

[website] <https://o-bic.net/>

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2 . OCCI'S GLOBAL BUYERS INITIATIVE MATCHES JAPANESE AND OVERSEAS COMPANIES

One part of the OCCI's wide-ranging support for local companies' efforts to open up import/export channels is its Global Buyers initiative, which helps match Japanese and overseas buyers and suppliers.

Global Buyers Events in FY2023

April 18: Meeting-and-matching event with China's Alibaba Group (42 companies participated)

May 24: Meeting-and-matching event with Bangladeshi companies (42 companies participated)

June 30: Matching event with Courts Singapore (20 companies participated)

June 27: Matching event with Sankyu Foods, a Japanese trading house (10 companies participated)

September 28: Meeting-and-matching event with Taiwan's Hands Tailung (42 companies participated)

March 18 thru 22: One-on-one meetings with European buyers (45 companies participated)

Global Buyers Plan for FY2024

We at the OCCI look forward to holding more Global Buyers events this year, focusing on East Asia, Europe, and the ASEAN region. We would love to hear from foreign diplomatic missions, national and regional organizations, chambers of commerce, and anyone else who might be interested in holding meeting-and-matching events with our extensive network of businesses.

For more information contact the OCCI International Division

Email: intl@osaka.cci.or.jp Phone: +81-6-6944-6400

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3. DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONDUCT FIELD TESTING USING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES IN FIELDS SUCH AS IOT, ROBOTICS, DRONES, AI, BIG DATA, SELF-DRIVING, AND MORE!

We at the OCCI have teamed up with the Urban Renaissance Agency (UR), the official body that administers public housing projects, to offer field testing in a variety of high-interest, cutting-edge fields. Applications are now being accepted, and we welcome international participants, including members of foreign chambers of commerce in Japan and those from “back home” participating via their embassies and consulates. The testing

site is conveniently located in a UR-administered apartment block in Morinomiya, a quick walk east of Osaka Castle.

When: March 26 - May 10, 2024

(Tests to run through March 31, 2025)

Open to local and overseas companies and organizations (limited to those that are able to responsibly undertake field testing with a view to commercialization of new products, services, etc.)

Fields of Interest

*Progressive urban development

*IoT and robot technology

*Self-driving

*Drones

*AI

*Healthcare

*Open data, big data

Organizers: OCCI, Urban Renaissance Agency

What's on offer: Field testing using cutting-edge technology with the aim of creating new value.

Check out the website (Japanese) at:

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/seminar/202403/D22240305011.html>

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4. 2025 WORLD EXPO UPDATES

- Osaka City Launches One-stop Advisory Service for Cross-border Business

On April 15, 2024, Osaka City launched the Osaka One-Stop Business Service Desk, a new initiative offering overseas enterprises a range of business advisory services and opportunities for networking with Osaka companies. The city hopes to capitalize on Osaka's hosting of the 2025 World Expo, and turn the needs of foreign public institutions into chances for local businesses.

Read the official public announcement at

<https://www.city.osaka.lg.jp/keizaisenryaku/page/0000624927.html>

- New Organization Launched to Showcase Osaka and Boost Global Competitive Capabilities April 12, 2024, saw the launch of the Osaka Co-creation Platform for the 2025 World Expo, a new organization that aims to use the increased attention on Osaka due to the 2025 World Expo to advertise Osaka as a great destination and boost the region's ability to compete on the international stage. Membership draws from local governments and businesses from throughout Osaka Prefecture, who will undertake a variety of initiatives and publicity activities.

Check out the official website (Japanese only) at machigotoexpo.jp

- Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce (UK) Holds Official 2025 World Expo Program Launch Event

On April 25, 2024, the Thames Valley Chambers of Commerce teamed up with a number of British companies to officially launch its program for the 2025 World Expo to be held in Osaka. The program is the first such event to be held by an overseas chamber of commerce, and is scheduled to run through October 2025, with all sorts of events planned.

Check out the program webpage at

<https://www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk/new-events/osaka-official-launch-event/>

- “Reborn Challenge” Exhibitors Announced

The winning applications for the Exhibition Zone of the 2025 World Expo Osaka Healthcare Pavilion were announced on March 25, 2024. As part of the Reborn Challenge project, some 377 Osaka-based startups and SMEs will get to showcase their winning technologies to the world.

See the full list of exhibitors on the Exhibition Zone website (in Japanese) at osaka2025.site/sme-info/

- OCCI's Website Showcasing 2025 World Expo Pavilions

The OCCI has launched a website showcasing the various pavilions of the 2025 World Expo in Osaka as part of its efforts to generate momentum for the big event. The different countries' and regions' pavilions are surely the star attraction of any World Expo, and the excitement for the 2025 edition is building steadily with each announcement of pavilion concepts and each groundbreaking ceremonies. The OCCI's expo website meets a strong desire among participating countries to promote their pavilions in Japan, providing an easy to read list of all pavilions.

- Tickets for Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

- 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/>

Check out the OCCI's 2025 World Expo website at

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/expo2025/pavilion>

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5. O-BIC UPDATES

The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) is a one-stop support hub offering a broad range of assistance, including all those tasks associated with company incorporation, such as registration and visa applications.

It is the ideal partner for foreign companies looking to set up in Osaka, as well as foreign diplomatic missions and business organizations - and even international companies that have already set up in Japan and want to make a secondary investment in Osaka.

O-BIC was established in April 2001 by the Osaka prefectural and city governments, and the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

If you're looking to expand your business into Osaka, contact O-BIC today!

Contact form

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

Email: o-bic@osaka.cci.or.jp Phone: +81-6-6944-6298

Check out the O-BIC LinkedIn account at: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/>

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6. FY2024 OCCI INTERNATIONAL DIVISION TEAM & STAFF

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SUN Kang-Chung (Mr.)

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7. <COURTESY VISIT (1ST APRIL-31TH MAY)>

(Vice President, Taipei City Venture Capital Business Association) 15th April

- Mr. Lin Hongming

(Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to Japan) 22nd April

- H. E. Mr. Ahmed Chafra

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And finally, a piece of Osaka trivia. Did you know that the Namba Parks shopping complex used to be a baseball ground? Until 1988, that was the site of Osaka Stadium, home of the Nankai Hawks. Yes, Nankai as in the Nankai Railway; they used to have their own baseball team, but sold the club to former supermarket giant Daiei, who relocated the Hawks to Fukuoka, where they have since been taken over by Softbank. That's right, the Softbank Hawks were once the Nankai Hawks based right here in Osaka city. Go to Namba Parks today and you can still see the pitcher's plate and home base.

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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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