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1. KANSAI BUSINESS DELEGATION TO MAKE FIRST VISIT TO CHINA IN 12 YEARS

The seven major Kansai economic organizations, which includes the OCCI and the Kansai Economic Federation, are organizing a delegation to visit Beijing on November 17-20, 2024.

The delegation will meet with officials from the Chinese government and business communities, and will request their cooperation with the World Expo, which is due to commence in April 2025.

The delegation will be headed jointly by OCCI Chairperson (and vice chairman of the board of Suntory Holdings) Shingo Torii and Kansai Economic Federation Chairman (and Chairman and CEO, Sumitomo Electric Industries) Masayoshi Matsumoto.

The visit will be an opportunity to exchange views on further promoting cooperation between Japanese and Chinese companies toward solving common global challenges and innovating for the future.

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The last large-scale delegation to China from the Kansai business community was back in 2012. That visit was timed to commemorate 40 years since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two nations, and members met with then Vice President (now President) Xi Jinping.

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2. ASEAN-JAPAN BUSINESS PROMOTION PLATFORM NEWS

The OCCI will host an ASEAN-Japan Business Promotion Platform forum on July 10, 2024, focusing on foreign human resources from Asia, a region brimming with young talent. As Osaka's SMEs struggle with increasingly serious labor shortages, foreign workers are increasingly seen as a means of sustaining and expanding business, and as a vital pillar of future growth strategies.

The forum will include a lecture on Universal Studios Japan's strategy for leveraging the strengths of Asian workers, and participants will hear a range of up-to-date information and relevant case studies on employing foreign workers, and discussions on the untapped possibilities and potential challenges surrounding foreign workers. And, of course, there will be a post-forum networking session for participating companies and foreign students.

The forum is just part of our proactive support for local businesses looking to hire foreign workers, and will be followed by a seminar by the OCCI in August on talent from Myanmar, and a joint OCCI-JETRO delegation to

Bangladesh in September on the theme of harnessing foreign talent.

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

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

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3. GIF OSAKA EVENTS IN JULY 2024

GIF Osaka Meet-up: Taiwan

●When (all dates & times JST): 14:00 to 20:30, July 2, 2024

●What: Approx. 20 Taiwanese smart city startups will visit Japan in the hopes of building

ties with Osaka businesses with a view to harnessing the opportunities generated by the 2025 World Expo. Each

startup will give a presentation about their technologies and services, and the kind of tie-ups they are looking

for, followed by a networking session with Osaka-based businesses.

GIF Osaka Meet-up: UK

●When (all dates & times JST): 17:00 to 18:30, July 10, 2024

●What: Six UK startups (number TBC) eager to invest in Japan and work with Japanese businesses will give

presentations about their technologies and services, and the kind of tie-ups they are looking for.

GIF Osaka Challenge: Thailand

●When: July 22-28, 2024

●What: An annual fixture since 2018! Thailand's largest event for startups

-SITE2024 (Startup x Innovation Thailand Expo)-, bringing together some 250 companies at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, one of Bangkok's premier convention facilities. OCCI will jointly exhibit with two startup companies.

Find out more about GIF Osaka at <https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/>

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4. ENTREPRENEURIAL MUSEUM OF CHALLENGE AND INNOVATION

Bilingual Online Manga Published to Build Interest and Momentum in the Run-up to the 2025 World Expo

The Entrepreneurial Museum of Challenge and Innovation, which is operated by the OCCI, has published a pair of online manga - in Japanese and English - based on two well-known Osaka entrepreneurs: Suntory founder Shinjiro Torii, Daiwa House Industries founder Nobuo Ishibashi.

Check out the manga at: <https://www.kigyoka.jp/e/webcomics/>

Interested in visiting the Entrepreneurial Museum of Challenge and Innovation? Learn more

at: The Entrepreneurial Museum of Challenge and Innovation

B1 floor, Business Innovation Center Osaka,

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

1-4-5 Hommachi, Chuo-Ku, Osaka

Tel: 06-4964-7601

Fax: 06-6264-6011

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5. O-BIC PROMOTION IN GERMANY & UK

The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC), an organization run in part by the OCCI, was part of an Osaka delegation that visited a number of partner institutions in Germany and the UK between June 22 and 29, 2024. The delegation, which was led by Osaka Mayor Hideyuki Yokoyama, visited Hamburg to celebrate 35 years of the sister-city ties with Osaka; and the Greater Manchester area, with which Osaka City began a partnership in 2023; and the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce, with which the OCCI enjoys a business partnership.

In addition to promoting Osaka and the 2025 World Expo, O-BIC used the visits to local chambers of commerce and other institutions as opportunities to invite local businesses to invest in Osaka.

For more on O-BIC and how it can help your business invest in Osaka, check out the official website at <https://o-bic.net/>

Check out the O-BIC LinkedIn account at

Contact O-BIC at o-bic@osaka.cci.or.jp

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6. KANSAI ECONOMIC TRENDS

The OCCI submitted a request to the government on June 24, 2024, regarding measures for SMEs and mid-scale businesses in FY2025. Proposed measures include stronger support for SMEs facing labor shortages, action to bolster exports to the ASEAN region and other markets worldwide, and encouragement for the uptake of foreign workers. The chamber also included a request for the government to help retain foreign workers by offering support in relation to working and living environments.

Meanwhile, the previously stationary Kansai economy showed a gradual improvement in January-March 2024, buoyed by a year-on-year increase in exports for the first time in 4 quarters thanks to an uptick in exports to China. Inbound tourist demand is also recovering steadily, with ongoing increases in foreign arrivals via Kansai International Airport and in duty-free sales. (Source: APIR: Kansai Economic Insight Quarterly Vol. 69)

An OCCI survey of business and economic trends for April-June 2024, revealed that while it is becoming easier to pass costs increases on to customers through price rises, some companies are still struggling to do

so. This issue will need to be monitored closely.

The government recently designated Osaka a Special Zones for Financial and Asset Management Businesses; the designation is designed to smooth the path for foreign investment. For instance, foreign companies in the financial sector setting up in Osaka get preferential tax treatment and are allowed to carry out all registration procedures in English.

Osaka is getting some exciting new business facilities for attracting and nurturing startups! Nakanoshima Gross, a rental space with an integrated laboratory and office space for cell experiments, opened on June 29, 2024, and Grand Green Osaka, a green-themed innovation hub, will open on September 6, 2024. With these and many other developments, Osaka continues to cement its place as the focal point where people, commerce, innovation, and other potent economic ingredients mix.

Nakanoshima Gross

nakanoshima-gross.jp

Grand Green Osaka <https://umekita.com/>

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7. 2025 WORLD EXPO NEWS

New One-stop Advisory Facility Offers Assistance for Expo Participants June 24, 2024, saw the opening of a permanent “one-stop” facility to advise participating countries on all the things they need to get up and running, including pavilion construction and post-opening operations, help restaurants get permits, open bank accounts, etc. The facility aims to help participants prepare smoothly and efficiently. We at the OCCI and O-BIC are among those offering advice.

International Participants Meeting Held in Nara

The 2025 World Expo International Participants Meeting was held in Nara on June 25 and 26, 2024. The meeting was attended by countries, regions, and international organizations that have announced their participation in the expo, and served to disseminate a range of information relating to pavilion exhibits and event planning.

Meanwhile, the Osaka One-Stop Business Service Desk, which is operated jointly by the OCCI and the Osaka prefectural and city governments, among others, has produced an English version of the facility’s information sheet. The organization hopes to capitalize on the expo by offering prompt, appropriate assistance for business delegations and other visits by foreign public organizations.

Details on the Osaka One-Stop Business Service Desk are available at:

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

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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8.<COURTESY VISIT (31ST MAY-1ST JULY)>

(Deputy Director of the Economic Development Department, Taoyuan City, Taiwan)

25 th June -Mr. Geng Yanwei

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And finally, some Osaka trivia. Did you know that, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency, the highest temperature recorded in Osaka was 39.1 degrees on August 8, 1994? In fact, August 1994 appears twice in the top ten Osaka temperatures; it must have been a particularly hot month. Perhaps more ominously, though, more and more of the hottest recorded temperatures are from recent years. Summer is just around the corner ? stay safe, everyone!

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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/>



Chief Editor :NEGORO Takayoshi(Mr.), Director of International Division, OCCI

Mailed by : Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, International Division

Address : 2-8 Hommachi-bashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, Japan 540-0029

Tel : +81-(0)6-6944-6400

Fax : +81-(0)6-6944-6293

Contact Persons :SHIMIZU Ryosuke(Mr.),TAKEDA Yohei (Mr.)

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