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E-MAIL MAGAZINE

Issue 192 [August, 2024]

OCCI e-Magazine

<Back number available at <http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/emagazine/>>

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1. OCCI INITIATIVES TO BETTER HARNESS INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RESOURCES

We at the OCCI are working hard to help businesses leverage the benefits of international human resources as a means of alleviating the labor shortages facing so many companies these days. Initiatives include events to provide companies with latest information, including regulations surrounding hiring international human resources. For instance, on May 14, 2024, we held a seminar focusing on Indian workers, which attracted an audience of 115, while on July 10, 2024, we held a forum on co-creation and the use of Asian workers, which attracted 156 attendees. Both events drew audiences from companies of all sizes across a broad range of industries, and were very well received.

Moving forward, more initiatives are in store: on August 6, 2024, we will hold a seminar on workers from Myanmar, and, in an effort toward more concrete action, we are teaming up with JETRO Osaka to send a

delegation to Bangladesh from September 8 to 13, 2024. The delegation will visit HR-relevant organizations and industrial parks in Dhaka and Chittagong to learn about the local economy and human resources.

We at the OCCI recognize the importance of helping businesses harness the potential of international human resources to further their international expansion and overcome labor shortages, and we will continue to organize country-specific HR events.

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2. GIF OSAKA REPORT: JULY 2024

https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/common/pdf/gif2024_en.pdf

●GIF Osaka Meet-up: Taiwan

On July 2, 2024, the OCCI teamed up with Startup Island Taiwan, a startup support organization backed by Taiwan’s National Development Council (NDC), to hold GIF Osaka Meet-up: Taiwan, a networking event bringing together 21 Taiwanese smart city and smart tech startups and a variety of Japanese companies. The event attracted some 57 attendees. The startups’ pitches covered a variety of progressive technologies, including generative

AI-powered automatic translation and video image generation technology, and fintech security. This was followed by a lively networking session. See coverage of the event at the O-BIC LinkedIn account at:

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

●GIF Osaka Meet-up: UK

The OCCI held another meetup, GIF Osaka Meet-up: UK, on July 10, 2024, to showcase some outstanding British startups for Japanese companies. The event was held online, and attracted 22 attendees. The meet-up featured pitches from six UK startups recommended by the OCCI's partner institution, the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce. All six were eager to seek partnerships with Japanese companies, and their pitches were followed by a lively Q&A session.

●GIF Osaka Challenge: Thailand (Exhibiting at Startup × Innovation Thailand Expo 2024)

The OCCI made its first ever exhibition appearance at Startup x Innovation Thailand Expo, the official expo of the Thai National Innovation Agency, on July 22 - 25, 2024. Featuring a variety of Osaka-based startups, the OCCI's show was designed to help those exhibitors gain an overseas foothold and seek collaboration with local companies. Feedback was positive, with the participating startups saying the event enabled them to get a feel for the local atmosphere and hold fruitful meetings with overseas companies.

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3. OSAKA & KANSAI ECONOMIC UPDATE

3-1. A council Agrees to Boost KIX Departures & Arrivals by 30% Prior to ExpoA council comprising a company that operates three airports in the Kansai western Japan region and others has decided on a new flight route over Awaji Island and agreed to increase Kansai International Airport's arrivals and departures from 45 per hour to around 60 starting in the spring of 2025. The changes were made with the 2025 World Expo in

mind, and the council hopes for a resulting increase in visitors to Japan.

3-2. Osaka is the World's 9th Most Livable City

Osaka was the only East Asian city to earn a top-10 ranking in Most Livable Cities two years in a row.

1. Vienna (Austria)
2. Copenhagen (Denmark)
3. Zurich (Switzerland)
4. Melbourne (Australia)
5. Calgary (Canada)
6. Geneva (Switzerland)
7. Sydney (Australia)
8. Vancouver (Canada)
9. Osaka (Japan)
10. Auckland (New Zealand)

Source: <https://x.gd/LIIIlo>

3-3. How Well Do You Know Osaka? Take the “Everything Naniwa” Osaka Challenge and Find Out!

As part of the OCCI's quest to promote Osaka's culture and history far and wide and boost the world's legions of Osaka fans, the chamber runs an online quiz, the “Everything Naniwa” Osaka Challenge.

Everyone who takes the quiz gets an original NFT for their Expo 2025 digital wallet. Take the quiz now and measure your Osaka expertise!

Take the “Everything Naniwa” Osaka Challenge (in Japanese) at:

<https://www.osaka-kentei.jp/challenge/>

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4. 2025 WORLD EXPO NEWS

4-1. Local Restaurants to Offer Expo-relevant Menu Options The OCCI has launched a project calling on restaurants and food businesses in Osaka Prefecture to serve dishes themed for the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, and an SNS is under way to promote Osaka’s famous culinary offerings. The organizers have dubbed this initiative “KOOZO～Expo? More like Eatspo!～”

The aim is to ensure that the expo boom is not limited to Yumeshima, but shared widely by making all of Osaka a veritable “expo venue” by encouraging expo visitors from Japan and overseas to experience Osaka’s culinary delights by visiting a variety of restaurants. You can keep up with all the latest by following us on Instagram at:

https://www.instagram.com/osaka_cci/p/C8lHQMDs8KA/?img_index=1

4-2. Osaka Healthcare Pavilion Exhibitors Unveiled

Sustainable Future Co-Creation in the Textile and Fashion Industry Following a call by the OCCI, 17 textile and

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

fashion industry businesses have been chosen to exhibit at the 2025 World Expo and help spread the word about Osaka's textiles and fashions throughout Japan and around the world. The exhibition is scheduled for September 23 - 29, 2025.

One of the exhibitors is Regeta. In keeping with its corporate philosophy of making walking more fun for more people, Ridgetta plans to develop “floating shoes” for the exhibition.

See a list of exhibitors (in Japanese) at:

https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Chousa_Kenkyuu_Iken/press/20240325expo.pdf

4-3. Machigoto Expo～All Osaka is an Expo～

The “All Osaka’s a Stage” Co-creation Platform is designed to present all of Osaka as part of the 225 World Expo and unleash a variety of events and projects in conjunction with the main event.

Keep up with all the latest and learn how you can visit, see, and participate at:

<https://machigotoexpo.jp/en/en-about/>

4-4.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.

4-5. Tickets for Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

- 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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Q: Which of these is the official bird of Osaka Prefecture?

(1) Crow (2) Sparrow (3) Shrike (4) Pigeon

A: (3) The bull-headed shrike. In Japanese, this is known as mozu. You know... like those station names?

Nakamozu Stn. on the Osaka Metro, Mozu Hachiman Stn. on the Nankai Railway, and Mozu Stn. on the JR.

And, of course, the famous Mozu Tombs in Sakai!

[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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Back Numbers of OCCI e-Magazine:

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