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1. WORLD EXPO 2025 UPDATES

- **New Osaka Metro Station Opens at Expo Venue**

Public transport access to the 2025 World Expo venue is improving apace

in the run-up to the expo's grand opening just three months away with the

extension of the Osaka Metro Chuo Line from Cosmosquare Stn. to a new station, Yumeshima, close to the expo venue.

The new station was formally opened on January 18, 2025, with a ceremony attended by some 230 people, including Osaka Governor Hirofumi Yoshimura and Osaka Mayor Hideyuki Yokoyama.

- OCCI Women's Assembly to Host Discussion at 2025 World Expo Women's Pavilion The OCCI

Women's Assembly plans to hold a discussion event at the 2025 World Expo Women's Pavilion this April aimed at further promoting the equal participation of women worldwide in society as business proprietors and

executives by encouraging women to start businesses and take up management positions, thus bringing their diverse range of views and experiences to the table.

The event will seek to coordinate and share insights that will help all people, regardless of nationality or gender, make a difference to organizational management. The event will feature a variety of content from a broad range of women, including case studies from Osaka-based business executives and proprietors and a panel discussion of international diplomats. Japanese-English interpreting will be provided, and the event will be open to online attendance.

What: Future Corporate Management Women's Roles

When (all dates & times JST): 13:00 to 20:30, April 23, 2025

Where: "Wa" space @ 2nd floor of the 2025 World Expo Women's Pavilion in collaboration with Cartier

Organizer: OCCI Women's Assembly

Format: In-person and online via Zoom (with Japanese-English interpreters)

Capacity: At venue: 80, online: no max.

Agenda:

1) Case studies by business executives and proprietors

2) Panel discussion featuring UK government representatives and the German Consul General

Admission: Free (those attending at the venue must have Expo admission tickets)

Sign-up:

At-venue attendance:

- (1) Make sure you have purchased an Expo admission ticket (each person attending must have their own Expo admission ticket)
- (2) Submit an application for the Women in Business Management event via Expo visitors website (page details to be published later)

Online attendance: Apply via the URL below no later than 17:00 on April 18, 2025

Online attendance sign-up

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/seminar/202411/D32241105015.html>

- One Stop Shop Offers Assistance for Expo Participants

The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exhibition's "One-Stop Shop" was held on January 17 to help with the final preparations in the countdown to the expo opening by advising participating countries and regions on all the things they need to get up and running. We at the OCCI and O-BIC are among those offering advice.

- International Participants Meeting Held in Hyogo

Another International Participants Meeting was held on January 15 and 16, this time in Hyogo. 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.

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

“KUUZO~Expo? More like Eatspo!”

In the run-up to the 2025 World Expo, the OCCI is showcasing Osaka many, many, oh-so-many dining options on Instagram.

Whet your appetite at the OCCI Instagram account, and give us a follow while you're there! https://www.instagram.com/osaka_cci/

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.

You can purchase them with a smartphone or PC.

In addition to the ticket, you need to reserve the entry date in advance.

[Click here to purchase admission tickets]

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

[Check out the OCCI's 2025 World Expo website at]

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2. OCCI TO LAUNCH STUDY GROUP TO HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES DO BUSINESS WITH EMERGING NATIONS

The OCCI will launch an Emerging Nations Business Study Group on February 1, 2025.

The group will function not only as a forum for up-to-date, region-specific, theme-specific information on emerging countries, but will also hold inspections tours and assist with business meetings and networking events with companies in those regions.

The high level of interest among the corporate community in doing business with these countries and regions was illustrated by the pre-launch Africa Business Workshop held in December 2024, which attracted some 200 people. The OCCI is currently planning similar events with a focus on other regions, such as Southwest Asia.

Emerging nations, including the so-called “Global South,” such as Southwest Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Central and South America, are growing rapidly thanks to their young populations and lively business markets.

The Japanese community recognizes that these regions are not only important business destinations but also a potential source of workers for Japanese companies starved by labor shortages.

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3. GIF OSAKA UPDATES

GIF ASEAN-Japan Event Sparks Corporations' Interest in Startups The OCCI held another GIF ASEAN-Japan event, this time on January 17, 2025, providing an online forum for startups from Japan and the ASEAN region to showcase their technologies and services, and talk about the kinds of international collaborations they are looking for. The event, which was held as part of the ASEAN-Japan Business Promotion Platform, attracted a total of 47 participants. The event attracted 90 people from companies in Japan and the ASEAN region.

GIF ASEAN-Japan sought to promote international business development and multilateral cooperation through a live pitch session featuring startups carefully selected by ASEAN-Japan Business Promotion Platform constituents, including the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Singapore Business Federation, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the OCCI.

The audience heard from five startups, each with unique technologies in fields such as green healthcare, and each presentation was followed by a Q&A and opinion exchange with the audience. Already, several companies have expressed a desire to contact the presenting startups for further talks.

Find out more about the The ASEAN-Japan Business Promotion Platform

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

- GIF Osaka Challenge Participants Exhibit at CES, One of the World's Largest Trade Shows

The OCCI led a team of 30 Japanese businesses to exhibit in the Japan Tech booth at the CES, one of the world's largest trade shows, in Las Vegas from January 7 to 10, 2025.

The booth and its exhibiting businesses were not only a fine advertisement for the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, but also served to promote exhibiting at CES through online “inspection tours” held in-booth, using live, real-time video feeds. A total of 77 representatives from Japanese companies and related organizations participated in the online CES tour.

This year's CES was a huge affair, with participants from more than 150 countries and regions worldwide attracting some 140,000 visitors, a much larger audience than last year. The Japan Tech booth attracted people from throughout the corporate and media landscape, and exhibitors reported promising contact with major companies and potential for more substantial meetings.

Japan Tech, a joint effort by the OCCI and Creative Vision, has been a fixture of CES since 2019.

Find out more about the Japan Tech project at the official website:

<https://ces-japantech.jp/en/>

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4. NEWS FROM O-BIC

O-BIC Advisory Clinic Helps Local Foreign Residents Find Solutions to a Range of Concerns

The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) recently joined a one-day advisory clinic held by Osaka International House to assist foreign nationals resident in Japan with their concerns regarding healthcare, insurance, law, tax, human rights, education, and other subjects. The clinic was equipped to provide advice in 12 languages. O-BIC, meanwhile, is also a rich source of information on doing business here-including getting visas.

If you are interested in doing business in Osaka, O-BIC is your first port of call. Contact O-BIC now at

<https://o-bic.net/>

If you are already in Japan and experiencing problems, Osaka International House is an excellent place to seek advice.

<https://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/english/>

2024 Osaka Online Tour: O-BIC Presents “Osaka Online Tour & Business Investment Seminar”

On February 26, 2025, O-BIC will hold a live online tour of Grand Green, the flagship facility of the Umekita precinct being developed just north of Osaka Station in the heart of the city. The tour is designed to showcase the area and its tremendous potential for use by overseas businesses.

Given its unbeatable location at the city's foremost crossroads of business and transit activity, no wonder the Umekita precinct is increasingly seen as a potent economic hub.

Sign-up now for this fascinating look into Osaka's most exciting new business development:

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/b/otoj2025/>

<Program Outline>※Simultaneous interpretation in Japanese and English

14:50-Zoom webinar opens

15:00-15:05-Opening Remarks & Overview of Osaka(O-BIC)

15:05-15:10-Overview of Online Tour(O-BIC)

15:10-15:30-Live Broadcast of Umekita area

-Introduction to GRAND GREEN OSAKA(Hankyu Hanshin Properties Corporation)

-Live Broadcast of FUTRWORKS(Hankyu Hanshin Properties Corporation)

15:30-15:35-Live Broadcast of the Center of Osaka City

15:35-15:45-Explanation of the General Process for Setting Up an Office(Nakaya

Kazutora Legal Office)

15:45-16:00-Q&A Session

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5. UPTICK IN FOREIGN VISITORS IN THE RUN-UP TO THE 2025 WORLD EXPO

Thirteen Chinese university students visited the Entrepreneurial Museum of Challenge and Innovation on January 21, 2025, while representatives of 14 Uzbek companies attended a networking event with Osaka-based enterprises on January 30, 2025.

Contact the OCCI today to find out more about companies open to hosting delegations, as well as trade shows, etc. Find out more at the Osaka Prefecture website:

https://www.pref.osaka.lg.jp/o110030/ritchi/prtool_jouhouen.html

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And finally, some Osaka trivia: Did you know that Osaka is Japan's "first city" of jazz music? Early jazz records made their way to Japan on American ships via the port of Yokohama in the very early 1920s. Naturally, it began to take hold in the Tokyo and Yokohama area, but just as a pool of jazz musicians began to form in that region, the Great Kanto Earthquake devastated the region. Those musicians found themselves without any places to play, so they came to Osaka and plied their trade here, establishing Osaka as the nation's earliest jazz capital.

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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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