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1. AJB PLATFORM: EXPO 2025 SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM

The OCCI will host a symposium on April 21, 2025, with the heads of the chambers of commerce and industry and other business leaders from its partner nations in the AJB Platform. The symposium is designed to harness the momentum of the upcoming 2025 World Expo to explore

new methods of inter-regional co-creation and problem solving with the aim of strengthening economic relations between Japan and the ASEAN region. Following an opening address by OCCI Chairperson Shingo Torii and video messages from the ASEAN Secretary General and others, the audience will hear from the heads of the AJB Platform's six constituent chambers on their efforts to deepen sustainable economic relations between Japan and the ASEAN region.

The scheduled speakers include Kunihiro Hirabayashi, secretary general of the ASEAN-Japan Centre, who will deliver a special lecture, followed by keynote speeches by prominent business executives from around the

ASEAN region.

There will also be a panel discussion comprising Michael Henssler, chief operating officer of Centara Hotels & Resorts, which operates a chain of hotels in and around Thailand; a representative from the World Association of Overseas Japanese Entrepreneurs; and “green business” company. The discussion will focus on the business potential of co-creation between Japanese and ASEAN partners.

The venue will also feature booths showcasing Japanese and ASEAN chambers of commerce, as well as companies from the ASEAN region, providing an ideal opportunity for interaction between Japanese and ASEAN enterprises. Admission is free, capacity is 500. Sign up to attend here:

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/seminar/202501/D11250130010.html>

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2. WORLD EXPO 2025 UPDATES

[Osaka Healthcare Pavilion]

Be Sure to Catch the “Achieving Wellness Through Innovative Technology and Space” at the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion This April/May

One of the main attractions of the 2025 World Expo will be the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion, which is scheduled

to host a variety of Osaka-based tech-developer startups and SMEs as part of its Reborn Challenges project.

Spread across two one-week terms from April 29 through May 12, the pavilion will showcase new technologies and exciting news from these rising stars.

The exhibition is planned and operated by the OCCI. The first half is themed around “Achieving Wellness through Innovative Technology and Space: How ‘Wellness Offices’ Can Help You Achieve Physical Health and Beauty.”

When: April,29-May 5,2025

Exhibitors: 23 startups and SMEs

The second half of the exhibition is themed around “Achieving Wellness through Innovative Technology and Space: Office Environments Conducive to Mental Health.”

When: May 6 -12, 2025

Exhibitors: 20 startups and SMEs

The Reborn Challenges area of the pavilion will reward repeat visits, with weekly exhibitions on different themes. Pre-bookings are not required, so be sure to drop in. (NB: Pre-bookings are required for the Reborn Experience Route and Mirai Entertainment attractions.)

Find out more at the official Osaka Healthcare Pavilion website:

2025osaka-pavilion.jp/en/

More information (in Japanese) at the OCCI's 2025 Osaka Healthcare Pavilion site:

https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/expo2025_osaka_pavilion/

[Get Ready for the Official 2025 World Expo Guidebook]

The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition is gearing up to release the 2025 World Expo Osaka, Kansai, Japan Official Guidebook on March 19, 2025, with the English version to follow on March 27, 2025.

Find out more about the guidebook at the official expo website:

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20250203-01/>

[Expo Talk Event: Women × Health × Careers: Imagining the Future of Work]

The OCCI will co-host a talk session with the Sakuya Working Community on April 27th, 2025, titled “Women × Health × Careers: Imagining the Future of Work.” The event is designed to collate and share expertise from a variety of relevant people to help bring a working women’s perspective to efforts to tackle the problems faced by those around us.

When: 17:00-19:20 April 27, 2025 (TBC)

Where: Expo venue on Yumeshima Island (online archive to be made available)

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Details & inquiries: OCCI Training & Recruiting Support Section +81-6-6944-6499

Find out more (in Japanese) at

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/seminar/202502/D27250213011.html>

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3. GLOBAL BUYERS: UK & EU EDITIONS - EXPANDING OSAKA-EUROPE TRADE

The latest edition of Global Buyers, the OCCI's virtual "meet the buyers" initiative, will be held on March 4 and 5, 2025, this time focusing on the UK. Dubbed "Discover New Products from the UK," the online event will bring together British exporters and Osaka-based companies looking to source new and original food products, general merchandise, and fashions.

The Global Buyers initiative is just one of the OCCI's efforts to promote import/export trade by helping Japanese companies find suppliers and buyers.

Organizers are confident of an increase in interest in overseas goods among Osaka consumers in the run-up to the 2025 World Expo, and put out a call for UK companies hoping to forge sales channels in Japan.

A further Global Buyers event will be held on March 25-27, 2025, this time focusing on European companies looking to source Japanese food and beverages. The online event will be an excellent opportunity for Japanese

food and drink businesses to EU buyers interested in Japanese products. It is open to businesses that already export to European markets, and those looking to get their first foothold in the EU.

Admission to both the UK and EU events is free and interpreters will be on hand.

For more information on Global Buyers: UK Edition, check out the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce website:

<https://www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk/new-events/virtual-meet-the-buyer-1-2-1-meetings-japanese-buyers/>

Find our more information (in Japanese) on Global Buyers: EU Edition, here:

4. NEWS FROM O-BIC

Osaka Online Tour & Investment Seminar Showcases Osaka as a Great Place to Live and Do Business

The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) hosted an Osaka Online Tour & Investment Seminar on February 26th, 2025, for overseas businesspeople. The event showed attendees around a variety of locations and facilities to demonstrate just why Osaka is such a great place to live and do business. Destinations included

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

locations such as Grand Green, a new innovation hub located next door to Osaka Station (western Japan's largest railway nexus), and an online tour of Futrworks, a co-working space that brings together startups and digital nomads from throughout Japan and around the world. There were also talks on procedural matters, such as how to set up a company in Japan and obtain visas.

Feedback was very positive, with participants commenting that the seminar helped them understand the process of expanding into Osaka in the run-up to the 2025 World Expo.

If you are interested in investing in Osaka, O-BIC is your first port of call. 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/>

O-BIC to Exhibit at Japanese FDI Event in Hangzhou

The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) is set to represent Osaka at an event to promote business investment in Japan on March 6, 2025, in Hangzhou, China. In addition to giving a presentation on the upcoming 2025 World Expo and Osaka's fertile business environment, O-BIC will also have a special booth to showcase all that's good about Osaka.

https://s.eqxiu.com/s/EYZ73IQm?bt=yxy&eip=true&share_level=3&from_user=20250301e8112caa&from_id=154d0222-d&share_time=1740803756204

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5. NEWS FROM OSAKA

South Wing of Grand Green Osaka to Open on March 21 March 21, 2025, sees the opening of the South Wing of Grand Green Osaka, the centerpiece of the huge redevelopment of the Osaka Station precinct. The new complex will include 55 shops and restaurants, the Hotel Hankyu Gran Respire Osaka, and the Congress Square Gran Green Osaka MICE facility.

A Google translation of the official website:

https://umekita-com.translate.google/?_x_tr_sl=ja&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=ja&_x_tr_pto=wa

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6.<COURTESY VISIT (1ST FEBRUARY-28ST FEBRUARY)>

(Embassy of the republic of fiji in Japan)7th February

- H.E. Ms.Kelera Rakavosa SAVU

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And finally, some Osaka trivia. You'd be forgiven for thinking that Osaka Castle Park is the only game in town when it comes to cherry blossoms, but did you know that Osaka Prefecture is full of excellent (and less crowded) places to sit and enjoy the season's treats?

For starters, try this list of sakura spots published by the Osaka Convention & Tourism

Bureau: https://en.osaka-info.jp/spot/season_cat1/

Happy hanami!

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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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