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1. OSAKA CHOSEN FOR THE 2025 WORLD EXPO

On Nov 23, Japan (Osaka, Kansai) was chosen as the site for the 2025 World Expo at a general meeting of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) in Paris through a vote taken among the BIE's 170 participating nations.

Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude go out to those who have supported us in our bid. The theme of the 2025 World Expo is “Designing Future Society for Our Lives.”

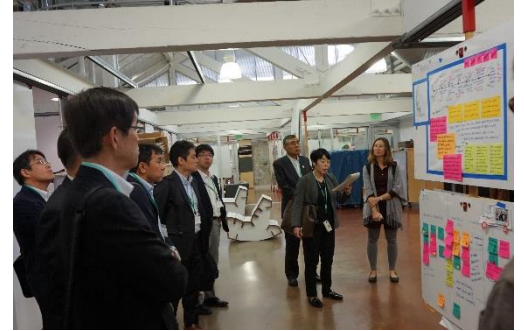
The Expo, as a “testing lab for future society,” gathering wisdom including advanced technologies from all over the world, will seek to create a society that can achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and realize Society 5.0, a national strategy. The Expo will be held on

Yumeshima, an artificial island in the Osaka Bay Area, for 185 days from May 3 (Saturday) until Nov 3 (Monday), 2025. The Expo is expected to have some 28 million visitors, producing economic effects of 2 trillion yen.



2. DELEGATION DISPATCHED TO SILICON VALLEY AND SEATTLE

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) sent a delegation to the United States from Oct 28 until Nov 4 to observe innovation ecosystems and to search for promising AI startups. The delegation, headed by Vice Chairman Minoru Furukawa (an executive adviser for Hitachi Zosen Corporation), had 15 members representing 10 companies, such as trading houses and manufacturers.



The visit was part of overseas partnership initiatives undertaken by Xport, an urban open innovation center established jointly by the OCCI and the Osaka Institute of Technology in April this year. Executives from three OCCI member companies also joined the trip. The delegation visited universities and incubation facilities that were pursuing innovation projects, and held individual negotiations with local startups with a view to eventually forming business partnerships.

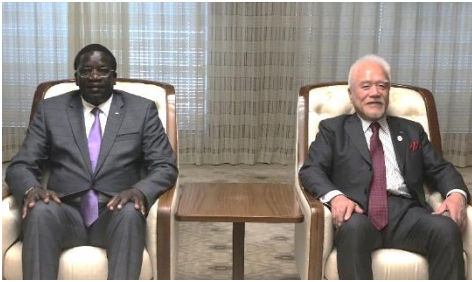


In Silicon Valley, the delegation visited Stanford University and learned about ME310, an industry-academia cooperative program based on “design thinking.” Under this program, students seek to solve a number of challenges posed by participating companies. Mr. Furukawa proposed that a design thinking class be held in Osaka and offered to send a delegation to an ME310 presentation session. The two sides agreed to discuss details of these plans at a later date. The delegation also visited startup incubation facilities, where three AI startup companies made presentations with the help of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

In Seattle, the delegation visited the Washington State government, as well as Amazon.com, Inc., and Microsoft Corporation head offices. The delegation learned about Amazon and Microsoft’s latest AI initiatives, and observed how an AI forecast technology was being used in the companies’ employee cafeteria. On Oct 31, 10 companies, mostly local startups, made presentations for the delegation at the official residence of the Japanese consul general, where a networking event was also held with these companies. On Nov 1, Japanese participants disclosed a list of AI technologies that they were seeking to acquire, and held individual talks (a total of 45 sessions) with these startups on Nov 2.

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3. ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR MAKES COURTESY VISIT TO OCCI VICE CHAIRMAN JUNZO TATENO



On Oct 30, H. E. Mr. Cham Ugala Uriat, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Japan, made a courtesy visit to OCCI Vice Chairman Junzo Tateno to exchange views regarding economic ties between Japan and Ethiopia.

Ambassador Uriat expressed hope that Japanese companies will expand their investments in Ethiopia, pointing out that the nation's market had great potential since 60% of its 100 million people were young adults. The ambassador explained that Ethiopia was eager to attract foreign investments and that the nation was seeking to become the hub of Africa's textile industry by 2025.

Mr. Tateno said that he hoped that many young people from Ethiopia will study in Japan and become a bridge between the business communities of the two nations and that the OCCI would cooperate by introducing Ethiopia's business environment to potential Japanese investors. He also asked Ethiopia to run an exhibit at the 2025 World Expo if Osaka were to host the event.

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4. OCCI VICE CHAIRMAN JUNZO TATENO MADE OPENING REMARKS AT MALAYSIA BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES SEMINAR

On Oct 17, the OCCI held a Malaysia business opportunities seminar jointly with the Osaka office of the Malaysian Investment Development Authority to coincide with a visit to Osaka of Mr. Darell Leiking, the minister of international trade and industry.



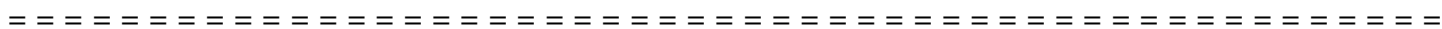
OCCI Vice Chairman Junzo Tateno spoke at the beginning of the seminar, touching on the long-running relationship between the two countries, which in 2017 celebrated the 60th anniversary of establishment of

their diplomatic ties. He also referred to the Japan-Malaysia Economic Partnership Agreement, which has



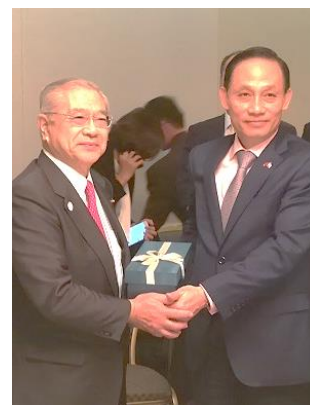
been in effect for more than 10 years. Mr. Tateno emphasized that Japan and Malaysia had strong and close ties in the area of trade and investments, and urged the nation to quickly ratify the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and support Osaka’s bid to host the 2025 World Expo.

Mr. Leiking made the keynote address, stressing Malaysia’s superiority as an ASEAN business hub. Referring to the policies of the newly established administration of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, Mr. Leiking explained that the nation would update its Look East initiative and further upgrade its business environment soon. Mr. Leiking called for cooperation and assistance from Japan, and expressed his eagerness to further expand economic exchange between the two nations. The seminar was attended by about 300 people, such as company executives. More than 120 individual business negotiation sessions were held after the seminar.



5. VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH OCCI VICE CHAIRMAN TEIICHI NISHIMURA

On Nov 9, OCCI Vice Chairman Teiichi Nishimura attended an economic forum held to coincide with a visit to Osaka of H.E. Mr. Le Hoai Trung, a member of the Party Central Committee and the deputy minister of foreign affairs of Vietnam. Mr. Nishimura and Mr. Trung exchanged views regarding economic ties between Osaka and Vietnam, especially between Osaka and regional cities in Vietnam. The talks were also attended by high-ranking officials of regional cities in Vietnam, and by Mr. Vu Tuan Hai, the Consul General of Vietnam in Osaka.



Mr. Nishimura discussed the exchange projects currently underway between the OCCI and Vietnam. In the last fiscal year, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc had asked OCCI Chairman Hiroshi Ozaki during his visit to

Vietnam that the OCCI promote economic exchanges with regional cities in the nation. Mr. Nishimura explained that the OCCI would send an economic delegation to Vietnam this fiscal year, and that the delegation would also visit regional cities in response to the prime minister’s request. Mr. Nishimura told Mr. Trung that the OCCI would help promote exchanges between Japanese companies and regional cities in Vietnam. Mr. Trung acknowledged the OCCI’s efforts and offered to provide as much help as he could to OCCI delegations visiting regional cities. He asked the OCCI to inform him of such a visit beforehand.

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6. REPORT ON ASEAN INNOVATORS FORUM

On Oct 11, the OCCI held an ASEAN Innovators Forum in Osaka, inviting representatives of leading companies in Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam seeking to engage in technology exchanges with their Japanese peers. The OCCI leveraged its Asian network



in organizing this event, working with the Singapore Manufacturing Federation and Thailand’s Kasikorn Bank, with which the OCCI has signed MOUs, and with FPT Corporation, a business partner in Vietnam. This was the first time for the OCCI to host such an event.

At the beginning of the forum, Mr. Minoru Tomita, Executive Councillor of OCCI and the chairman of International Business Committee (also the general manager of Marubeni Corporation’s Osaka branch), made a speech and discussed the OCCI’s efforts to make Osaka an Asian innovation hub. Mr. Tomita said that ASEAN should not be viewed as a manufacturing center only, and that for promoting innovation, superior companies in the region should be identified quickly so that Japanese companies could form a cooperative relationship with them. Representatives of six companies and another corporate group (seven in total) that had been recommended by the three sponsoring organizations and have superior technologies in the fields of ICT, AI, fintech, and medical services visited Osaka. From Japan, 109 people attended. Presentations were made, while 28 individual negotiations were held with 15 Osaka-based companies. Participants said that they had benefited greatly by learning about unique technologies. A questionnaire survey conducted after the event showed that 14

business negotiations were being held at the time. Participants were also given the opportunity to visit Xport, an open innovation based facility, and the Entrepreneurial Museum of Challenge and Innovation. This was part of an effort to help them deepen their understanding of Osaka.

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7. REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

- 10/23 Ms. Andrea Zopp, CEO of World Business Cicago
- 10/23 Ms. Elizabeth Ziegler, Chief Executive Officer
- 10/30 H. E. Mr. Cham Ugala Uriat, Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Japan
- 11/5 Mr. Afzanil MD Anuar, Malaysian Investment Development Authority Director
- 11/5 H. E. Prof. Dammika Ganganath Disanayake,
Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Japan
- 11/6 H. E. Mr. Viroth Sundara,
Ambassador of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic in Japan
- 11/9 H.E. Mr. Le Hoai Trung, a member of the Party Central Committee and
the deputy minister of foreign affairs of Vietnam



O-BIC as one-stop service center for creating a foothold in Osaka
<http://o-bic.net/>
Osaka Business & Investment Center (O-BIC), established in 2001, is operated through the joint efforts of the Osaka Prefectural Government, Osaka City Government, and Osaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

As your one-stop service center for business investing, O-BIC provides a comprehensive yet detailed support system. International companies, foreign government offices and economic organizations as well as foreign-capitalized

companies located in Japan are welcome to use the center to obtain accurate information and essential advice for creating a foothold in Osaka.

For further information, please contact: o-bic@osaka.cci.or.jp



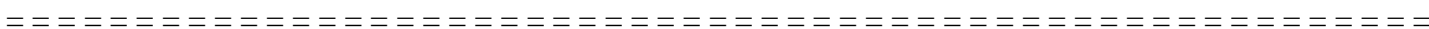
Information about scheduled events (in Japanese only):

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and submit your subscription request to OCCI Email Station.

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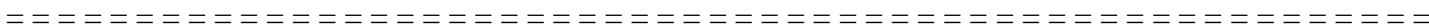
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