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1. OSAKA CITY'S DISSEMINATION OF MULTILINGUAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE SPECIAL CASH PAYMENTS

Regarding the special cash payments, in connection with the novel coronavirus, the Japanese government will provide 100,000 yen per person to everyone living in Japan. Foreigners are also eligible, and Osaka City has been sending applications out since May 22. Therefore, the "How to fill out the special cash payments application form" for all foreign residents within Osaka City is posted on the homepage of Osaka International House as follows. [Procedures, etc.]

 \bigcirc Applications will be posted out sequentially from May 22.

 Please check again to make sure there are no omissions and return the application form and any required documents in the enclosed return envelopeto Osaka City. [Application Deadline]

OTuesday, August 25, 2020 postmark deadline [Multilingual consultation counter for foreigners]

OTEL 06-6773-6533

Open 9:00~19:00 (Mon~Fri) 9:00~17:30 (Sat ⋅ Sun ⋅ Holiday)

OSupported Language English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Filipino, Japanese [Website of Special

Cash Payment by Osaka City] https://www.city.osaka.lg.jp/shimin/page/0000502306.html#tagengo

[Japanese]

https://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/2020/05/01/tokubetsuteigaku-kyufukin/

[English]

https://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/english/2020/05/01/tokubetsuteigaku-kyufukin/

[Chinese]

https://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/chinese/2020/05/01/tokubetsuteigaku-kyufukin/

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[Vietnamese]

https://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/vietnamese/2020/05/01/tokubetsuteigaku-kyufukin/

[Filipino]

https://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/filipino/2020/05/01/tokubetsuteigaku-kyufukin/

2. REPORT ON THE "LET'S SUPPORT RESTAURANTS IN OSAKA! RESTAURANT SUPPORT PROJECT"

Osaka Innovative Gastronomy Promotion Council (Secretariat: Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau), launched the "Osaka Restaurant Support Crowdfunding # Mirai Meshi (Food of the future)" to support restaurants suffering due to the coronavirus pandemic, and collected donations from a wide range of people.

A total of 148 restaurants in the prefecture seeking support participated in the project. A total of 19,592,000 yen was collected from 1,436 people in 18 days from April 28 to May 1.

Also, this time Osaka Shinkin Bank and Japan Tobacco Inc. made the substantial donation of 1 million yen each. Thank you to everyone who contributed for your support. Donations were paid out on May 29 to the 148 participating restaurants. The money will be used as a basis for current cash flow, business continuity and new business development. In the past, Osaka's food and the attractions thereof have played a major role in building urban excitement and the city's brand. The organization will focus its efforts on promoting food in Osaka so that the return of restaurant activity as soon as practical can revitalize the city.

OInquiries Regional Development Division, 06-6944-6323

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FIGURES FOR THE ISSUANCE OF TRADE RELATED CERTIFICATES (CERTIFICATES OF TRADE-RELATED DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN BY THE AGREEMENT OF JAPAN'S EPA)

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry issues "Certificates of Trade-related Documents" including Certificates of Japanese Origin by Local Chambers issued and Invoice Certificates. As the Osaka Office of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, we issue "Certificates of Origin by the agreement of Japan's EPA" for countries and regions with which our country has concluded an EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement). The following is a summary of the issuance results for the last fiscal year (From April 2019 to March 2020).

<Figures for the Issuance of Certificates of Trade-related Documents>

- The number of Certificates of Trade-related Documents, including Certificates of Japanese Origin by Local Chambers issued, was 94,874, a decrease of 11.2 percentage points from the previous fiscal year, in part due to the stagnation of economic activities caused by novel coronavirus infections.

By destination, for regions with large numbers of certificates issued, such as Asia and Europe, the number issued fell by 10.7 points and 23.3 points, respectively, while that for North America, Latin America and Oceania each fell by about 10.0 points. For the Middle East, the region with the second largest number of certificates issued after Asia, fell by only 4.8 points, while those to Africa increased by 1.4 points.
By item, certificates for items in higher demand such as metal, chemical and textile items fell by about 10.0 points, while those for general machinery fell by only 3.9 points.

<Figures for the Issuance of Certificates of Origin by the agreement of Japan's EPA>

- In fiscal 2019, 50,727 certificates were issued. The figure was down by 4.0 percentage points from the previous fiscal year for the first time. This is thought to be due to the impact of additional tariffs imposed on each other by the United States and China caused by trade friction that have depressed the overall volume of global trade.

In terms of destinations, EPAs with Thailand (16,215 certificates), India (9,433 certificates), and Indonesia (8,796 certificates) account for the majority, with the 3 countries accounting for about 70% of the total, followed by those for the ASEAN Japan Comprehensive EPA and individual EPAs for Vietnam and Malaysia.
By product, certificates were issued for metal products (30.9% of the total), chemical products (23.3%), machinery (21.5%), and transport-related products such as vehicles (11.7%).

 $rac{1}{2}$ Introduction to our activities

- The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry has set up a consultation service (usable free of charge) to give advice on the "Complete Self-Certification System" relating to the "US-Japan Trade Agreement" in addition to "TPP 11" and the "Japan-EU EPA."

- At the same time, we can also act as an agent for the preparation of the "Statement on Origin," which is necessary to obtain a tariff reduction or exemption using the "TPP 11" "Japan-EU EPA" schemes (a usage fee will be charged).

4. PRESS RELEASE: OSAKA BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT CENTER (O-BIC) ACHIEVEMENT IN FY2019

Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC), which was established by Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Osaka Prefecture, and Osaka City, released its FY2019 report of foreign investments. 35 new foreign companies entered Osaka, from 13 countries and areas.

In the 19 years from the establishment of O-BIC, a cumulative total of 583 foreign entities have invested in Osaka. For more details, <u>https://o-bic.net/upload/pdf/file00000754.pdf</u>

5. RESULTS OF THE 78TH BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC TREND SURVEY (ANNOUNCED IN JUNE 2020)

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and the Kansai Economic Federation (Kankeiren) jointly conduct a Business and Economic Trend Survey every quarter in order to understand the economic outlook and status of corporate management of member companies. We conducted a survey covering 1,597 companies from mid to late May 2020, of which 399 responded (Valid response rate of 25.0%).

According to the survey, 1.8% of the respondents said the domestic economy in the April-June quarter of 2020 was "rising" compared to the previous quarter, while 92.7% said it was "deteriorating." As a result, BSI ("Rising" - "Deteriorating") was 91.0, the lowest level since the survey started in the January-March quarter of 2001.

As for the impact of COVID-19 on sales before the state of emergency was announced (January-March quarter 2020), the number of companies that experienced a "decline" compared to the same period last year was in the middle 60% range (65.9%). Companies whose sales declined by "less than 20%" accounted for the largest portion (38.8%), followed by those saying their sales "remained almost the same" in the middle 20% range (25.8%). By size, the ratio of SMEs that experienced a "decline" in sales (70.1%) was higher than that of large companies (60.7%). When asked about the factor that affected sales the most in the middle of the spread of COVID-19, 30.3% said "Consumption stagnation in Japan." This was followed by "Decline in orders for own products and services" (17.8%) and "Supply chain disruptions" (10.0%).

When asked about their cash flow situation compared to before the spread of COVID-19 (December 2019), the number of respondents that said "Worsened" was in the middle 40% range (44.4%) (Totals consisted of "Worsened and hampering business" (12.0%) and "Worsened but no problems with management" (32.3%)). On the other hand, more than half responded, "There was no significant change in cash flow" (52.1%). By size, the ratio of SMEs whose cash flow "worsened" (49.8%) was higher than that of large companies (37.6%).

6. VIP REPORTS (4/20~6/19)

6/19 MS. KAREN KELLEY, CONSUL GENERAL, AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL OSAKA-KOBE

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 foreigncapitalized 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):

If you wish to receive information about scheduled events, please visit

http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/mailstation/

and submit your subscription request to OCCI Email Station. Alternatively, please check out information about scheduled seminars and other events on OCCI's website (in Japanese only).

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