

OCCI E-MAIL MAGAZINE

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1. REQUEST TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, REGARDING THE NEW GROWTH STRATEGY

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry recently compiled its “request for the new growth strategy,” and submitted the request to the prime minister and government bodies.

The request, which consists of 7 (seven) pillars and 46 items, features such international strategies as “Further relaxation of requirements to issue a tourist visa” intended to promote tourism and inbound flows, and “Early realization of an effective corporate tax rate as low as that of other Asian countries” and “Early agreement of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)” for the restoration of industrial competitiveness. Furthermore, the OCCI also incorporated such strategies as “Promotion of the construction of industrial parks and related infrastructure in the rising nations” intended to powerfully promote support measures for overseas development, and “Improvement of the working environment for foreigners” and “Expansion and improvement of the Technical Intern Training Program for foreigners” as support measures to secure human resources to support the growth of the economy.

Since the national government is considering the formulation of a new growth strategy in June this year, The OCCI timed the request so that opinions from companies could be directly reflected in the strategy.

2. ADVANCING EFFORTS TO MAKE KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT A HUB.

Federal Express Corporation (FedEx), a U.S. air cargo carrier has established its North Pacific hub at Kansai International Airport, and has begun full-fledged operation of its facility since the 8th of last month.





This hub, equipped with a facility able to sort approximately 9,000 pieces of cargo per hour, will serve as the center for sending cargo collected from North Asia to the United States. Along with the opening of this hub, FedEx has begun to provide flight services on its new Kansai-Indianapolis route, and has significantly increased the number of flight services on its Kansai International Airport route from 43 to 54 per week.

The establishment of this hub, for which Kansai International Airport competed with such airports as Incheon (ICN) International Airport in South Korea, was realized as a result of the development of active promotion activities, such as a visit to FedEx's Head Office in the Asia-Pacific region in 2010 by representatives of the entire economic community in the Kansai region, including Vice Chairman Teiichi Nishimura of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In addition, on the 15th of April, Juneyao Airlines from China began to provide flight services on its new Kansai-Shanghai route. Juneyao Airlines is a private airline based in Shanghai, and is a full service carrier living up to its mottoes of "precise service," "safety," and "punctuality." This airline provides flight services on 60 routes, both Chinese and international. With its Kansai route, for which the company provides 7 flight services per week, Kansai and Shanghai have become more connected with 91 flight services per week provided by a total of 7 airlines, including Spring Airlines, a low cost carrier (LCC) that began providing flight services in March.

3. CHINESE BUSINESS SUPPORT OFFICE'S RESULTS REPORT FOR FY2013 AND PROJECTS FOR FY2014.

To provide support for small- and medium-sized enterprises in their business dealings in China, the OCCI's Chinese Business Support Office responds to broad individual consultations from an introductory level to specialized fields, introduces specialists accordingly, and provides information on doing business in China through seminars etc.

The number of consultations in fiscal 2013 was 138, a 29.3% decrease from the previous year. Focusing on the type of consultation, consultations on "sales in China," a category that has seen an increase in the number of consultations since 2008 and has accounted for, or exceeded 40% for five consecutive years, again accounted for 40% of the total. While this shows a continued high interest in the development of markets in China, there has been a slump in companies desiring to enter China with a further decrease in the number of consultations on newly entering China. Meanwhile, in the "questionnaire on Chinese business development by companies in Kansai region," which was held in July last year, respondents who answered "Maintain/expand our Chinese business" exceeded 60% of the total. This shows that attitudes towards Chinese business differ from company to company.

The Chinese Business Support Office, considering the deterioration of the relationship between China and Japan, held 31 seminars and other events to provide the latest information on such matters as reviewing management strategies and risk management. Furthermore, as a new effort, the office carried out a project to incorporate aging-related demand in China, such as nursing care-related demand. In August last year, the office established the “Japan-China Elder-care Industry Cooperation Promotion Platform,” issued “Japanese Silver Industry Directory,” and in December, dispatched its “Delegation to Visit the Elder-care Industry in China.”

This fiscal year, in addition to the projects so far, the office will hold a “face-to-face business consultation” event by specialists on tax and legal affairs and intellectual property once a month from June.

4. CONTINUATION OF ROYAL NETHERLANDS CONSULATE-GENERAL IN OSAKA IS OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED.

In June last year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands announced that it would close consulates-general in five cities around the world, including the one in Osaka. With this announcement, after having sent a request for the continuation of the Royal Netherlands Consulate-General in Osaka to the Government of the Netherlands, the OCCI, along with such bodies as the Osaka prefectural and municipal governments, made a strong appeal for the importance of the continuation of the Consulate-General by calling for cooperation from economic organizations in the Netherlands itself.

As a result, we recently received a notice of determination to officially “continue the Royal Netherlands Consulate-General in Osaka” from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. The OCCI, along with the Consulate-General, will seek to continue to support economic activities between Japan and the Netherlands.

5. OCCI INTERNATIONAL DIVISION REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

April 23 (Wed.) H.E. Mr. Sergei RAKHMANOV, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in Japan

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