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# E-MAIL MAGAGINE

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## 1. OUTLINE OF OCCI PROJECTS IN FY 2015

This year is the middle of the second term (FY 2014 – FY 2016) of the Plan for Osaka Metropolis of Endless Visitors, a three-year mid-term project vision of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI). OCCI intends to strongly promote eight strategic projects and four fundamental projects aiming to strengthen the foundation of small- and medium-sized companies. OCCI will also be strenuously involved in pursuing the themes of the vision in order to realize it, as well as making policy proposals and requests so as to contribute to improving the business environment for member companies.

This year, OCCI is focusing on such projects as “ASEAN Borderless Business Development Support,” “Milan Food-related Business Mission,” “Support for Establishment of Future International Medical Base,” and “Initiatives for World Sports Triple Year,” as new projects related to overseas business.

In the “ASEAN Borderless Business Development Support” project, OCCI supports business development in the community of middle-scale firms and small- and medium-sized companies to prepare for the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) planned at the end of 2015. Specifically, OCCI aims to provide support for these companies to expand in the community, by holding business matching events to enhance business activity and ensuring procurement of materials and promoting offshore transactions in the community, in

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry



collaboration with Japanese chambers of commerce and industry overseas. OCCI will also support participation in business fairs and provide business information to meet the needs for production outsourcing and sales expansion, in cooperation with local administrative agencies and chambers of commerce and industry.

In Expo Milano 2015, which will be held from May to October this year under the theme of food, OCCI plans to dispatch a food-related business mission from Osaka in September and hold business meetings on site, as well as a business mission to observe the development of livelihood-related industries.

In the “Support for Establishment of Future International Medical Base” project, OCCI will work to achieve consensus-building to establish an international medical base, which can provide advanced medical care and medical-related education and contribute to the formation of industrial clusters in the urban center of Osaka, making use of deregulatory measures in the Kansai National Strategic Special Zone. OCCI will also promote initiatives to provide support for the “World Sports Triple Year”: 2019 Rugby World Cup, Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and Kansai World Masters Games 2021, as well as co-located events.

In addition, as the “Overseas Market Access Project,” OCCI will undertake various projects, just as last year, to support business activities, using EPA and ODA; strengthen business partnerships with companies in North America; develop Silver Industry business abroad; provide consultations on business in China and emerging countries; hold business meetings with overseas buyers; promote Osaka to attract foreign investment; and dispatch economic missions to observe the actual market conditions in emerging countries.

## **2. REPORT ON THE 14TH OSAKA BUSINESS NETWORKING; U.S. TESLA MOTORS – SUPERCHARGING THE OSAKA/KANSAI ECONOMY**



On March 27, Osaka Business & Investment Center (O-BIC) held the 14th Osaka Business Networking Club’s Event with Director in charge of Power Storage Technology at Tesla Motors, the American electric car venture company under the spotlight.

About 200 representatives, including members of foreign affiliated firms in Osaka, Osaka based Japanese companies,

foreign diplomatic establishments and economic organizations in Osaka attended this event and participated in networking.

A promotional session by Osaka prefecture for the New Energy Industry was followed by a speech by Mr. Kurt Kelly, Director of Power Storage Technologies, where he spoke about the features of the company's products and future plans, his long stint at Panasonic, and also touched upon both the strengths and weaknesses of Japanese companies as he is in the position responsible for overseeing business association between Tesla Motors and Panasonic.

After his speech, the Q & A session was held where numerous questions were raised, and the speaker and participants actively interacted with each other.

Apart from the session, the participants were invited to a test-ride event of Tesla's [Model S] vehicle, and they were impressed with its stylish design and features.

### **3. REQUESTS TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR PROMOTION OF THE UTILIZATION OF EPA/FTA COMPILED**

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and 28 other chambers of commerce and industry in the Kansai region jointly organized proposals for promotion of the utilization of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). They intend to request the national government to improve the convenience of these agreements so that small- and medium-sized companies can make more use of them.

Although 14 EPAs have gone into effect in Japan, only a limited number of Japanese companies, especially small- and medium-sized companies, have used these agreements for their business. Accordingly, their requests are that the system be improved from a practical viewpoint so that EPAs can be used by more companies, indicating the following four aspects:

- 1) Newly establishing public consultation desks and supporting human resource development in companies;
- 2) Enhancing the dissemination of EPA-related information;
- 3) Simplifying the rules of origin, introducing a selection system for origin certification methods, in which issuers of certificates of origin can be chosen, and integrating HS codes, which vary according to the agreement; and

4) Facilitating customs procedures and promptly realizing their computerization.

#### 4. OCCI INTERNATIONAL DIVISION REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

March 23 (Mon.) Mr. Tomas DUB, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,  
Embassy of the Czech Republic in Japan

Mr. Lee Hyun-ju, Consul-General, Consulate-General of the Republic  
of Korea in Osaka

#### 5. THE FY2015 OCCI INTERNATIONAL STAFFERS AND THEIR REGIONS

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