

E-MAIL MAGAZINE

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1. INVITING AN EXECUTIVE OF THE THAMES VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GROUP, UK

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and the Industrial Scholarship Center, for which the OCCI serves as a secretariat, invited Mr. Paul Britton, Head of Inward Investment at the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group (TVCC) in the UK for five days from June 30 to July 4.

The OCCI and TVCC signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) of business tie-up in October last year, when the OCCI dispatched the “Economic Mission to EU” led by Vice Chairman Minoru Furukawa. This led to the invitation of Mr. Paul Britton to introduce him about Osaka and the Kansai region. During his stay in Osaka, he also visited various organizations including Osaka-based institutions, Japanese companies that have expanded their business to the UK, and venture company support centers to exchange views.

Mr. Britton said, “Since the Thames Valley region and the Kansai region including Osaka not only have a similar industrial structure focusing on environmental energy and life sciences, but also are similar in terms of the approachable attitude of people, I felt strong affinity with the Kansai region. I look forward to cooperating closely to further enhance the partnership between the TVCC and OCCI.”





The OCCI plans to hold the “Kansai/UK Greentech Forum” (tentative name) at the beginning of next year, inviting five member companies of the TVCC that are interested in developing their business in Japan, in order to promote business exchange with the TVCC.

2. TRAINING PROGRAM PROVIDED FOR STAFF MEMBER FROM THE JAPANESE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

On June 29, Chairman Tsutomu Sakagami and other executive officers of the Japanese Business Association of Ho Chi Minh City (JBAH), which is organized by Japanese-affiliated companies that operate their business in Ho Chi Minh City and surrounding provinces, Vietnam, paid a courtesy call on President Tsutomu Miyagi of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI). The JBAH has 765 member companies as of April 2015. The number of newly-registered companies exceeded 100 for the second consecutive year in FY 2013 and FY 2014. The sharp increase in member companies shows that Vietnam attracts increasing attention as a destination for Japanese companies to expand their business.

Under these circumstances, the OCCI has dispatched its staff members to the JBAH as Secretary General of the JBAH since 2009 to provide support for Japanese companies to develop their business in Vietnam. In line with further support, OCCI invited Ms. Tran Thi Bao Chau, a local staff member of the secretariat, to Osaka to provide her with a training program from June 15 to 19.

In the training program, she had opportunities to learn about OCCI’s various activities for supporting companies, economic trends in Osaka, and about entrepreneurs from Osaka, and also to experience the operation of seminar management to understand a Japanese way of conducting operations. She also visited factories of Japanese parent companies that have developed business in Vietnam, and exchanged views with Vietnamese employees working in Japan.

After the one-week training program, Ms. Chau expressed her wishes, “Many companies well known in Vietnam come from Osaka. Through visits to Japanese companies that have developed their business in Vietnam, I learned how Vietnamese employees (engineers) and engineer trainees were practically working in companies in Japan, and recognized the greatness and importance of a far-sighted strategy for human resource development. I also learned much from the OCCI’s management of seminars and events. I would like to utilize the know-how that I learned from the training program and also to be actively involved in what can be done, including timely and effectively responding to inquiries from Japanese-affiliated companies in Vietnam, to strengthen our association’s support system for them.

3. PRESIDENT THEIN SEIN OF MYANMAR VISITS OSAKA TO ATTEND A LUNCH MEETING



President Thein Sein of Myanmar, who had attended the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting held in Tokyo on July 4, after the meeting visited Osaka on July 6. Including representatives of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and the Kansai Economic Federation, 21 companies that have developed or are planning to develop their business in Myanmar gathered together for a lunch meeting in Osaka City, inviting President Thein Sein and other key cabinet members.

In his opening remarks, President Thein Sein said that although he had been in power for five years, he would continue to promote democratization and economic growth in Myanmar as in the past.

Referring to Myanmar's geographical advantages, its market size including those in neighboring countries, and its abundant natural resources, he expressed his expectations that Myanmar and Japan would work together to achieve economic development, making use of each other’s advantages, including investment from companies in the Kansai region as well as across Japan, utilizing Japan’s prominent technologies and human resource development strategies.

At the meeting, participant companies provided a brief outline of their business. Vice Chairman of OCCI Minoru Furukawa, Hiroshi Ozaki, and Shingo Torii attended the meeting, in which they explained their business strategies and future prospects in Myanmar and expressed their wishes to contribute to economic development in Myanmar, which is expected to grow in the future.

4. OCCI ENGLISH WEBSITE IS RELAUNCHED AND FACEBOOK PAGE DEBUTS!

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) relaunched its English-version website to make it

simple and easy to read. The website introduces economic trends in Osaka and reports by the OCCI International Division, etc.

The OCCI will also start an English-version Facebook page on July 21 (Today). By making use of Facebook, which has 1.3 billion users worldwide, OCCI is going to transmit the latest information on its overseas activities and seminars, business fairs and business networking events intended for foreign companies/organizations and foreign residents in Japan.

OCCI website

<http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/>

Facebook

<http://facebook.com/osakaccienglish>

5. OCCI INTERNATIONAL DIVISION REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

June 29 (Mon.) Mr. Tsutomu Sakagami, Chairman, The Japanese Business Association of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

July 2 (Thu.) Mr. T. Armstrong Changsan, Consul General, the Consulate General of India, Osaka-Kobe, Japan

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