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1. OCCI AWARDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

On September 11, OCCI received the "Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Prize in the Award of Recognition of Merit in Korea-Japan Industrial Cooperation," at the Korea-Japan Industrial Technology Fair 2015 (sponsored by MOTIE) in Seoul.



The prize is given to business enterprises, organizations and individuals in recognition of their contributions in industrial technology cooperation and economic exchange between Japan and Korea. Based on the "Memorandum on Cooperation between Osaka and the Republic of Korea to Strengthen Economic and Industrial Foundation" concluded in 2007 between OCCI and the Japan-Korea Industrial Technology Co-operation Foundation, OCCI has been recruiting Japanese businesses to participate in the Japan-Korea parts & materials procurement business matching held each year during the fair. To date, the event has succeeded in conclusion of business

cooperation between 66 Japanese companies and business in South Korea.

2. LEADING FOREIGN WATER BUSINESSES SOLICIT SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS

Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry is scheduled to hold on November 19 an event "Open Innovation Forum with Leading Foreign Water Businesses: Opportunities in Foreign Water Business in Osaka!" It is organized jointly with the Japan External Trade Organization Osaka Head Office, Osaka Prefectural Government and Osaka Foundation for Trade and Industry.



In this program, leading businesses plan to seek proposals on resolving technical issues in the area of water treatment from business enterprises and research institutes in Osaka.

In this coming event, the world-class general water business corporations Veolia Environment S.A. of France and Hyflux Ltd. of Singapore will give detailed presentations on their technical needs.

3. STARTUP OF "EXPLORATION INTO FOREIGN MARKETS THROUGH MONITORING SURVEYS OF FOREIGNERS"

With Japanese market in a sense of some limits, there are a significant number of businesses considering promotion of their products and services in foreign markets. However, quite a few of them wonder "whether modification is necessary for [their products/services] to sell" and "how they should be modified to adapt to demands in foreign markets." Additionally, there is a growing number of companies who want to confirm "whether their stores are handling foreign customers properly" in view of the anticipated rise in inbound visitors.

For this reason, OCCI has started a new program for companies to explore into Foreign Markets by utilizing Monitoring Surveys of Foreigners, in the effort to meet their needs with accuracy and speed and at low cost.

Enterprises seeking to organize surveys are able to specify characteristics of foreign nationals participating in each survey, such as nationality, gender, physical characteristics, etc. The required number of foreign nationals are made available in units of half-days, to provide comments and advice. The service also includes foreign national monitors to play roles of customers for staff training in customer service, etc. The program also offers

Japanese interpreting for the survey and data compilation from questionnaires received from the foreign participants.

The program is also seeking foreign nationals who are interested in participating in the surveys. For further details, please contact K.K. aim (program contractor; phone: 06-6763-5549).

4. RESULTS OF THE 59TH BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC TRENDS SURVEY

OCCI and Kansai Economic Federation have announced jointly the results of the 59th Business Management and Economic Trends Survey, conducted on a quarterly basis. The survey was conducted from August 18 to September 2, with 1690 companies canvassed and valid responses received from 477 companies (response rate at 28.2%).

According to the survey, the July-September BSI (indicator shown by deducting responses reporting "economic downturn" from the number reporting "economic upturn") was 10.0 for the domestic economy, showing a reduction in margin from 21.0 for the preceding quarter. This marked a dramatic drop from the forecast of 25.4 for the July-September quarter in the previous survey, suggesting growing wariness over economic recovery.

Although the indicator for own-company business status leaped from the subzero level of -2.4 to 4.7, it fell short of 16.0 predicted for the July-September quarter. In the breakdown by business scale, double-digit improvement of 15.4 was seen among large businesses, while SMEs remain in the subzero range of -4.3.

Survey also inquired into trends in full-time worker wages for the current fiscal year and found that more than 80% of the respondents (83.9%) reported "pay hike" in one form or another. Roughly 80% (80.8%) plan on "regular pay hike," and more than 40% (42.8%) will implement "base pay hike." Among the reasons for the wage hike, the largest percentage of the respondents (56.0%) attributed the hike to "recruit and retain manpower and to upgrade motivation" and the second-largest percentage (33.0%) reported "improvement (or anticipated improvement) in business performance."

5. OCCI INTERNATIONAL DIVISION REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

September 25 (Fri.) His Excellency Mr. Marcos Fermin RODRIGUEZ COSTA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in Japan

October 2 (Fri.) Mr. Shivraj Sing Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Government of Madhya Pradesh, India

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