

OCCI E-MAIL MAGAZINE



Issue 99 [January 2016]

<< NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE >>

(from Hiroshi OZAKI,
Chairman, Osaka Chamber of
Commerce and Industry)

1. << NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE >>

I would like to take great pleasure in offering our New Year's greeting.

Last year, the Japanese economy showed a gradual recovery trend in general, but the recovery level varied in individual cases, depending on business type and size. Improvement in earnings of exporting companies influenced by the lower yen, as well as the expansion of inbound consumption, had a positive impact on economic conditions. On the other hand, many SMEs had difficulty improving their performance due to increased material and personnel costs and a serious labor shortage.

I hope that this year will be a milestone year in which the Japanese economy recovers from its long downturn and gets back on track toward strong growth again. To achieve Prime Minister Abe's strategy of "three new arrows of Abenomics," we are required to quickly establish a business environment that enables companies to take proactive approaches for fostering new fields and new businesses, and to adopt even stronger policies to attract investment both from home and abroad.

The Kansai region boasts a variety of strengths and potentials that can boost active communication and interaction among people and companies, such as Kansai International Airport, to be newly operated by the private company, and the clusters of universities and other institutions engaged in state-of-the-art research. We must focus on these values once again, polish them up and work toward them being widely recognized both in Japan and around the globe.

For example, Osaka and Kansai share a fertile environment that enriches knowledge, wisdom, culture and lifestyle, as seen in the clusters of SMEs with unique technologies and world-class academic and research institutions, attractive towns where domestic and international tourists gather, rich traditional cultures varying from foods to visual and performing arts, and historical and economic exchanges with the Asian region. We can exploit

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry



these even further to achieve beneficial global growth and development.

In particular, people in Osaka have always been quite active and tolerant in accepting foreign people as well as different cultures and values. In other words, Osaka traditionally has an abundance of hospitality and diversity, which forms the basis of international exchange. We can leverage such unique strengths as much as possible.

It is expected that, by taking advantage of these features to the fullest, Osaka will survive through global city competitions and drastically boost its status within Asia. For this purpose, we must create a city connected to Asia and the rest of the world, filled with opportunities and interesting things for both people and businesses.

I believe that our city needs two kinds of skills: one to attract and bring in people and companies, and another to support their growth and challenges, pushing them on to the world stage. To foster these and become an innovative city, I am determined to create and provide various opportunities that will inspire global exchange.

Osaka has no need to imitate or follow Tokyo. If Tokyo has chosen to continue its sprawl by one-sidedly siphoning the energy of surrounding cities, then Osaka can find a way to grow together with its surrounding environs by doubling the energy we have brought in and sharing it with them. Let's promote unique Osaka-born businesses and cultures with confidence, pride and vision.

To achieve this, it is necessary for us to maintain close contact with Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City, as well as the national and other local governments and agencies, and Kansai-based economic bodies. I believe that, through enhanced partnership and cooperation with all of these players, we can continue conducting fruitful activities.

We would great appreciate your continued and increased support and cooperation with regard to future OCCI activities.

Hiroshi OZAKI
Chairman
Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Contact Us

Osaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry

2-8, Honmachibashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, JAPAN
540-0029

Tel +81-6-6944-6400

Fax +81-6-6944-6293

E-mail intl@osaka.cci.or.jp

Chief Editor : Shinji MARUYAMA, Director of International Division, OCCI

Contact Persons : Yumiko NAGOSHI (Ms.), Hikaru KOHAMA (Mr.)

Back Numbers of OCCI e-Magazine:

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