

OCCI E-MAIL MAGAZINE



Issue 109 [January 2017]

<< NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE >>

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

1. << NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE >>

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

Last year was one in which the world started to search for a new order, events such as Britain's withdrawal from the European Union and the election of Mr. Donald Trump as the next President of the United States of America. Meanwhile, the Japanese economy continued to make a gradual recovery. In this situation, many trials were made to utilize technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and robotics, in practical applications, which resulted in the creation of new sources of economic growth.

For Osaka and the Kansai region, important decisions were made to facilitate improvement of the region's infrastructure, the foundation for further regional development. These decisions included accelerating the construction schedule for extension of the new Linear Chuo Shinkansen Line to Osaka, and selecting the route for the Hokuriku Shinkansen Line extending to Osaka.

I hope that this year will be a landmark year in which the Japanese economy makes a new start again toward achieving strong growth.

Recently, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) announced its new activity guidelines for the three years from FY2017. Under the new guidelines, a total of 60 programs are planned to energize Osaka and Kansai in three strategic fields, eight strategic projects, and five reinforcement projects. We will strenuously engage in each one of these programs to support SMEs in entering growing fields.

The new guidelines represent our enthusiasm to bring prosperity to Osaka and Kansai by attracting a wide variety of enterprises and investments from both inside and outside Japan, and generating new industries, technologies and businesses. Consequently we hope to spread the achieved prosperity to all of Japan and further to the world.

Under the new guidelines, Osaka and Kansai aim to redesign ourselves as the most powerful national center that leads the growth of the entire country.

We will also endeavor to become a city that values a direct and strong relationship with other Asian countries to ensure mutual growth based on the "Look Asia" slogan. Though bringing in the energy of Asia, we would like to explore a new model of growth as a central city where a wide range of people, merchandise, capital, and information are brought together.



Particularly in the relationship with Asia, we aim to become an innovation hub where a virtuous cycle continues to gather momentum. In such circumstances, many people and companies choose Osaka from among other cities in Japan as a destination to which they bring new business ideas. Then, they make innovation happen in Osaka, creating a range of new businesses and industries one after another. While some of the newly created businesses and companies, sophisticated technologies, and competent human resources put down roots to grow in Osaka, others leave Osaka to seek new opportunities inside and outside Japan. Meanwhile, many new people and companies continue to come to Osaka to find new business opportunities.

To realize such a virtuous cycle, we will provide a wide range of efforts, including creating and developing the cutting-edge fields that are expected to grow further, such as life science, sports industry, IoT, and AI. Other efforts include down-to-earth support to smaller projects and businesses, including establishing a horizontal subcontracting network among factories of SMEs, and promoting local shopping areas.

We cannot enhance the growth potential of the local economy in a short period of time. Actually, we should give our full attention to local companies and support them closely over the long term. We believe that a chamber of commerce and industry must increasingly play a large role in paving the road for the local region's growth and implementing various measures to support it.

To make these efforts more effective, it is essential for us to work in cooperation with a broad range of parties, including not only Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City, but also Kyoto, Kobe and other local governments, economical organizations, and universities in the Kansai region. At the same time, we would like to further enhance broader cooperation with other regions in Japan, such as the Hokuriku and San'in regions, to recreate Osaka and Kansai as a center leading the growth of Japan and Asia.

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry is determined to continue to implement numerous actions to energize Osaka and Kansai through business initiatives.

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

Hiroshi OZAKI
Chairman
Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

=====
Chief Editor : Susumu SAITO, Director of International Division, OCCI
Mailed by : Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, International Division
Address : 2-8 Hommachi-bashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, Japan 540-0029
Tel : +81-(0)6-6944-6400
Fax : +81-(0)6-6944-6293
Contact Persons : Yumiko NAGOSHI (Ms.), Hikaru KOHAMA (Mr.)
Back Numbers of OCCI e-Magazine: <http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/emagazine/>
=====

* Please contact us through the email (kohama@osaka.cci.or.jp) to inform us of your change of e-mail address, or of your wishes not to receive OCCI e-Magazine.