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E-MAIL MAGAZINE

Issue 112 [April 2017]

1. OCCI SETS UP PROMOTION COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT OSAKA'S BID TO HOST 2025 WORLD EXPOSITION

On March 27, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) set up a promotion committee to support Osaka Prefecture's bid to host the 2025 World Exposition. Led by OCCI Chairman Hiroshi Ozaki, the promotion committee will gather all available resources for the campaign aimed at holding the exposition to Osaka.

The committee will join hands with the 2025 Japan International Exposition Invitation Committee, a national-level organization in charge of backing Osaka's bid to host the event, chaired by Sadayuki Sakakibara, Chairman of the Japan Business Federation, more known as Keidanren. Specifically, the committee will cooperate with the invitation committee in its member recruitment and promotional activities. By using the OCCI's



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networks both in Japan and abroad, the promotion committee will also strive to gain support from all over Japan for the Osaka exposition bid, and from overseas economic organizations with which the OCCI has ties with.

OCCI has had several occasions to ask for support from foreign government agencies who paid courtesy calls at the OCCI. For example, OCCI Vice chairman Furukawa asked for support on the occasion of the courtesy call by the Kenyan Ambassador to Japan on March 30th. Another occasion was when the Vice OCCI Chairman Teiichi Nishimura attended a luncheon to welcome economic ministers from ASEAN countries, asked for their cooperation in supporting Osaka's bid to host the 2025 exposition.

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2. BUSINESS MISSION DISPATCHED TO BEIJING, SICHUAN PROVINCE AND HONG KONG FOR THE RESEARCH ON THE SENIOR CARE MARKET

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) sent a business mission to Beijing, Panzhihua, Sichuan Province, China, and Hong Kong from February 27 to March 5 to conduct a survey on the region's senior care business market.(The delegation was led by Nobuo Kuwayama, former chairman of the China Business Special Committee of the OCCI <Executive Director of Itochu Corporation>.)

In Beijing, the OCCI delegation held an informal exchange meeting with the “Elderly Industry Panel” set up by the China Building Materials Market Association. The meeting was participated by 20 people from Japanese housing renovation companies, nursing care equipment makers and nursing care service operators, and 40 representatives from Chinese companies.



Also in Beijing, the Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) held an investment seminar targeting Chinese companies. The OCCI serves as secretariat of O-BIC. The seminar was participated

by 80 people representing Chinese companies. The chief delegate of the OCCI mission, Mr. Kuwayama, urged participating Chinese companies to set up business in Osaka while explaining the attractive point for investment in the second largest city in Japan, and the possible support that O-BIC could give to Chinese companies interested in doing business there, based on actual investment cases in the past.

In Panzhihua, Sichuan Province, the OCCI delegation exchanged views with city government officials. The delegation was briefed about the City's plan to foster healthcare services, including the senior care sector, so that it becomes the city's major industry, while taking advantage of the region's warm weather conditions throughout the year. The delegation also took a first-hand look at an educational institution that is aimed at developing human resources in the nursing-care sector, scheduled to open in autumn this year, while exploring the possibility of a business tie-up with Japanese companies.

The OCCI delegation then moved to Hong Kong where they visited the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, with which the OCCI signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The delegation and the Hong Kong council exchanged views on the current situation of the senior care business market in Hong Kong and the feasibility of Japanese senior care business operators setting up business in Hong Kong. The OCCI will continue to provide support to Japanese companies interested in entering the Asian senior care business market.

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3. RESULTS OF CLEANTECH FORUM

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) held the Cleantech Forum on March 6 to promote international business alliances in the hydrogen and energy fields, in which companies in the Kansai region and North America enjoy technological tie-up.



The forum featured presentations of business "seeds" by corporate representatives and B2B meetings, with the backing of the U.S. Consulate General in Japan, the Canadian Consulate in Japan and North American Hydrogen and Cleantech organizations, to which the OCCI sent a mission in 2015 (California Fuel Cell Partnership and

Cleantech San Diego). The forum invited hydrogen and energy-related companies from USA and Canada (Arenius Systems, First Element Fuel, PDC Machines and Quadrogen Power Systems interested in teaming up with Japanese companies to engage in research and development in these fields.

A total of about 70 people participated in the forum, resulting in 27 business inquiries being filed with Kansai-based companies, including six inquiries where concerned parties have decided to continue talks in a bid to form a partnership for joint business operations or joint development. On March 7, the foreign companies that attended the Cleantech Forum inspected two hydrogen stations and a Japanese factory of an equipment manufacturer.

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4. PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS TARGETING FOREIGN TOURISTS UPLOADED ON YOUTUBE

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) uploaded 124 promotional videos on Osaka City to the video-sharing website YouTube for foreign tourists. The videos introduced shopping arcades, retail stores, business corporations and sightseeing spots located in western Osaka (Konohana ward, Nishi ward, Minato ward, Taisho ward, Naniwa ward and Nishinari ward).

The videos target inbound tourists, especially backpackers and individuals from foreign countries, by introducing attractive places in western Osaka. All videos posted are narrated in English.

A restaurant operator featured in one of the videos is looking forward to seeing positive effects on its

sales. Another restaurant operator was quoted as saying that further sales can be expected by accepting more customers from foreign countries.

A sightseeing map covering 14 areas in Osaka is explained on the Internet. The map feature QR codes linked to the video files. (<http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/s/nishi/message.php?sid=12>)
The map is designed so that foreign tourists can make effective use of their time in Osaka.
The map is available at shops and accommodation facilities featured in the videos.

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5. OCCI INTERNATIONAL DIVISION REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

- March 23(Tue.) Mr. PARK YONGHA, Chairman, Yeosu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Republic of Korea
Mr. KIM JONGWOOK, Chairman, Suncheon Chamber of Commerce And Industry, Republic of Korea
- March 30(Tue.) His Excellency Mr. Solomon Karanja MAINA, Ambassador, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
In Japan
- April 19(Wed.) Mr. Teo Ser Luck, Minister of State, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore

6. THE FY2016 OCCI INTERNATIONAL STAFFERS AND THEIR REGIONS



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Back Numbers of OCCI e-Magazine: <http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/emagazine/>

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