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E-MAIL MAGAZINE

Issue 113 [May 2017]

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF OCCI'S NEW MID-TERM PLAN STARTING APRIL 2017

Recently, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) announced its new mid-term action plan, titled **“Tanto” Business Osaka ~Innovating Japan and Asia~**, which will serve as the basis of management of its projects in the coming years. The plan will run for three years starting from FY2017, to turn to Osaka for more flourishing.

Under the “Tanto” Business Osaka plan, Osaka and Kansai will strive to redesign ourselves according to the following two concepts, aiming to become (1) one of the leading edge centers in Japan to lead the growth of the entire country, and (2) Asia’s innovation hub to ensure mutual growth in the region. In order to achieve these goals by around 2025 to 2030, OCCI will implement a total of 60 programs in three



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strategic fields, eight strategic projects, and five industrial base reinforcement projects. As the SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises) enter the growing fields, we are determined to support and boost the growth power of Osaka and Kansai.

In the Health & Wellness Acceleration field, which is one of the 3 strategic fields set in the plan, we will strive to create new businesses with sports as a core, by integrating sports with monozukuri (design & manufacturing), food, tourism, and other services. By creating a new synergy between these new businesses and the rapidly advancing life-science industry, we will seek to develop a new key-industry in Osaka and Kansai.

Meanwhile, in the In-bound Tourism field, we will market our tourism resources to inbound tourists, focusing on shopping and food, that represent the strong points of Osaka, to ensure a continuous increase in inbound tourism consumption. In the Market-creation field, we will operate a platform to accelerate collaboration among enterprises to promote the utilization of technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. At the same time, we will help develop such businesses by forming a comprehensive partnership with the City of Osaka to ensure opportunities for demonstration projects. We also promote assisting manufacturing ventures and building a local factory network, to create new business opportunities. Concurrently, we will strive to further explore global markets and create new distribution channels to introduce the products and services of Osaka and Kansai to other parts of Japan and abroad.

Furthermore, we will make efforts to discover new human resources by assisting in the recruitment of women and foreign students. In addition, to provide a good business environment for small and medium enterprises, we are determined to implement five industrial base reinforcement projects: business expansion, human resources procurement and development, support for business start-ups and management, infrastructure development, and policy proposals that include request to meet corporate needs.

For details, see <http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/missions/>

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2. OCCI SIGNED MOU WITH THE UNION OF MYANMAR FEDERATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ON ESTABLISHING SMALL-SCALE RENTAL FACTORIES IN THE THILAWA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

OCCI Chairman Ozaki signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on April 26 with Mr. Zaw Min Win, President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry



(UMFCCI), and Mr. Takashi Yanai, President of Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Ltd. (MJTD), on establishing small-scaled rental factories in the Thilawa industrial complex, a special economic zone in Myanmar, where many Japanese companies have already established their factories.

The industrial complex has been developed by a joint effort between the public and private sectors of both Japan and Myanmar. The area developed in the first phase covers 405 ha, and 79 companies in which half of them are Japanese companies, have so far concluded contracts to do business there. Currently, another 101 ha is under development. Based on the MOU concluded recently, 500 to 750 m² rental factories, with a smaller area than the current unit of 1,500 m², will start to be offered. MJTD President Yanai mentioned that he would like to help SMEs in Osaka and Kansai to advance into Myanmar. Meanwhile, UMFCCI President Zaw Min Win expressed his expectations, saying that the advancement of excellent Japanese SMEs into Myanmar will help improve the development of human resources in the country and enhance its level of technology.

Following the signing of MOU, the OCCI held a seminar for Japanese companies planning to advance into Myanmar, gathering 120 participants. At the seminar, detailed information was provided regarding the investment environment in Myanmar and the small-scale rental factories. The



seminar included the explanation of a plan to dispatch a business mission to Myanmar in late July, and OCCI is accepting applications to participate in the program. Furthermore at the seminar, Dr. Kay Thi Lwin, the principal of Thanlyin Technological University (TTU),

Myanmar, Dr. Sint Soe, the principal of Technological University, Mandalay (MTU), Myanmar, and Mr. Keiichi Hasegawa, the president of Ehle Institute in Osaka, discussed the development of Myanmar human resources.

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3. OSAKA BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT CENTER (O-BIC) ACHIEVEMENTS IN FY2016

The Osaka Business & Investment Center (O-BIC), jointly established by the Osaka Prefectural Government, Osaka Municipal Government, and the OCCI (Secretariat: International Division, OCCI), announced its



achievements in attracting foreign investment in fiscal 2016. Based on the increasing demand for Japanese products and surging interest in the Japanese market among China and other Asian countries,

O-BIC succeeded in attracting 38 foreign investment cases in the fiscal year, thereby maintaining high-level results for three consecutive years. During the 16-year period since its establishment, the number of foreign investment cases in the Osaka region has totaled 464, with an accumulated investment of approximately 750 million yen.

The breakdown by country/region shows that the top three in the number of investment cases are China (17 cases), Korea (9 cases), and Taiwan (6 cases). Meanwhile, in fiscal 2016, emerging

countries in Asia such as Myanmar and Mongolia advanced into the Osaka region. Investment cases by Asian countries totaled 36, accounting for 95% of the total cases. This shows that Osaka has been evolving into a business hub in Asia, where a wide variety of enterprises gather.

By industry, the number of investment cases relating to Japan-bound tourism, which focuses on the procurement and export of Japanese products, amounted to an impressive number 13, showing a continuous boom since last year. The products of these investment cases have varied from conventional commodities to a wider variety of products including nursing care items.

Meanwhile, pharmaceutical companies from Portugal and South Korea, with which OCCI had been in contact for several years, finally advanced into Osaka in fiscal 2016, as a result of our long-term, practical movement attraction activities. Furthermore, like the previous fiscal year, some Chinese and South Korean enterprises showed interest in advancing into Osaka as manufacturers through M&A or OEM transactions **to enhance their brand image using “made in Japan” products.**

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4. PR PRESENTATION TO ASEAN MINISTERS FOR ATTRACTING THE WORLD EXPO TO OSAKA

On April 8, the 2025 Japan World Expo Committee (Chairman: Mr. Sadayuki Sakakibara, chairman of the Japan Business Federation), which promotes activities through an all-Japan collaboration regime to attract the 2025 World Expo to Osaka/Kansai, held a luncheon meeting, inviting the economic ministers, attending the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting by the Japanese government on the same day in Osaka. At the meeting, the committee gave a PR **presentation and requested the attendees’ cooperation in attracting the 2025 Expo to Osaka.**

This event was the first activity conducted by the committee established on March 27.

Representing the committee, governor of Osaka Prefecture Ichiro Matsui, President of the Committee, Mayor of Osaka City, Hirofumi Yoshimura, Vice Chairman of the Committee and, and Vice Chairman of OCCI Teiichi Nishimura, attended the meeting.

On April 11, the Japanese government approved the bid by Osaka Prefecture to host the 2025 **World Expo, and submitted Osaka’s bid to the Bureau of International Expositions (BIE)** in Paris on April 24. Until the final selection of the host of 2025 Expo in November 2018, full-fledged activities will be promoted to attract the Expo to Osaka, through a concerted effort from the country and region.

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5. REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

April 10 (Mon.) Mr. Y.B Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia

April 13 (Thu.) Mr. Đinh La Thăng, Secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, Vietnam

April 19 (Wed.) Mr. Lim Swee Say, Minister of Manpower, Singapore

April 25 (Tue.) Mr. Zaw Min Win,President of The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Dr.Sint Soe, Rector of Technological University, Mandalay (TUM), Myanmar

Dr. Kay Thi Lwin, Rector of Thanlyin Technological University(TTU), Myanmar

April 28 (Fri.) Mr.T.Armstrong Changsan, Consul General, the Consulate General of India, Osaka-Kobe Japan



◆Information about scheduled events (in Japanese only)

If you wish to receive information about scheduled events, please visit

<http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Jigyousonota/annai.htm>

and submit your subscription request to OCCI Email Station.

Alternatively, please check out information about scheduled seminars and other events on the OCCI's website (in Japanese only).

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

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