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1. OCCI CHAIRMAN OZAKI ATTENDS WORLD EXPO 2017 IN ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN

An opening ceremony for EXPO Astana 2017 was held on the evening of June 9, with world leaders and high-level government officials from various countries, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin, in attendance. OCCI Chairman Ozaki and Osaka Mayor Yoshimura met with some of these people at the ceremony and lobbied for their cooperation in bringing the exposition to Osaka. On June 10, the two attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Japan Pavilion. In the corner of the pavilion is a public relations desk that has been set up to support Osaka's 2025 exposition campaign, where the OCCI chairman and Osaka mayor replied to media questions after observing the pavilion.



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After his trip to Astana, OCCI Chairman Ozaki was quoted as saying, “Having attended the opening ceremony of the 2017 World Exposition, where world leaders gathered, I realized that events like a world exposition have strong power of sending messages to the world.” He also said, “My trip to Kazakhstan as a member of the 2025 Japan International Exposition Invitation Committee, marked its first lobbying campaign overseas.”



“Having teamed up with Osaka Mayor Yoshimura, we were able to disseminate the benefits of Osaka hosting the 2025 exposition to various people in the world. The trip was very meaningful,” OCCI Chairman Ozaki added.

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2. A WELCOME BANQUET WITH VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER PHUC'S, A MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN LOC OF THE VIETNAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AND BUSINESS EXCHANGE MEETINGS WERE HELD BY OCCI



On June 7, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc visited Osaka City where he held talks with the Osaka Governor, the Osaka Mayor and the Chairman of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI). Representing the OCCI at the talks were Chairman Hiroshi Ozaki and Vice Chairmen Teiichi Nishimura and Minoru Furukawa. It was the first time as a Vietnamese Prime Minister to visit Osaka and Kansai region.

Referring to the strong ties Vietnam has developed with Osaka, the Prime Minister said at the talks that he is convinced that the bilateral relationship will be solidified further in the future, and cited the importance for Japan and Vietnam to maintain their strategic partnership. Prime Minister Phuc also request that to have more Kansai-based

companies to start business and invest in Vietnam, and the Vietnamese government will do further to help this. On June 8, delegation members of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), led by President Vu Tien Loc paid a courtesy visit at the OCCI head office and met with top officials of the OCCI, including Vice Chairman Nishimura, and Mr. Hashimoto, Vice Chairman of OCCI International Business Committee. Vice Chairman Nishimura told the delegation that Japan’s investment in Vietnam since the beginning of this year has already surged 10% from the same period of last year and said the OCCI will do its best to promote the exchange between OCCI and VCCI member companies as a means of creating new businesses involving these companies.

On the same day, Officials representing a total of 80 Vietnamese companies held a business promotion meeting at MyDome Osaka, next to OCCI building, attended by about 150 businessmen from Japanese companies, most of them operating in Osaka.



Vietnam chairs this year’s Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. The VCCI is tasked with working out corporate and other demands being taken up at APEC-related conferences, especially the APEC CEO summit in November. As part of such efforts, the VCCI explained the outline of each APEC-related meeting, while asking for the OCCI’s support in disseminating what is to be discussed at the APEC meetings.

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3. BUSINESS EXCHANGE MEETING WITH ACFIC-CBC (ALL-CHINA FEDERATION OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE -BEAUTYCULTURE AND COSMETICS CHAMBER) HELD ON MAY 19



On May 19, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) held an exchange meeting with the Beautyculture and Cosmetics Chamber (CBC), an auxiliary organization operating under the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC). Consisting of more than 2.31 million member companies, the ACFIC is China’s largest private-sector economic organization. The ACFIC has deepened its exchange with the OCCI since 1992. Events that have been held based on the accord included visits by member companies of the respective business organizations to each other’s country. Officials of 21 CBC member companies recently visited Osaka and OCCI.

The first-half part of the exchange meeting was devoted to public relations activities by six beauty and cosmetics-related Japanese companies interested in selling their products in China. The latter half of the meeting, taking the form of free discussion, focused on information sharing between Japanese and Chinese companies, with 19 Japanese companies demonstrating product samples to prospective Chinese users as a way of promoting their products. The meeting provided the participating OCCI member companies with great opportunities to directly meet with Chinese companies for possible business deals.

Some OCCI member companies later expressed their hope that a similar exchange meeting with Chinese companies would be held on a regular basis. Also, on the previous days of the exchange meeting, the Chinese delegates inspected a showroom of Takara Belmont Corporation, a comprehensive beauty and cosmetics company, and the council member company of OCCI.

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4. “PROPOSALS ON GROWTH STRATEGY” HAVE FILED TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT BY OCCI

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) outlined the demands of its member companies in response to the central government’s “Japan Revitalization Strategy 2017”. The OCCI worked out a set of proposals based on the demands and presented the package to

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, top ruling party officials, and relevant government ministries and agencies.

The demands are composed of 16 items, categorized into three major policy principles, in order to accelerate nation's growth potential. The first principle relates to the development of next-generation industries with growth potential through deregulation, and the improvement of business conditions.

The second policy principle is helping efforts of small and medium-sized companies to boost their growth. Measures proposed to support such efforts include active use of IT, development of human resources in the next-generation industries, and securing human resources deemed essential for the future growth of local economies by facilitating smooth business succession to the next generation.

The third policy principle is reinforcing urban infrastructure in the Kansai and Osaka to lead Japanese economy's overall growth. Among the demands is to make Osaka and other major cities covered by a tax incentive zone. Also proposed are the central government's support of Osaka Prefecture's bid to host the 2025 World Exposition, and early opening of the Hokuriku Shinkansen bullet train route, which will eventually extend to Osaka, and financing of the construction of a belt highway being planned in central Osaka as part of an urban revival plan in the region so that it can open at an early time. The OCCI also demanded the government support for the proposed constructing of the Naniwasuji Line, an underground heavy rail line in Osaka.

Those proposals for the third policy principle, reflect the OCCI's strong desire to solidify the business infrastructure in the Kansai region including Osaka, considered

one of the most promising business areas in Japan.

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5. RESULTS OF THE ISSUANCE OF TRADE-RELATED CERTIFICATES

(TRADE-RELATED CERTIFICATES AND PREFERENTIAL CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN) IN FY 2016

Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) issues trade-related certificates, such as certificates of origin and invoices. It also issues preferential certificates of origin to countries and regions based on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) concluded with Japan, as the Osaka Office of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. OCCI summarized the results of issuance of these certificates from April 2016 to March 2017 (FY2016) as shown below. The total number of issued certificates was 160,833, and increased 2.9% compared with last year. Among of them, the number of issued “trade-related certificates” has decreased from last year, “preferential certificates of origin” has increased.

<Results of the issuance of trade-related certificates>

--The number of trade-related certificates issued, mainly certificates of Japanese origin, was 116,618, a decrease of 1.2 points year on year.

--In terms of destination, the issuance of certificates for exports to Oceania increased by 14.4 points, and those to North America, and Asia which comprises a large portion of the total, increased by 12.5 points and 0.4 points respectively.

--In terms of item, the issuance of certificates for foodstuffs increased by 8.9 points. Meanwhile, those for transport equipment, electric machines and precision machines decreased by 19.2 points, 12.6 points and 9.9 points, respectively.

<Results of the issuance of preferential certificates of origin>

--Since more and more companies enhanced their price competitiveness for exports due to the reduction of customs duty and aimed to develop their supply chain capacity, the issuance of preferential certificates of origin continued to show a steady increase. In FY 2016, the number of certificates issued was 44,215, a rise of 15.5 points year on year.

--In terms of destination, exports to Vietnam, and Mexico increased by 33.6 points, and 25.0 points. Also, Japan-Mongolia Partnership has been newly signed in FY2016.

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6. REPORTS ON VIP VISITORS

May 25 (Thu.) Mr. Peter Tordai,
President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Nograd Country,
Hungary

June 7 (Fri.) Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister, Vietnam

June 8 (Fri.) Mr. Vu Tien Loc,
President of Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vietnam

June 9 (Fri.) Mr. Shahriar Alam, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh



OCCI Event Information (Japanese)

To receive information about events provided by OCCI, please register at the Daisho

Mail Station (<http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Jigyou/Sonota/annai.htm>), or visit the event

and seminar information page at our website (in Japanese).

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