

[CONTENTS, SEPTEMBER 2017]

1. VICE CHAIRMAN TORII RECEIVES ORDER OF MERIT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
2. OCCI SENDS PRACTICAL BUSINESS STUDY TOUR TO MYANMAR
3. REPORT ON RECENT SUPPORT FOR JAPANESE COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE OVERSEAS SENIORS MARKET
4. THE 19TH OSAKA BUSINESS NETWORKING CLUB WILL BE HELD ON 22TH SEPTEMBER
5. INVITATION TO THE 2017 JOINT CHAMBER INTERNATIONAL "MEISHI" EXCHANGE TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER. 3
6. REPORT ON VIP VISITORS



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## 1. OCCI VICE CHAIRMAN TORII RECEIVES ORDER OF MERIT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

Vice Chairman Shingo Torii, received the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. The order is conferred by the Italian president, here President Sergio Mattarella, on persons who have contributed to Italy in the fields of science, arts, literature, economics, philanthropic activities, or public service.

At the award ceremony on September 7, Marco Lombardi, Consul General of Italy in Osaka, conferred the Order of Merit and a certificate of merit on Vice Chairman Torii.



He was commended for introducing made-in-Italy wine and food products to Japanese consumers over the years and sending an OCCI mission to Expo 2015, hosted by Milan.

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## 2. OCCI SENDS PRACTICAL BUSINESS STUDY TOUR TO MYANMAR

From July 24 to 28, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) sent a practical business study tour to Yangon, the largest city in Myanmar, for 2 nights and 5 days. The delegation comprised 10 people representing 8 companies in various fields, including trading houses, construction companies, wholesale firms, chemical producers, logistics companies, architectural design firms, telecommunication companies. The delegation



received a briefing from the Yangon office of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) about the political and economic situations in Myanmar. The briefing session was followed by a visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of

Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), the largest business lobby in Myanmar. The OCCI delegation interacted with about 40 local companies. Later in the day, the delegation visited an organization tasked with developing human resources in Myanmar. The delegation members learned about how to secure local workers and foster human resources, both of which could hinder smooth operations by Osaka-based companies interested in starting business in Myanmar.

The following day, the delegation visited the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, which has been developed by a joint venture between the Japanese and Myanmar governments. Less than two years since opening, the economic zone has grown rapidly, with 84 companies now in operation there. The delegation visited factories run by Japanese companies in the economic zone and was briefed by their senior officials about problems Japanese companies may encounter when starting business in Myanmar and the potentials of the Myanmar market. The same day, the delegation also visited a domestically well-known institute of

technology close to the special economic zone. High on the agenda during the discussion with the institute was how to educate and train engineers.

On the final day, the delegation received a briefing from a company, in charge of supporting Japanese companies’ business launch in Myanmar, about residential conditions and telecommunications situations. Delegation members also learned about life-related conditions in Myanmar, including a first-hand look at apartment houses. The inspection provided the OCCI delegation with an important opportunity to learn about life-related conditions in Myanmar.

This latest mission to Myanmar included many inspections and visits deemed instrumental in helping Japanese companies interested in launching business in Myanmar. One participant in the mission was quoted as saying, “it was short but full of useful events. Themes taken up during the trip were very easy to understand. The mission will be useful in the future.” Another participant said, “I was able to learn the current situation of Myanmar, which would be unobtainable in Japan.” The OCCI will send a similar mission to Myanmar in January next year, continuing its support for Japanese companies interested in starting business in Myanmar.

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**3. REPORT ON RECENT SUPPORT FOR JAPANESE COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE OVERSEAS SENIORS MARKET**

Japan is the fastest aging country among major countries, with people aged 65 or older accounting for 27.5% of its total population--far larger than the 22.7% in Italy and 21.4% in Germany. As an advanced country facing such demographic issues, Japan is offering meticulously elaborate products and services in the senior care market. This year, OCCI is continuing its support for overseas operations of those Japanese companies engaging in seniors business.

On July 27, for example, the OCCI held a trade fair in Shanghai jointly with the Osaka city government and others under the themes of environment, senior care and healthcare businesses. Since the society’s aging has become a serious issue in China, the fair was very well attended, drawing 34 companies from China. Products and services on display were those presented by 9 Japanese companies, which



received a total of 107 business inquiries, leading to business negotiations between both sides. The trade fair was received well by the Japanese companies. An official from a participating Japanese firm was quoted as saying, “We were able to interact with Chinese companies in various business fields.” Another Japanese official said, “Many of the Chinese companies that filed inquiries with us expressed hope that they will continue business negotiations.”

On September 11, the OCCI sponsored a study session on the seniors market. Mr. Katsuyuki Tanaka of Deloitte Tohmatsu Financial Advisory LLC briefed the session, held in Osaka, on a range of topics including changes in the business environment surrounding the seniors market in Japan and overseas, issues to be addressed by Japanese companies planning to enter the overseas market, and the feasibility of launching overseas operations by companies in different industries. Another presenter at the case study session was Tatsuki Masumoto, president of Seahonence Inc., which inaugurated a welfare bed rental business in June through a joint venture with a Chinese concern---the first of its kind in China.

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**4. THE 19TH OSAKA BUSINESS NETWORKING CLUB WILL BE HELD ON 22TH SEPTEMBER**

The Osaka Business Networking Club will come again this year. This event is aimed to facilitate networking among companies which have been investing in Osaka and to provide them with further opportunities for business expansion.

With Japan’s bid to bring the World Exposition 2025 to Osaka picking up pace recently, O-BIC (Osaka Business and Investment Center, secretariat of Osaka Business Networking Club) will invite Mr. Marco Lombardi, Consul General of Italy in Osaka, as our guest lecturer, to talk about the links between world expositions and the economy, and their impact and benefits on society as a whole, based on success stories from the Expo Milano 2015. The business networking meeting will also be on the program so that you can try to share ideas with attendees from many companies, assisting you to make connections in Osaka.

- ◆DATE & TIME: Friday, 22nd September 2017, 2:00pm-5:00pm
- ◆VENUE: Osaka Prefectural Government Sakishima Building
- ◆FEE: Free
- ◆Organizer: Osaka Prefecture, The City of Osaka(IBPC Osaka), OCCI, and JETRO Osaka

Please see the link below to join and get more information!

<https://o-bic.net/upload/pdf/file00000522.pdf>

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**5.INVITATION TO THE 2017 JOINT CHAMBER INTERNATIONAL "MEISHI" EXCHANGE TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER. 3**

Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan-Kansai Chapter (AC CJ) will hold the “2017 JOINT CHAMBER INTERNATIONAL MEISHI (Business cards) EXCHANGE” on October 3 at ANA Crowne Plaza Osaka.

Now in its 8th year, about 300 participants from the international and local business Community are expected to attend this popular event which is a fantastic way To meet key business people and explore new market opportunities in Kansai and Overseas.

The Kansai Consular Corps, as well as the Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC), will facilitate networking and provide market information to participants. Leaders from international and local business chambers will offer their expertise on current market conditions and potential business strategies. In addition to growing their business networks, participants can also look forward to the cocktail reception followed by a raffle for a variety of prizes. All proceeds from the raffle will go towards charity. We look forward to all your entries.

- ◆DATE & TIME: Tuesday, October 3rd, 2017 18:30~ 21:00
- ◆VENUE: Banquet room "Manyo", 3rd Floor, ANA Crowne Plaza Osaka

Please see the link below to join and get more information!

<http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/seminar/201708/D11171003011.html>

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## 6. REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

- August 9 (Wed.) Dr. Ruslan Esin,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Republic of Belarus
- September 12 (Tue.) Ms. Karen Kelly, Consul General of United States of America
- September 12 (Tue.) Mr. Chuan Poh LIM, Chairman of A\*STAR  
(Agency for Science, Technology and Research), Singapore
- September 13 (Wed.) Ms. Margaret Fong, Executive Director of HKTDC  
(Hong Kong Trade Development Council), Hong Kong



Information about scheduled events (in Japanese only):

If you wish to receive information about scheduled events, please visit  
<http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Jigyuu/Sonota/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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