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# E-MAIL MAGAZINE

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## 1. NEW OCCI MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER: CHAIRMAN OZAKI’S SECOND TERM BEGINS



On November 1, 2017, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) held the first Extraordinary General Assembly of Councilors, which reelected Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. Chairman Hiroshi Ozaki as OCCI Chairman. After his reelection, Chairman Ozaki said in his address that he would devote his efforts to retaining councilors’ trust. The assembly then elected five Vice Chairmen: Teiichi Nishimura, Chairman of Sakura Color Products Corp.; Minoru Furukawa, Senior Corporate Advisor Director to Hitachi Zosen Corp.; Isao Teshirogi, President and CEO of Shionogi & Co., Ltd.; Shingo Torii, Vice Chairman of the Board and Representative Director of Suntory Holdings Ltd.; and



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Tetsuya Kobayashi, Chairman of Kintetsu Group Holdings Co., Ltd. The assembly also elected two new Vice Chairmen: Junzo Tateno, President of Union Corp.; and Kazuhiro Higashi, Chairman of the Board, President and Representative Director of Resona Bank, Ltd. In addition, OCCI President Tsutomu Miyagi was reappointed. These executives serve a three-year term, until the end of October 2020. Moreover, the assembly deliberated on forming committees, and approved the establishment of Industry 4.0 Promotional Committee, and 14 other Special Committees, including the International Business Committee.

Chairman Ozaki expressed his aspirations in his address, stating that he would aim for OCCI to pioneer a bright future for Osaka by energetically putting into action its three-year medium-term plan “Tanto” Business Osaka (Turn to Osaka for more flourishing), running active campaigns to invite the 2025 Japan World Expo, and other activities.

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## 2.2017 KANSAI INTERNATIONAL MEISHI EXCHANGE HELD

The OCCI held the 8th Kansai International Meishi (Business card) Exchange on October 3. This is Kansai's largest international exchange meeting with the participation of more than 230 people.



This event was hosted by OCCI, and American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (Kansai Branch). The Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Japan-Kansai Chapter, and the Indian Chamber of Commerce-Japan also participated in this event as a co-host.

This year's “Meishi Exchange” has been jointly held by 20 organizations, which is our largest number ever. Economic organizations from Israel, UK, Netherlands, Canada, Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Germany, Brazil, and France, as well as the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Osaka, and Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) cooperated with the event. In addition, Austrian Business Council and the Canadian and Swedish Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Japan also cooperated this year as new supporters. On the day, US Consul General Ms. Karen Kelley, Australian Consul-General Mr. David Lawson and Canadian Consul Mr. Chenier La Salle has participated as representatives of the government bodies.

At the beginning of the event, OCCI Vice Chairman Mr. Nishimura and ACCJ Kansai Vice President

Mr.Zurcher gave the opening addresses. Mr. Nishimura asked for support from the participants in the aim to build a momentum in Osaka, as a candidate city for the World Expo 2025 and join the EXPO Promotion Committee as supporting members. Then, a toast was proposed by U.S. Consul General Ms. Karen Kelley.

The two-and-a half-hour long exchange event was a great success, with participants such as international business people, and representatives from foreign consular offices and Kansai-based companies. During the event, a raffle was also held. All the proceeds (a total of 147,500 yen) from the lottery has been donated to the Food Bank Kansai that provides meals to the families of mother and child who need to receive our support. This event is planned to be held annually.

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### **3.RESULTS OF THE 67TH BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC TREND SURVEY (DISCLOSED IN SEPTEMBER 2017)**

The results of the Business and Economic Trend Survey were disclosed. This quarterly survey is conducted jointly by the OCCI and the Kansai Economic Federation to grasp the business sentiments of member companies and the status of their corporate management. For the 67th survey, 1,627 companies were sent a questionnaire from mid-August to early September, with responses from 419 companies (valid response rate: 25.8%).

The survey results show that the 2017 July-September business sentiment index (BSI: “the percentage of companies seeing business as improving” minus “the percentage that of declining) concerning “domestic business in general” is 18.1, a positive figure for four consecutive quarters, showing improvement in member companies’ general business sentiments. The BSI concerning responding “each companies’ own business” conditions during the same quarter is 8.9, a positive figure for four consecutive quarters for the first time since April-June 2013 quarter to January-March 2014 quarter. However, comparing size-based groups of companies reveals that, while the BSI for large companies concerning their own business conditions has increased in a positive figure (from 5.9 for the previous quarter to 18.4 this quarter), SME (Small and Medium Sized) companies has not risen (from 4.2 to 0.9), showing business weakness in this group.

Next, asked about their concerns for the second half of FY2017, more than half of the respondents (51.6%) mentioned “Uncertainty of domestic and international political conditions,” followed by “Sluggishness of the domestic market and intensifying competition there” (48.7%) and “Ensuring of labor

force due to the tight labor market” (42.7%).

Finally, to the question of which PM Abe administration policies they saw as promising, the largest percentage of respondents (59.7%) answered “Achievement of economic growth through promotion of the Growth Strategy.” Meanwhile, asked what economic measures they thought the reshuffled Abe cabinet should take, the majority of respondents answered “Assistance in enhancing productivity” (47.5%) and “Employment and labor measures” (46.3%), both necessary for addressing labor shortage.

The election for the members of the House of Representatives was held in November, and under the Victory of the Liberal Democratic Party, Shinzo Abe, who participated APEC Summit held in Da Nang, Viet Nam, has been re-elected as Prime Minister.

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#### 4. SMALL-LOT IMPORT BUSINESS SEMINAR HELD

On October 24, 2017, the OCCI co-organized a “Small-lot Import Business Seminar” with the Manufactured Imports and Investment Promotion Organization (MIPRO). The seminar attracted 95 applications for attendance, far exceeding the prescribed number of attendees. People from enterprises in a wide variety of industries, mainly self-employed business owners, attentively listened to the lectures.



In view of the large-scale economic partnership agreements set to go into effect, including the Japan-EU EPA and the TPP 11, import business procedures have recently drawn the attention of those expecting that the import of overseas products will benefit them in terms of tariffs.

The OCCI will continue to make efforts to promote import businesses, pay attention to discovering promising overseas products that have not yet entered the Japanese market.

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## 5.2ND JAPAN-CHINA FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS' MEETING

On October 19, 2017, the OCCI Women's Assembly held the Japan-China Female Entrepreneurs' Meeting with the participation of 15 members of the mission to Japan from the ZHIMI Women entrepreneurs' organization in China.



The OCCI Women's Assembly is a group of business women, founded in 1958. At the meeting, Honorary Chair Kimiko Ozaki, who is 95 years old this year, gave a lecture on corporate management and human growth, looking back on her own career. After that, many questions were given by the Chinese attendees, leading to an active exchange of opinions.

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## 6. REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

November 1 (Wed) Mr. Shashi Bhusan Behera, Minister of Finance&Excise,  
The Government of Odisha State, India

November 13 (Mon) Mr. Wenqing Leng, Vice Mayor of the People's Government of  
Anqiu Shandong, The People's Republic of China



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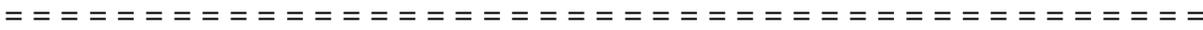
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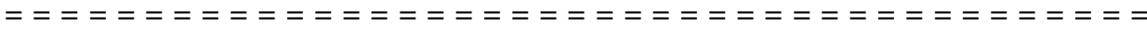
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