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## 1. CHAIRMAN OZAKI ATTENDS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES EXPOSITIONS



On November 15, 2017, at the general assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) held at the OECD conference center in Paris, France, Hiroshi Ozaki, chairman of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ichiro Matsui, governor of Osaka Prefecture; Hirofumi Yoshimura, mayor of Osaka City; and other representatives including Japanese government officials, promoted the Kansai region including Osaka as the most ideal venue for Expo 2025. The venue for the Expo will be decided in November next year by a vote of the 170 member



states of the BIE. With only two more chances remaining until the vote to give presentations to the BIE general assembly, the attendance of the above members at this one was extremely important for promoting the Kansai region including Osaka.

In addition to Japan, the nations of France, Russia and Azerbaijan have also submitted bids for candidature to host the Expo. At the general assembly, each candidate country presented the benefits their countries can offer.

In her presentation, Ms. Chieko Fujita, a representative of Japan from Nippon Poly-Glu, described a number of issues concerning the natural environment, which she witnessed while conducting water-purification business matters in developing countries. Ms. Fujita then introduced solutions that Japan can offer with its technologies, demonstrating that if selected as the venue for the Expo the country would be better able to contribute to facilitating achievement of the UN's sustainable development goals. In his presentation, Mr. Joachim Rutayisire from Rwanda, who learned about the Kansai region's cutting-edge technologies while studying in Japan, described the special features of the Kansai region including Osaka and stressed the importance of collaborating with Japan.



A video message from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was also shown as one of Japan's presentations, in which the prime minister described the measures being instituted by his cabinet under his Society 5.0 vision to use the country's advanced technologies to help resolve current global issues.

Taking the opportunity of this visit to France, Chairman Ozaki met with government representatives from the BIE member states, actively promoting the Kansai region including Osaka as the most ideal venue for the Expo.

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## 2. AN ECONOMIC DELEGATION TEAM SENT TO SINGAPORE & VIETNAM

The OCCI sent an observation team to Singapore and Vietnam (i.e. Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City) from November 20th to 25th. Team members included Hiroshi Ozaki and Teiichi Nishimura, OCCI chairman and vice chairman respectively; Masashi Hashimoto, chairman of the OCCI International Business Committee;



and Executive councilor Hidetaka Yoshikawa; totaling 31 members.

In Hanoi, members met with high officials including Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Vu Tien Loc, the chairman of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They discussed possibilities of future economic collaboration between two regions. The team also made visits to a new factory of Osaka company, Sakura Color Products Corp, Takashimaya Department store in Ho Chi Minh City, and visited the leading telecommunication company FPT in Hanoi.

In Singapore, with the help of the country's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), the team observed the next generation experimental test lab (ARTC: Advanced Remanufacturing and Technology Centre), and concluded a new MOU with the Singapore Manufacturing Federation.

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### 3. OCCI HAD A COURTESY VISIT FROM ISRAELI MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY



On November 27th, Chairman Ozaki and Executive councilor Masao Goto (Managing Executive Officer at Sojitz Corporation), welcomed a courtesy visit from a team of Israeli economic sector representatives, which foremost included Eli Cohen, the Israeli Minister of Economy and Industry, and Yaffa Ben-Ari, the new ambassador of the Israeli Embassy in Japan. Together they discussed possibilities for economic cooperation between Israel and the Kansai region including Osaka. Minister Cohen visited Osaka to renew the

memorandum of cooperation (MOC) with Israel and the Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry and to also take, on the same day, the podium at the Israel-Kansai Business Forum. At the courtesy visit, the minister stated, “Israel and Japan are not rivals. They are, instead, partners capable of complementing one another with Israel’s innovation and Japan’s manufacturing technology.” In response, Chairman Ozaki said, “the OCCI is currently putting effort into innovative projects in the Kansai region’s life sciences, IoT, and drone industries. From here on, the Kansai region will collaborate with the Israeli economic sector to help Israeli and Japanese small- and medium-size enterprises foster their business relationships.” In addition, the chairman requested Israel’s support for the Osaka, Kansai-Osaka in promoting itself as the most ideal venue for Expo 2025.

Following the courtesy visit, representatives of the OCCI and JETRO held a business meeting with Mr. Zeev Weiss, Chairman of the Israel Japan Chamber of Commerce and Friendship Association, and Mr. Roee

Cohen, president of the Israel Chamber of Independent Organizations and Businesses (LAHAV) and discussed possibilities for enhancing Israel-Japan cooperation.

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#### **4. BRIEFING ON KANSAI/JAPAN TECH BOOTHS SET UP AT THE 2017 FUEL CELL SEMINAR & ENERGY EXPOSITION**

To help Japanese companies in Kansai enter the global fuel cell market, from November 7 to 9, in collaboration with the Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, OCCI set up “Kansai/JAPAN TECH” booths at the “2017 Fuel Cell Seminar & Energy Exposition” held in Long Beach, California, USA. Booths were set up for the OCCI to promote the following four companies in the Kansai region in collaboration with company representatives: Samtech, New Cosmos Electric, Takaishi Industry, and Fujikin.

The exposition was attended by about 1000 guests representing companies in the hydrogen and energy sectors around the world. With its “Kansai/JAPAN TECH” booths, the OCCI promoted the Kansai region’s supply chain of companies in Kansai’s hydrogen and energy sectors and the advanced technologies of the above four companies to guest representatives of companies in the U.S., where the markets for hydrogen fueling infrastructure and fuel cells, such as fuel-cell-powered forklifts, buses, and trucks to spare fuel cells, are expected to grow rapidly. With the success of these promotional booths, the OCCI opened more doors for Japanese companies in the Kansai region to markets in the U.S. and other countries.



During the event, the representatives from Kansai participated in a Supply Chain Exchange event hosted by the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition and engaged in 18 business negotiations with western companies in the hydrogen and energy sectors. Next year, in Germany, the OCCI will hold a matchmaking event in February for Japanese and German companies in the hydrogen sector aiming to enhance cooperation with industrial clusters and companies in Europe.

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## 5. OCCI HELD SEMINARS FOR CHILE, CZECH, AND SLOVAKIA ON DECEMBER 1

On December 1, a Business Seminar for Chile and an Investment Seminar for Czech and Slovakia were held in the OCCI building. The Seminar for Chile was held in co-sponsorship with the JETRO

Osaka, and Mr. Vicente Pinto, Investment Commissioner of Invest Chile (Foreign Investment Promotion Agency) of Asia, introduced the latest attractions for investment in Chile. It welcomed approx. 40 participants from various industries, all of whom intently listened to the lectures, and was followed by a Chilean wine-tasting session. This year, which marked the 120th anniversary of Japan-Chile diplomatic relations, saw more interactions taking place between the two countries in various areas, foremost of which has been the



economic sector. In September, the OCCI sent an economic delegation to Chile; and in October, the Tokyo Office of the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (Invest Chile) was established. The OCCI will continue helping Japanese companies in Chile expand their businesses to other regions of South America. Before the Investment Seminar

Czech and Slovakia, Vice chairman Furukawa met with Thomas Dub, ambassador of the Czech Republic in Japan, and also with Marian Tomasik, ambassador of the Republic of Slovak in Japan. The seminar comprised a briefing on the automobile industry and future innovations in Central Europe and a panel discussion, organized by representatives of CzechInvest, SARIO (Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency), and overseas offices of Japanese companies, welcoming about 40 participants primarily from the machinery manufacturing sector.

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## 6. REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

11/27 Mr. Eli Cohen, Minister of Economy and Industry

11/27 Ms. Yaffa Ben-Ari, Ambassador of Israel to Japan

12/1 Mr. Tomas Dub, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of the Czech Republic in Japan

12/1 Mr. Marian Tomasik Ambassador Extraordinary  
and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic

