

E-MAIL MAGAZINE

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1. VICE CHAIRMAN MINORU FURUKAWA OF OCCI PARTICIPATED IN THE JAPAN-AFRICA PUBLIC-PRIVATE ECONOMIC FORUM IN JOHANNESBURG.

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) dispatched Vice Chairman Minoru Furukawa to the Japan-Africa Public-Private Economic Forum held in Johannesburg, South Africa on May 3 and 4. Together with the Mayor of Osaka City, Mr. Hirofumi Yoshimura and Mr. Furukawa presented the theme and concept of the Osaka Kansai Japan Expo that is aimed at hosting in 2025 and then requested 28 government officials from 42 countries in Africa who participated in the Forum of their support. At the Forum, Mayor Yoshimura himself pitched his philosophy for the Expo, which is to realize a high quality and sustainable society, as well as the attractiveness of the metropolitan city of Osaka. At the Forum, President Ramaphosa of the host country South Africa gave a speech, and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, Mr. Hiroshige Seko and the Minister



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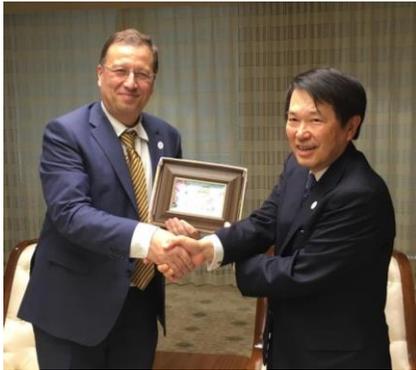
of Trade and Industry of South Africa, Mr. Davies visited the PR booth for the Osaka Kansai Japan Expo. Executives of more than 100 Japanese companies and 400 African companies attended the Forum. It registered a total of 1,800 participants for the two-day event.



The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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2. THE ITALIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN OSAKA MAKES COURTESY VISIT TO CHAIRMAN OZAKI



On April 24, Consul General Mr. Luigi Diodati of the Italian Consulate General in Osaka made a courtesy visit to Chairman Hiroshi Ozaki of OCCI to give greetings for his new appointment. Mr. Luigi Diodati said “Japan and Italy have a very good relationship not only in business such as wine, food and sports, but also in culture and human exchange. In addition, the people of Kansai and Italy share a common characteristic that we enjoy life and food. Prior to the Rugby World Cup

2019 in Japan next year, a trial match between the Japanese and Italian national teams will be held in Kobe this June. Through these events, we hope to continue in expanding exchange programs.” In response, Chairman Hiroshi Ozaki said “We wish to request kind support from Italy for achieving the Osaka Kansai Japan Expo 2025. Now I am looking forward to the Italian rugby national team playing in Osaka next year. We wish to continue working with the Consulate General of Italy to strengthen our cooperation in economic, cultural and sport areas between our 2 countries. We also wish to deepen our encouragement in the fields such as fashion.”

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3. OSAKA BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT CENTER (O-BIC) ACHIEVEMENTS IN FY2017

The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC, Secretariat: International Division of OCCI), which was established in a joint initiative with the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), the Osaka Prefectural Government, and the Osaka City Government, announced its achievements of foreign investment in Osaka for FY 2017. It recorded the second highest in history with a total number of 42 foreign investment cases attracted due to the popularity of Japanese products and the increasing attractiveness of the Japanese market in Asia. In the last 4 years during which a remarkable inbound effect has been seen, the number of foreign investment cases in the Osaka region has totaled to 164, reaching the total investment amount of approx. 1.6 billion yen. In addition, 506 investment cases have been attracted in the last 17 years since the establishment of O-BIC.

The breakdown by country/region shows that the top three are China (25 cases), South Korea (6 cases) and Taiwan (3 cases). Investment cases by Asian countries totaled to 39 cases, accounting for 90% of the total cases. This significantly shows a close economic relationship between Osaka and Asia. Moreover, the first Russian project for O-BIC was marked with a showroom, which a Russian building materials manufacturer

opened in Osaka. As characteristics of investment cases for Osaka, i) inbound tourism-related investments have been widely strong in Asia, ii) the sustained promotion activities resulted in success, and iii) a good "connection" with people in Osaka is a deciding factor for inward FDI.

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4. LAUNCH OF OPEN INNOVATION HUB AT THE UMEDA CAMPUS OF THE OSAKA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

On April 23, 2018, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) launched an urban-style open innovation hub "Xport" (pronounced as Cross Port) in collaboration with the Osaka Institute of Technology. It aims to support open innovation for various actors such as large, medium and small-sized enterprises, start-ups, and students, etc.



A symposium commemorating the launch of Xport was held, having as many as 304 participants on the launch day. At the symposium, Ms. Tamara Carleton, a global leader in creating innovation and the lead author of "Foresight & Innovation", who is a Visiting Professor at the Osaka Institute of Technology and an instructor at Stanford University, gave a keynote lecture about building an open innovation ecosystem and the way to "Design thinking." And then, the panelists, including representatives of corporations and organizations participating in Xport, discussed creating innovation in Osaka. A panelist from Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd., presented that they would promote problem solving at Xport, dealing with subjects such as "houses that support a new life design (e-work design, etc.)" and "a future digital construction industry (work saving at construction sites etc.)."

The "Xport" is named with a wish that it will become a place to produce innovative ideas and solutions, and creative human resources, by having meetings among people at this hub and creating infinite possibilities. Through open innovation, various actors will engage in problem solving, matching support for new business creation, and cultivation of an industrial workforce, as well as carry out collaboration programs with advanced clusters in North America and China.

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5. REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

5/11 Mr. Valery Malashko, Minister of Health of the Republic of Belarus

5/21 Ms. Gabriela Mihaela Voicila, Secretary of State for Foreign Trade,
Ministry for Business Environment, Commerce and Entrepreneurship - Romania



O-BIC as one-stop service center for creating a foothold in Osaka

<http://o-bic.net/>

Osaka Business & Investment Center (O-BIC), established in 2001, is operated through the joint efforts of the Osaka Prefectural Government, Osaka City Government, and Osaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

As your one-stop service center for business investing, O-BIC provides a comprehensive yet detailed support system. International companies, foreign government offices and economic organizations as well as foreign-capitalized companies located in Japan are welcome to use the center to obtain accurate information and essential advice for creating a foothold in Osaka.

For further information, please contact: o-bic@osaka.cci.or.jp



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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