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## 1. G20 SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN OSAKA IN 2019

The G20 Summit will be held in Osaka on June 28 and 29, 2019. Full-scale preparations began last month after the baton was passed from Argentina, this year's host country, to Japan. In Osaka, the Kansai Promotion Council for the 2019 G20 Osaka Summit (Chairman: Mr. Ichiro Matsui, the Governor of Osaka prefecture) has already been established, with various local hospitality programs being planned to coincide with the conferences and events sponsored by the Japanese government. G20 ministerial meetings for 2019 will be held in eight cities throughout Japan, starting with the agriculture ministers' meeting in May (venue: Niigata City).

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## 2. KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SEES RECORD PASSENGERS IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER CARGO VOLUME RISES

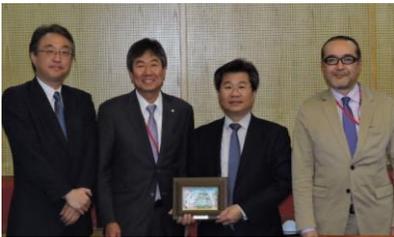
The number of passengers at Kansai International Airport fell temporarily after Typhoon No. 21 hit the region in September, but it is recovering now. The number of passengers reached 2.45 million in October, an increase of 3% from a year earlier, setting a record for the month of October. The number of departures and arrivals reached 16420, also a record high, as new routes and flights were added. China and Hawaii were among

the most popular international routes. A total of 1.29 million foreign nationals utilized the airport's international routes, an increase of 1%.

Meanwhile, the cargo volume in November was 77,957 tons, up 1.1% from the same month last year, according to Osaka Customs. The loading amount was 38,110 tons, up 6.8%, while the unloading amount was 39,847 tons, down 3.9%.

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### 3. ECONOMIC DELEGATION VISITS NORTHERN AND CENTRAL VIETNAM



The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and the Osaka headquarters of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) sent an economic delegation to Vietnam from Nov. 26 until Dec. 1. The delegation was headed jointly by Mr. Minoru Tomita, the chairman of the OCCI's

International Committee and an executive officer of Marubeni and the general manager of the company's Osaka branch, and Mr. Ichiro Sone, the director general of JETRO's Osaka headquarters. The delegation, which had 24 members from 20 companies in diverse fields, such as manufacturing, education, trading, and consulting, visited three cities—Hanoi, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City—to study the business environment, activities of foreign companies, management challenges, and business opportunities.

Last year, Vietnam received \$9.1 billion in direct investments from Japan (25.4% of the total), making Japan the biggest investor (as a nation/region) in the country for the first time in four years. Japan also ranked second in terms of the cumulative amount of authorized investments. Vietnam is popular among ASEAN nations as an investment destination and as a location to establish overseas operations. Many OCCI member companies have also established operations there. The number of companies registered as members of the local Japanese chambers of commerce (Hanoi, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City) is well over 1,700.

The Vietnamese government is eager to attract foreign investments. The OCCI will continue to sponsor related seminars and study sessions to support Osaka-based companies' activities in Vietnam and other ASEAN nations.

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#### 4. FOLLOW-UP ON HYDROGEN AND FUEL-CELL BUSINESS TALKS; PARTICIPATION IN TVCC JAPAN ROUND TABLE

The OCCI, in cooperation with the Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, has been supporting the efforts of hydrogen and fuel-cell companies in the Osaka-Kansai area to establish sales channels in the U.S. and Europe from fiscal 2016 until 2018. As a part of this initiative, the OCCI visited companies and government



agencies in German cities of Stuttgart and D?sseldorf from Nov. 26 until 28 to seek collaboration opportunities and to provide hands-on support for major companies in Osaka, seeking to establish sales channels in Europe.

From Nov. 29 until 30, OCCI executives visited an industry-government-academia organization attached to the University of Oxford in the U.K., as well as government-affiliated institutions in the nation. The delegation also participated in a Japan roundtable and an annual meeting of the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce (TVCC), with which the OCCI has signed an MOU. At the Japan roundtable, a letter was signed by Mr. Minoru Furukawa, OCCI Vice Chairman, and read by OCCI secretariat in response to the letter by Mr. Paul Britton, CEO of the TVCC, to express his gratitude for the group's support for the OCCI's bid to host the EXPO 2025.

In the letter, Mr. Furukawa also thanked the TVCC for asking British Airways to resume direct flights to Kansai and for establishing the Japan Desk. Mr. Furukawa at the same time urged TVCC members to visit Osaka next fiscal year for a World Rugby Cup England match and bring along AI startup executives.

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#### 5. THE RESULTS OF THE 71ST MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC SURVEY

The OCCI and the Kansai Economic Federation have released the latest results of a joint management and

economic survey conducted every quarter regarding member companies' economic assessments and business conditions. The survey was taken from mid-August until early September among 1,629 companies, of which 431 provided valid responses (with a response rate of 26.5%).

The business survey index, or SBI, for the economy (obtained by subtracting the number of companies saying that the economy was deteriorating from the number of companies saying that the economy was improving) was 12.3 for the July-September period of 2018. This was the first time in 11 years and a half that the figure increased for eight quarters in a row. SBI for business conditions for the same period was 5.9, marking the first time ever that the index showed an increase for eight straight quarters. Among large companies, the index rose for the first time in two quarters. The figure for small- and medium-sized enterprises was 5.9, the first-ever sixth-consecutive increase since the survey began.

Regarding the hiring of elderly people (65 or older), female workers, and foreigners for the past two years, the most common responses were that the ratio of elderly workers was little changed (42.0%), that the ratio of female workers was little changed (50.6%), and that no foreign workers were hired (48.5%).

When asked what concerns they had with respect to hiring foreign workers, about 80% (79.1%) cited communication problems due to language barriers. Others cited concerns that foreign workers may not be able to adapt to the Japanese work environment (48.7%), increased administrative paperwork, such as that on labor management (27.1%), and the necessity to consider foreign workers' religious practices (26.0%).

With respect to expectations for foreign workers, the most common response was that foreign workers would help ease labor shortages (61.0%). This was followed by responses saying that foreign workers would contribute to globalization, such as overseas business operations (36.0%), and that foreigners were excellent human resources (35.5%).



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



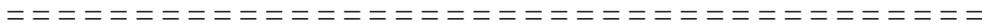
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