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1. MADE-IN-JAPAN PRODUCT OVERSEAS MARKET EXPANSION FAIR: INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS TALKS WITH BUYERS FROM EUROPE (17TH SESSION ON FEB. 27) AND FROM THAILAND AND SINGAPORE (18TH SESSION ON MAR. 17-18) TO BE HELD

OCCI has held annual Made-in-Japan Product Overseas Market Expansion Fairs (individual business talks) as business matching events with the attendance of overseas buyers invited to Osaka, in order to provide Osaka-based companies with opportunities to promote their made-in-Japan products to overseas markets.

On Thursday, February 27, buyers invited from five European companies (two in the UK, one in Germany, and two in Italy) will be present at the session for the first time in the Fair's history. They are interested in buying mainly food products, such as sake and Japanese teas. Since the EU-Japan Economic Partnership

Agreement (EPA) signed in February last year abolished tariffs on sake and Japanese tea, OCCI helps member companies dealing with these products expand exports to Europe.

On March 17 and 18, buyers invited from a total of eight Asian companies (five in Thailand and three in



Singapore) will attend the session. Since Japanese food is especially popular in these two countries, they want to buy frozen foods, luxury foods including brand meats, health foods, and snacks produced in Japan.

We are calling for participation of companies that aim to export their products to these countries. In addition, we look forward to member companies introducing to us overseas companies that are interested in buying Japanese products, if any.

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2. PROVISION OF MAFF'S FOOD-RELATED CERTIFICATE OF PRODUCTION PLACE, ETC., AT OCCI

OCCI has opened a window for providing the Certificate of Production Place, Certification of the Safety Level of the Radiation and other certificates issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) for member companies during the limited period that will end at the end of February 2020. In response to requests from exporters who want the window to continue operating, however, OCCI will continue providing those export certificates for an administrative fee (330 yen including tax) from March 1 onward. For application for export certificates or detailed information, contact MAFF (Tel.: +81-3-6744-2061). For inquiries about the window for certificate provision, contact the OCCI International Division (Tel.: +81-6-6944-6411).

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3. CEREMONY FOR “MIMOSA DAY” TO BE HELD ON MARCH 6

From March 2 to 6, the OCCI will set up a “Mimosa Day” PR booth in the lobby on the first floor of OCCI building in collaboration with the Associazione Culturale tra Giappone e Italia (Cultural Association between Japan and Italy) and the Consulate-General of Italy.

From 12:10 to 13:00 on March 6, a Mimosa Bouquet Presentation Ceremony will be held in the presence of Mr. Luigi Diodati, Italian Consul-General in Osaka. During the ceremony, mimosa bouquets will be presented to 100 female visitors.

This event is aimed at raising awareness among people in Osaka of the Italian custom of presenting mimosa bouquets from men to women on “Mimosa Day” around this period, inspired by International Women’s

Day designated March 8 by the United Nations.

OCCI has celebrated this event annually, and this year's event marks its sixth year. We look forward to many people attending the event. Admission is free.

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4. RESULTS OF THE 75TH AND 76TH BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC TREND SURVEYS

OCCI and the Kansai Economic Federation (Kankeiren) jointly conduct a Business and Economic Trend Survey every quarter to grasp member companies' economic assessments and the realities of corporate management. The results of the two latest surveys have been announced. The 75th survey was conducted in mid- to late August 2019 by distributing a questionnaire to 1,613 companies, 371 of which answered the questionnaire (valid response rate: 23.0%). The 76th survey was conducted mid- to late November 2019 by distributing a questionnaire to 1,610 companies, 365 of which responded to the questionnaire (valid response rate: 22.7%).

The 75th survey reveals that the Business Sentiment Index (BSI) value (= [the percentage points of companies recognizing that the business was growing] - [the percentage points of companies recognizing that the business was declining]) on domestic business in general for the period of July to September 2019 was -15.4, decreasing for three consecutive periods. Meanwhile, the BSI value on member companies' own business for the same period was 3.0, turning positive for the first time in two periods.

Next, to the question about the influence of the Japanese government's new measure to manage exports to South Korea on their business, the highest percentage (74.7%) of respondents answered, "There is little influence," while only 12.9% of respondents answered that there was adverse influence (combined total of respondents answering "There is serious adverse influence" [1.3%] and "There is adverse influence to some extent" [11.6%]).

The 76th survey shows that the BSI value on domestic business in general for the period of October to

December 2019 was 27.9, the fourth consecutive period of decline. The BSI value on member companies' own business for the same period was 28.9, turning downward for the first time in two periods, after the period of April to June 2019.

The survey also questioned respondents about their business environment in 2019. Asked about factors that had positive impacts on their business results, the highest percentage (34.2%) of respondents answered "domestic demand." On the other hand, among respondents' answers to the question of which factors had negative impacts on their business results, the most common answers were "overseas demand" and "labor shortage," both of which were chosen by 18.1% of respondents. Analyzing the answers to the latter question by industry, the highest percentage (29.2%) of manufacturers answered "overseas demand," followed by "material cost and logistics cost" (23.6%). Meanwhile, the most common answer among non-manufacturers was "labor shortage" (26.2%), surpassing "overseas demand" (10.9%).

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5. VIP REPORTS (2019/12/28~2020/2/20)

1/23 MR. JOTA YAMAMOTO, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN,

Ambassador in charge of Kansai,

2/13 H. E. Mr. J?ri Ratas, Prime Minister, Republic of Estonia

Mr. V?ino Reinart, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to Japan

Mrs. Mailis Reps, Minister of Education and Research (MER), Republic of Estonia



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Information about scheduled events (in Japanese only):

If you wish to receive information about scheduled events, please visit

<http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/mailstation/>

and submit your subscription request to OCCCI Email Station. Alternatively, please check out information about scheduled seminars and other events on the OCCCI's website (in Japanese only).

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Chief Editor : Keisuke MATSUMOTO, Director of International Division, OCCCI

Mailed by : Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, International Division

Address : 2-8 Hommachi-bashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, Japan 540-0029

Tel : +81-(0)6-6944-6400

Fax : +81-(0)6-6944-6293

Contact Persons : Yumiko NAGOSHI (Ms.), Kana TATEBAYASHI (Ms.)

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