

[CONTENTS, MARCH,,
2020]

1. RESULTS OF AN URGENT
SURVEY ON CORPORATE
MEASURES AGAINST THE NEW

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE
(COVID-19)

2. OCCI DONATES MEDICAL
SUPPLIES TO CHINA IN RESPONSE
TO THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

3. REPORT ON A “MIMOSA DAY”
CEREMONY

4. RESULTS OF THE 77TH
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC TREND
SURVEY

5. OCCI'S POLICY ON
COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST
COVID-19

6. VIP REPORTS (2/21~3/25)

E-MAIL MAGAZINE

Issue 143 [March, 2020]

OCCI e-Magazine

<Back number available at <http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/emagazine/>>

1. RESULTS OF AN URGENT SURVEY ON CORPORATE MEASURES AGAINST THE NEW CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) announced the results of a Urgent Survey on Corporate Measures against the New Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). The survey was conducted from March 3 to 10, 2020, by distributing a questionnaire to 489 member companies, 275 of which responded to the questionnaire (valid response rate: 56.2%).

The largest number of respondents answered that, as measures to prevent the wider spread of COVID-19, they were “Strictly instructing employees to prevent themselves from being infected (by washing their hands or other means)” (86.5%) and/or “Encouraging employees showing such symptoms as fever to take leave or prohibiting such employees from coming to work” (64.0%). Among the measures recommended by the Japanese government, “Staggered working hours” was adopted by over 30%



たんと繁盛

of respondents (32.7%) and “Working at home or teleworking” by less than 20% (18.2%).

As measures concerning the use of leave by employees caring for children due to school closure, the largest number of respondents were “Recommending taking paid leave” (43.6%). Asked about the impacts of the absence of employees raising children on business activities, the majority of respondents answered “We have no clear ideas at present” (51.3%), and a quarter of the respondents answered “There will be some impacts” (26.2%).

Asked about measures to be taken in the event that employees are infected, nearly 50% of respondents answered “Discussions are currently underway” (48.0%), and nearly 35% answered “We are preparing measures” (34.2%).

For more details, visit the web page (in Japanese) at: <http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/index2-08.html>

=====

2. OCCI DONATES MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO CHINA IN RESPONSE TO THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

On February 15, 2020, an aircraft loaded with kindly donated goods took off from Kansai International Airport for China.

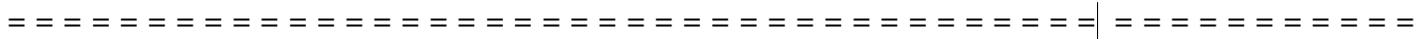
OCCI has built a close relationship with China, as represented by a Mission from the business community in Kansai led by then OCCI Chairman Isamu Saeki to China in 1971, before the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China. In response to the recent



plight, OCCI requested relevant member companies and other parties for cooperation in donation in humanitarian support for countermeasures against COVID-19 in China. Despite growing concern about supply shortage in Japan, Ikari Shodoku Co., Ltd., Saraya Co., Ltd. and Huazhong Consulting Co., Ltd. Donated gloves, protective suits, and other goods, which were sent to medical institutions in Wuhan, along with masks and other goods donated by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Japan ? Kansai.

Meanwhile, countermeasures against COVID-19 have adversely affected production and logistics around China, resulting in various problems to be addressed, such as delivery delay, stockout, and issues concerning Corporate labor management. In response to this situation, on February 6 and March 17, 2020, OCCI urgently

held seminars on China for member companies to explain about the force majeure clause in contracts and issues that companies would be concerned about. OCCI also plans to hold an individualized consultation session on China business on April 7. OCCI is thus actively tackling this issue.



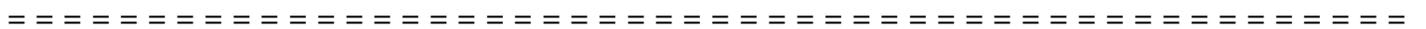
3. REPORT ON A “MIMOSA DAY” CEREMONY

On March 6, 2020, OCCI held a ceremony for Mimosa Day in the lobby on the first floor of OCCI building, in cooperation with the Associazione Culturale tra Giappone e Italia (Cultural Association between Japan and Italy), the Consulate-General of Italy, others.



March 8 is International Women's Day, as designated by the United Nations. In Italy, the same day is called Mimosa Day, when it is customary for men to present women with mimosa bouquets to extend their gratitude. OCCI has held this ceremony every year to raise public awareness of UN International Women’s Day and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5: “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” among the 17 SDGs. This year’s ceremony was the fifth one.

On the day, against the background of mimosas in full bloom, a mini-concert performance of opera and a Mimosa Bouquet Presentation Ceremony were held in the presence of Mr. Luigi Diodati, Consul-General of Italy in Osaka. Following remarks given by Consul-General Diodati, OCCI Vice Chairman Junzo Tateno and Consul-General Diodati presented mimosa bouquets to their female secretaries. This ceremony was held with the support of Daiki Suisan Co. Ltd., Shinsaibashi Mitsuya Co., Ltd. and OnMake Co., Ltd.



4. . RESULTS OF THE 77TH BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC TREND SURVEY

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 latest survey have been announced. The 77th survey was conducted in mid- to late February 2020 by distributing a questionnaire to 1,611 companies, 363 of which answered the questionnaire (valid response rate: 22.5%).

The survey reveals that the Business Sentiment Index (BSI) value (= [the percentage points of companies recognizing that business was growing] - [the percentage points of companies recognizing that business was declining]) on domestic business in general for the period of January to March 2020 was 54.0, decreasing for five consecutive periods and showing especially seriously deteriorating business sentiment. Meanwhile, the BSI value on member companies' own business for the same period was 24.1, remaining negative for two consecutive periods.

Next, asked about factors that had affected the amount and scale of planned capital investment for FY2020, the highest percentage (42.7%) of respondents answered "Necessity of saving labor and improving the working environment due to labor shortage." This was followed by "Decline in demand in Japan and abroad" (28.4%), "Increase in demand in Japan and abroad" (27.8%), and "Intensified competition in Japan and abroad" (23.7%).

Asked whether they were planning capital investment for FY2020, 69.7% of respondents answered that they were "Planning it." Out of the respondents who were planning capital investment, 35.4% answered that they would invest "Almost the same amount." The percentage of respondents who would increase capital investment decreased from 50.2% in last fiscal year's survey to 46.3% this fiscal year, while the percentage of respondents who would decrease capital investment grew from 14.1% last fiscal year to 18.3% this fiscal year.

Asked about the purposes of capital investment in FY2020, the highest percentage (52.4%) of respondents answered "To renew equipment," which was followed by "To increase productivity and save labor" (40.7%).

=====

5. OCCI'S POLICY ON COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST COVID-19

OCCI has striven to prevent the wider spread of COVID-19 and implemented various measures to provide related information for businesses under the influence of the pandemic, including establishing a business consultation desk and conducting an urgent survey on the impacts on business activities.

OCCI has decided to cancel or postpone some of the seminars, individual business meetings, and overseas missions it planned. For information about canceled or postponed events, the basic policies and support measures of the Japanese government, Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, etc., visit the following website: (URL: <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/emergency/coronavirus.html> [only in Japanese])

=====

6. VIP REPORTS (2/21~3/25)

3/6 MR. LUIGI DIODATI, CONSUL GENERAL OF ITALY OSAKA



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/mailstation/>

and submit your subscription request to OCCI Email Station.

Alternatively, please check out information about scheduled seminars and

other events on OCCI's website (in Japanese only).

=====

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

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.)

Back Numbers of OCCI e-Magazine: <http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/emagazine/>

=====

* Please contact us by email (ka-tatebayashi@osaka.cci.or.jp)

to inform us of your change of e-mail address, or of

your wishes not to receive OCCI e-Magazine.