



## [CONTENTS, JULY 2020]

### 1. GLOBAL INNOVATION FORUM IN OSAKA 2020 (GIF)

- WORLD'S LEADING STARTUPS GATHER IN OSAKA! -

### 2. REPORT ON THE WEBINAR "LAUNCH FOR THE NEW NORMAL" GUIDE TO FUTURE SEMINARS

### 3. RESULTS OF THE EMERGENCY SURVEY ON TELEWORK AT SMES

### 4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PROJECT TO SUPPORT HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS WITH FOOD

### 5. OSAKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SPECIAL SUMMER ENROLLMENT CAMPAIGN

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## 1. GLOBAL INNOVATION FORUM IN OSAKA 2020 (GIF)

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) will hold the "Global Innovation Forum in Osaka 2020" on October 27 and 28. 26 startup companies from 12 countries including Japan with cutting-edge technology such as food tech, AI/IoT, VR, image recognition, and automatic driving will gather in Osaka. OCCI held a competition to select participating Japanese startups, and five companies were selected from 28 applicants. Some overseas companies will participate online due to travel restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

GIF2020 will provide information on unique products and services, product demonstrations where visitors can actually see, touch and experience various products, presentations, and individual business meetings. In addition, new businesses that address the age of "coexistence with Coronavirus" will be introduced.



Demonstrations (showcases) by each company will be held on 27th at the Knowledge Plaza on the 1st floor of the Grand Front Osaka North Building, and on 28th at the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, short presentations by startups and individual business meetings (Advance booking required/Online meetings with interpreters also planned) will be held.

Details of GIF2020 will be available on our website in early August. For the GIF2019 report, go to <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/innovation/index2.html>

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**2. REPORT ON THE WEBINAR "LAUNCH FOR THE NEW NORMAL" GUIDE TO FUTURE SEMINARS**

On June 18, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) held a kickoff for a series of seminars entitled “Launch for the New Normal— Preparing for Irreversible Changes due to the Coronavirus Shock”, in order to keep up with the short-term changes observed since the COVID-19 pandemic, to clarify the idea of the new normal, and to consider a future business model.

At the beginning, Mr. Yukimasa Uchida, a senior partner of the Boston Consulting Group Japan, gave a talk titled “COVID-19 Future Scenarios and Possible Response”, and addressed issues such as “End of the pandemic and economic recovery scenarios”, “Possible medium-term changes in companies and individuals”, and “What companies should work on now”. We had a panel discussion on “People” and “Business Design” with Mr. Kuniyoshi Nuwa, President of Sanoh Industries (Thailand) Co., Ltd., a major automotive parts manufacturer in Thailand, Mr. Takeshi Suzuki, Director of direct sales business including directly-managed stores and EC of New Balance Japan, Inc., Mr. Kazunobu Noda of Hacobu Executive Advisor, a startup providing a technology-based platform for optimizing logistics, and Mr. Nobuo Fukui, Director of the Singapore Office of Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu in charge of international legal affairs for Japanese companies in Southeast Asia.

After the kickoff, OCCI will hold a series of themed seminars and discussions such as “Innovation” “Human Resource Management” “Changes in the Market”, and “Rebuilding of the Supply Chain”. In the next series, “Innovation”, OCCI will invite the Consulate General of Japan in Boston and the MIT Media Lab to discuss online the latest developments in the United States which have been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the state of investment in startups as well as new businesses that are emerging as a result. The

event will be held around August.

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### **3. RESULTS OF THE EMERGENCY SURVEY ON TELEWORK AT SMES**

OCCI conducted an “Emergency Survey on Telework at SMEs” from June 2 to 16 and got responses from 407 companies.

33% “introduced telework for certain employees” while 18% “introduced telework for almost all employees”.

89% of the companies that introduced telework did so out of the “necessity for infection control”, and 53% “decided to introduce telework on very short notice although not considering it at all initially”. One out of three companies started telework in April, the month the state of emergency was declared.

The survey also found that 46% “introduced telework without development of operational rules”, and 37% “introduced telework without security education and safety instructions to employees” while 29% “failed to check the attendance”.

With regard to the productivity after the introduction, “no change” accounted for the largest proportion of 39%. As for communication, 46% felt “it declined”.

74% of the companies that introduced telework plan to continue the system. “Enhanced security” (47%) was the most prominent issue in continuing telework.

In addition, quite a few companies requested “consideration and measures for industries and jobs where telework is not possible”.

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### **4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PROJECT TO SUPPORT HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS WITH FOOD**

The Osaka Food Creation City Promotion Organization (Office: Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau) has announced “Delicious Food Even When in Trouble!”, a project to provide high-quality, high-end Osaka food to frontline healthcare professionals amid the continuing threat of COVID-19.

This project was proposed by the chefs of Michelin-starred restaurants, and it is an initiative of the food town of Osaka to revitalize people in difficult situations with food.

The Organization plans to collect donations from companies and other organizations and carry out the project several times between July and December this year. The Organization also plans to establish a sustainable system so that similar projects can be carried out during the second and third waves of the pandemic, and even when disasters occur.

Six restaurants (could increase) plan to participate including agnel d'or (a French restaurant in Awaza). Currently, OCCI is inviting companies to support this initiative.

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## **5. OSAKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SPECIAL SUMMER ENROLLMENT CAMPAIGN**

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) was established in 1878 based on the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Act and is the largest economic organization in western Japan with four characteristics: Regionality, comprehensiveness, internationality, and public interest.

In recent years, with the aim of revitalizing Osaka's industries, OCCI has been engaged in a variety of fields, including international exchange, invitation of foreign investment, support for advanced industries such as innovation and various demonstration experiments, and establishment of the 2025 Osaka and Kansai Expo Promotion Headquarters. OCCI has provided approximately 3,200 companies with management support by experts, 400 companies with startup support, and 200 companies with support for overseas expansion in a year.

OCCI has more than 30,000 member companies from a wide range of industries from manufacturing and wholesale to service and information and communications. All companies, groups and individuals with addresses not only in Osaka but also in Japan are welcome to join as a member or a special member, so please feel free to contact the International Department for any inquiries or applications regarding membership. OCCI is currently running a special summer enrollment campaign. OCCI voucher worth 10,000 yen for participating in OCCI activities will be given to you, which you can use until the end of March 2021, plus free advertisement on the OCCI website.

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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](mailto: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).

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