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1. OSAKA CITY HAS BEEN SELECTED AS A “GLOBAL STARTUP CITY”

On July 14th, the Japanese Government selected four urban areas centered around Osaka, Tokyo, Nagoya and Fukuoka as “Global Startup Cities” based on the “Strategies for the Creation of a Startup Ecosystem.” Osaka City applied as the Keihanshin area which is a metropolitan area made up of Osaka City, Kyoto City as well as Kobe City in Hyogo Prefecture. Since last November, the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) has been encouraging the selection of “Global Startup Cities” by compiling and submitting “A Request for Creating a Startup Ecosystem” as the three chambers of commerce and industry of the Keihanshin area.

“Global Startup Cities” are selected based on plans for creating a startup city, drawn up by the consortiums formed by the local governments, universities and economic organizations of the cities where many startups and supporters are located.



Together with the Osaka Prefectural Government, Osaka City, Sakai City, economic organizations and Osaka Business Development Agency, OCCI established the “Osaka Startup Ecosystem Consortium” last October and has been contributing to Osaka’s strategies for building a startup city. We have also compiled and submitted a request together with the chambers of commerce and industry of Kyoto and Kobe to support the realization of the Keihanshin area as a candidate.

On July 6th, before the startup cities were selected, Takemoto Naokazu, the Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, visited Osaka and had a meeting with the relevant parties including our chairman Ozaki Hiroshi. Chairman Ozaki introduced OCCI’s Startup Support Project and said that “Through the cooperation between the three chambers of commerce and industry of Keihanshin area, we would like to achieve synergistic effects so that 1+1+1 becomes more than 3.”

In the future, we plan to support the startup city in various ways, such as providing startup development programs, promoting foreign investments, and accelerating the use of the startup support budget.

At OCCI, we will continue to concentrate our efforts on the Startup Support Project. Furthermore, we will contribute to the coordination of the Keihanshin area as a startup city by strengthening the partnership between the three chambers of commerce and industry of the Keihanshin area.

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2. GLOBAL INNOVATION FORUM 2020 TO BE HELD: WORLD’S PROGRESSIVE STARTUPS WILL BE GATHERING IN OSAKA!

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) will be hosting the “Global Innovation Forum” on October 27th~28th. A total of 26 startups from 12 countries around the world including Japan which possess leading-edge technologies, such as productivity improvement (AI and VR), health tech, smart city, robotics, food tech and mobility, will be gathering in Osaka. Various contents will be provided, such as the introduction of products and services debuting in Japan, demonstrations where you can actually see, touch and experience products and services, and presentations and individual business meetings.

Each company’s demonstration (show case) will be held on the 27th at Grand Front Osaka (Knowledge Plaza on the 1st floor of the North Building). And on the 28th, each startup’s short presentations and individual business meetings (advanced reservation required) will be held at the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and

Industry.

Because of COVID-19, some companies have already decided to participate online for this time. If travel restrictions are not eased and this event has to be changed, we plan to notify applicants and post an announcement on the OCCI website later.

Please take this opportunity to participate in this event!For more details, check the URL (English website)
<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/innovation/index4.html>

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3. 10 PRODUCERS OF THE EXPO 2025 HAVE BEEN DECIDED

On July 13th, the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition (Chairman: Nakanishi Hiroaki, Chairman of Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)) announced the appointment of 10 producers who will be responsible for drawing up the basic plan for EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN.

With the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition, the producers will be acting as leaders in implementing expo site plan, expo site operation and thematic projects for the EXPO 2025.

A total of 10 producers were announced: an Expo Site Design Producer, an Expo Site Operation Producer and eight Thematic Project Producers. The Expo Site Design Producer will be designing the expo site so that the EXPO 2025 theme “Designing Future Society for Our Lives” is embodied in the design. The Expo Site Operation Producer will be responsible for the successful operation of EXPO 2025, including making the site comfortable and enjoyable for visitors.

Also, each Thematic Project Producer is assigned to each of the eight project themes set to realize the EXPO 2025 theme “Designing Future Society for Our Lives,” which are “Learning about Lives,” “Nurturing Lives,” “Saving Lives,” “Weaving Lives,” “Expanding Lives,” “Enhancing Lives,” “Refining Lives” and “Creating Resonance Between Lives.” These project themes will be expressed through pavilion exhibits and events.

After the press conference, an online meeting between the producers and the executive board members of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition was held, and our chairman Ozaki Hiroshi attended this meeting. At the meeting, Chairman Ozaki expressed his expectations, saying “Many of the member companies are interested in introducing their technologies and ideas at the EXPO 2025. I hope you widely

incorporate them and create a new style of expo.”

EXPO 2025 will be held at an artificial island in Osaka Bay called Yumeshima (in Konohana Ward of Osaka City) from April 13th to October 13th, 2025.

■ Expo Site Design Producer (1 person)

Fujimoto Sou (Architect)

■ Expo Site Operation Producer (1 person)

Ishikawa Masaru (Planner, Producer)

■ Thematic Project Producers (8 people)

Learning about Lives Fukuoka Shinichi (Biologist, Professor of Aoyama Gakuin University)

Nurturing Lives Kawamori Shoji (Animation director, Mechanical designer)

Saving Lives Kawase Naomi (Filmmaker)

Weaving Lives Koyama Kundo (Broadcast writer)

Expanding Lives Ishiguro Hiroshi (Distinguished Professor of Osaka University, Visiting Director of ATR Hiroshi Ishiguro Laboratories)

Enhancing Lives Nakajima Sachiko (Musician, Mathematician, STEAM educator)

Refining Lives Ochiai Yoichi (Media artist)

Creating Resonance Between Lives Miyata Hiroaki (Professor of Keio University)

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4. REPORT ON THE FIRST “GREATER MINAMI (SOUTHERN AREA OF OSAKA PREFECTURE) PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE”

OCCI’s Metropolis Development Committee (Committee chairman: Zenitaka Kazuyoshi, Chairman of Zenitaka Corporation) established the “Greater Minami (Southern Area of Osaka Prefecture) Partnership Conference,” and its first conference was held on July 3rd.

“Greater Minami” is the generic term for the Greater Minami City area (Namba, Shin-Imamiya, Abeno/Tennoji/Uehonmachi areas) and southern region of Osaka Prefecture (Senshu and Minamikawachi districts). Last April, OCCCI compiled a proposal for building an urban economy targeting the integrated

development of this region by crossing administrative districts. Based on this, at the newly established conference, common awareness and information are shared among the relevant parties so that it leads to specific promotion businesses in the southern Osaka region.

Kana Koichi (professor of the Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka City University) took office as the chairman and Sakuma Yasutomi (associate professor of the Faculty of Systems Engineering, Wakayama University) as the deputy chairman. 16 people from universities, chambers of commerce and industry, societies of commerce and industry, private companies and private associations located in this region took up a position in the committee.

On the day of the conference, the committee members representing Kintetsu Railway, Nankai Electric Railway, and Kaizuka Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented their practical examples. After that, opinions were exchanged between the committee members. In the future, we plan to consider the implementation of joint projects and submission of proposals to the authorities concerned. OCCI will make continuous efforts to promote the revitalization of this region.

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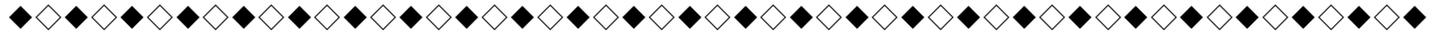
5. OCCI'S ONLINE INTERNATIONAL EVENTS : A SERIES OF SEMINARS COMING UP!!

The International Division of OCCI has been holding a series of online events like seminars, in order to respond flexibly and promptly to the business needs that have emerged after the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic. The events cover a broad range of topics, from business practices like drawing up English contracts and foreign credit management, to seminars and dialogues on overseas investment in India, Thailand and Myanmar, and “New Normal Seminar Series” designed to study with-COVID-19 businesses and innovation. They are characterized by programs and lecturers making the most of the features of online. Dialogues simultaneously linking domestic and international VIPs which are difficult to achieve offline and panel discussions held by gathering managers of leading companies from various regions of Japan are attracting the attention of people not only in Osaka but throughout Japan.

There are also many participants from overseas. The events have been a success with some projects attracting over 2,000 participants. As for foreign government agencies who wish to promote their countries, OCCI will be happy to support you in holding online seminars, so please contact us.

Furthermore, we plan to hold not only seminars but also online business meetings and pitch events in the future. Don't miss OCCI's online international events responding in a timely manner to the drastically changing business environment, presented by key speakers in Japan and abroad.

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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 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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