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## 1. GLOBAL INNOVATION FORUM IN OSAKA 2020 WILL BE HELD ONLINE

The GIF2020 will be held again for the second time. This year, a total of 23 startups will take part, from 11 countries such as USA, UK, Israel, Italy, India, Estonia, Canada, Singapore, China, France and Japan. These

startups have high technical skills in the fields of Food-Tech, Mobility, Robotics, Health-tech, Productivity (AI, VR), Smart City

and they will share their offerings for partnerships with companies, government bodies, hospitals, etc.

This time, many services corresponding to the COVID-19 will be introduced. Please take this opportunity to find new partners and create new business.

[The Event will be held ONLINE]

Due to COVID-19 and travel restrictions still continuing among the countries of GIF2020 presenters, the GIF program will be changed from REAL to ONLINE.

[GIF2020 Special Website is released]

On the website, you can watch the demonstration and pitch videos of the startups who are participating in the event this year. You can also book your B2B Meetings, which will be held on October 28th, using ZOOM.

Please have a look.

URL : <https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/>

◆Date : 9 : 10~18 : 50 (JST) Oct, 28th ,WED 2020

On-demand meetings: Oct, 29th, THU~ end of March,2021

◆Place : ZOOM

◆Admission fee : Free

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## **2. RESULTS OF THE 79TH BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC TREND SURVEY (ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER 2020)**

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Kansai Economic Federation jointly conduct a Business and Economic Trend Survey every quarter in order to understand how the member companies assess the business conditions and the actual situation of their business management. The survey this time was conducted from Tuesday, August 18 to September 1, 2020. A total of 1,589 companies were surveyed, of which 387 responded. (Valid response rate of 24.4%.)

According to the survey, in the July-September period of 2020, the BSI value for the domestic economy (the rate of "rising" responses minus the rate of "falling" responses) was minus 29.1, which indicated a worsening of the business sentiment and the 7th consecutive period of negative results. Per company size, the BSI value for large companies in the July-September quarter was minus 3.8, so the size of the negative number had reduced to less than 10. On the other hand, the BSI value for SMEs was minus 52.0, which was a great drop.

When asked about the trend in the (planned) recruitment of new graduates to join the company in April in 2020, 2021 and 2022, of the responses on the recruitment of new graduates in April 2020 (persons who joined the company in April 2020), nearly 60% (58.1%) of companies said that the number of new graduates recruited

was the same or higher than that in the previous year, with 15.2% saying that "the number of persons recruited increased" and 42.9% saying that "the number of persons recruited stayed roughly the same." On the other hand, only 2.6% of companies answered that they had "postponed (or cancelled) recruitment." Also, one in four companies said that, "There was no plan to conduct recruitment (there was no desire to recruit)" (24.5%).

Per fiscal year, the responses that the "Number of people recruited has increased (or is expected to increase)" decreased from 15.2% for 2020 to 5.9% for 2021 and 4.1% for 2022, while the responses that the "Number of people to be recruited is not yet decided" increased from 17.1% for 2021 to 30.0% for 2022. The responses that "The plan for whether or not to implement recruitment is still undecided" increased from 4.7% for 2021 to 12.1% for 2022.

When asked about the thinking behind the recruitment of new graduates, the most common response was "Maintaining the number of employees" (42.6%). This was followed by "We cannot predict our business results because the future of the economy is unclear" (30.7%), "Organizational rejuvenation" (25.3%), and "Company performance deterioration and bad results due to the coronavirus crisis" (25.1%).

Per company size, "Maintaining the number of employees" was in the upper 50% range (57.3%) for large companies and was much larger than the other options. In addition, the reply that "We cannot predict our business results because the future of the economy is unclear" was much higher in SMEs (36.6%) than in large companies (24.3%).

When asked about the employment adjustment measures implemented since April this year (including those planned for up to March next year), the top responses by companies were "Reduction of overtime hours" (36.7%), "Requesting that employees take time off work (using employment adjustment subsidies)" (34.6%), and "No particular measures implemented (no implementation planned)" (34.6%). One in five companies had also implemented (or planned) "Shortening/reduction of business/operation hours or days" (21.7%) and "Reduction of summer bonus" (19.9%).

Furthermore, more than 10% of companies replied, "Reduction or discontinuation of the recruitment of dispatched temporary workers/part-time workers" (11.6%) and "Reduction or discontinuation of mid-career recruitment" (10.9%). On the other hand, only a small number of respondents selected "Calling for voluntary retirement of full-time employees" (1.0%), "Encouraging the retirement of full-time employees" (0.5%), and

"Dismissal of full-time employees" (0.3%).

Per company size, the most frequent response from large companies was "Nothing in particular implemented (or planned)" (42.7%). Compared with large companies, the SMEs had a higher rate of the responses "Requesting that employees take time off work (using employment adjustment subsidies)" (40.6%), "Shortening/reduction of business/operation hours or days" (26.2%), "Reduction of summer bonus" (26.7%), and "Reduction of winter bonus" (16.8%).

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### **3. TOMOATSU GODAI, THE 1ST CHAIRMAN OF OCCI SPECIAL EXHIBITION - THE ENTREPRENEURIAL MUSEUM OF CHALLENGE AND INNOVATION IN OSAKA**

As this year is the 135th anniversary of the death of Tomoatsu Godai, the Entrepreneurial Museum of Challenge and Innovation in Osaka has been holding a special "Tomoatsu Godai Exhibition" since September 5. (Period: until October 31.)

Tomoatsu, who was from Satsuma, was transferred to Osaka as a government official in the Meiji period and later changed his career to business. He laid the foundations for the development of commerce and industry in modern Osaka, such as by working hard to revive the declining economy of Osaka and serving as the first Chairman of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Panels introduce how he always put the interests of the nation as a whole first and his achievements, which led to him being called the "benefactor of Osaka." The exhibition also examines his real nature through his hobbies, personality and daily life.

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### **4. ONLINE ISSUANCE OF NON-PREFERENTIAL CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN**

In practice, companies engaged in export business often require a certificate of origin that certifies the origin of the exported goods. Certificates of origin are classified into two types: preferential certificates of origin issued for the purpose of using preferential tariffs, and non-preferential certificates of origin issued for the purpose of payment by L/C or exporting when the destination countries or goods mean that preferential tariffs are not applicable. The number of non-preferential certificates of origin issued per year is particularly large (with over 500,000 issued nationwide in FY2018), and applicants have to go directly to the issuing counter of

the issuer (which is mainly the chamber of commerce and industry in each region). In response to the recent spread of COVID-19, to reduce the risk of infection among corporate staff and realize the trade procedures without delay, the Chambers of Commerce and Industry around Japan and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) are rapidly considering and preparing the introduction of an online issuance system for non-preferential certificates of origin.

The chambers are currently working on the solution of issues in the system and organizations, and the plan is to start test operations in Osaka as early as before the end of 2020. For the time being, the scope of operations will be limited, such as only issuing Japanese certificates of origin, but it is expected that the scope will be expanded in the future.

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## 5. REPORT ON VIP VISITORS (2020/9/14~10/20)

9/14 Mr. Martin Eberts, Consul General, Consulate General of the Federal  
Republic of Germany Osaka-Kobe

10/20 Mr. Richard Mei, Jr., Consul General, American Consulate General  
Osaka-Kobe

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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

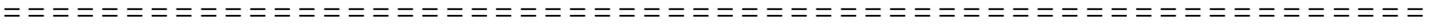


Information about scheduled events (in Japanese only):

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

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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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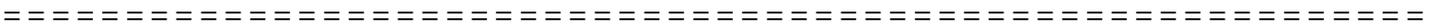
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