

The seminar featured expert speakers, who used real case studies to explain issues such as why highly skilled foreign workers have become so highly sought after and where Japan's stands in the global competition for such talent, as well as strategies for attracting the right workers and management tactics for avoiding mismatches.

The broad variety of attendees-from the general corporate community as well as specialist foreign talent organizations-showed that Covid-19 has not dampened interest in acquiring highly skilled workers from overseas.

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3. OCCI-BACKED INITIATIVE FOR BUILDING A MEDICAL DEVICE DEVELOPMENT

Ecosystem Selected by AMED for Public Assistance

An OCCI-backed initiative to establish a nationwide ecosystem for the development of medical equipment has been selected by the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development for support under its program to promote Medical-Engineering Partnerships for Innovation. The "Initiative to Promote Independence of Local Partnership Hubs in Kansai to Help Establish Japan's Premier Ecosystem for Medical Device Development" was developed by the Medical Device Industry Forum, an OCCI organization launched in 2003 to help remove the roadblocks to development of medical equipment and create new business opportunities through public-private (and private-private) partnerships.

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4. THREE MAIN KANSAI CHAMBERS FORMULATE PROPOSAL ON PROMOTION OF LIFE SCIENCE INDUSTRY

Osaka, Kobe, Kyoto Chambers Pursue Initiatives to Further Enhance a Major Industrial Strength
The Life Sciences Promotion Council, a joint organization of the Osaka, Kobe, and Kyoto chambers of commerce and industry, finalized its proposal to the government regarding promotion of the life science

industry in FY2021 at a meeting on July 28. The proposal included:

Ongoing support for businesses striving to maintain and improve Japan’s productivity with a view to addressing healthcare security issues; and

Deregulation that would remove restrictions on the ability to showcase state-of-the-art healthcare solutions at the 2025 World Expo in Osaka.

The council was established by the Osaka, Kobe, and Kyoto chambers to promote regional civilian cooperation and partnership. The council is headed by: Isao Teshirogi, vice chairman of OCCI, president and CEO of Shionogi & Co., Ltd.; Tsuneo Murata, vice-chairman of the Kyoto Chamber of Commerce and Industry, chairman of the board of Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd.; Hisashi Ietsugu, chairman of the Kobe Chamber of Commerce and Industry, chairman and CEO of Sysmex Corporation.

The council holds regular meetings (the meeting held on July 28, 2021, being the tenth), with all three parties bringing their unique perspectives to further bolster the life science industry, one of the Kansai region’s foremost strengths.

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5. 2025 WORLD EXPO PREP PROGRESSING, CORPORATE PARTICIPANTS WANTED

Preparations for the 2025 World Expo in Osaka are progressing apace, and the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry is committed to ensuring the participation of a broad variety of businesses. To that end, the chamber is working in partnership with the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exhibition and the Osaka city and prefectural governments on a promotional campaign to spread the word far and wide. This is just one example of OCCI’s various projects aimed at boosting momentum in the run-up to the expo.

On August 19, the association unveiled the various options for corporate participation in the expo, officially beginning the process of negotiating sponsorships of corporate pavilion exhibitions and themed pavilions. Calls

have also gone out for business interested in participating in the Osaka pavilion, which will be operated in conjunction with the Osaka city and prefectural governments.

◆Corporate Participation Briefing on October 12

OCCI, together with the Kansai Economic Federation, the Kansai Association of Corporate Executives, and the Kyoto and Kobe chambers of commerce, will hold an online briefing to explain the ins and outs of corporate participation in the expo. The briefing will be held from 13:00 to 14:30 on October 12, 2021. Yasuhiro Maeda, vice secretary general of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exhibition, will give a rundown of the various options for corporate participation in the expo, and will be available for questions from attendees. Sign up for the briefing at the OCCI website: <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/seminar/202109/D24211012010.html>

◆Support for the Team Expo 2025 Program

In keeping with the expo's objective of encouraging independent action aimed at achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, OCCI, the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exhibition, and Dai Nippon Printing will hold an online meeting, titled Hello Team Expo 2025 Meeting #003, between 16:00 and 17:30 on September 30. Advance bookings are not required to attend the meeting.

◆A Foot Up for SMEs and Start-ups Hoping to Exhibit in the Osaka Pavilion

To ensure there is sufficient support for SMEs and start-ups who want to participate in the expo, operation of the Osaka Pavilion Exhibition Zone has been undertaken by OCCI and the Osaka Business Development Agency.

◆Countdown to the Grand Opening

To generate extra buzz surrounding "Expo 2025, Osaka, Kansai, Japan," OCCI has created a digital "calendar" to countdown to the big event. The calendar is displayed at the chamber's main entrance, and a further countdown can be viewed at the top of the OCCI website's home page.

◆OCCI Vice Chair Kyoko Hirose Named Expo Assn. Director

Kyoko Hirose, vice chairwoman of OCCI, chairwoman of the Women’s Assembly, and president of Hirose Mfg, was appointed a director of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exhibition at an extraordinary meeting of the association on September 13. Available in Japanese only.

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6.SPECIAL AUTUMN CAMPAIGN: JOIN OCCI NOW FOR HALF PRICE AND GET A 10,000-YEN COUPON!

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry is offering half off the first year’s membership fee for any company, organization, or sole-proprietorship that joins OCCI between now and December 15, 2021. Not only that, but you will also get a bonus OCCI coupon worth 10,000 yen *AND* free listing of your business on the OCCI’s website.

OCCI membership is outrageously good value for money. Not only do you have an instant connection with 30,000 companies and individuals from a truly diverse range of industries, from manufacturing and wholesaling to the ICT and service sectors, and everything in between, but you also have access to an extensive menu of support services with real benefits. For instance, OCCI connects members with experts for specialist business advice (around 3,200 companies a year recently), helps with business start-up (400), provides assistance for overseas expansion (200), and attracts some foreign companies to invest locally (40).

OCCI is the Kansai region’s foremost economic organization. Founded in 1878, the chamber is proudly local, fiercely global, stoically public (non-profit and non-political), and offers equally comprehensive services for giants and minnows in every industry.

In recent years, OCCI has put its weight behind efforts to rejuvenate Osaka’s industrial environment, such as by attracting foreign capital, providing forums for cross-border interaction, and offering support for cutting-edge

industries through innovation and testing. And naturally OCCI is a major force behind preparations for the 2025 World Expo in Osaka.

OCCI membership is not limited to those in Osaka; any company or individual with an address in Japan can join, and there are membership categories suitable for everyone. If you are interested in joining one of Japan's premier business interest groups, then contact the OCCI International Division today.

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7. INFORMATION FOR COVID-19

Japanese Government

<https://japan.kantei.go.jp/>

Osaka Prefecture Government

<https://covid19-osaka.info/en/>

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DO YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION ?

[Information on COVID-19 in Osaka] New!

<https://o-bic.net/e/covid/>

[O-BIC as one-stop service center for creating a foothold in Osaka]

<http://o-bic.net/>

[Information about scheduled events (in Japanese only)]

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/index.php>



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