



GIF Osaka is Underway; Event Week a Resounding Success!

October 27 through 29, 2021, was GIF Osaka Event Week, and what a week it was! The live pitches from exciting new start-ups and the symposium attracted an audience of 639.

Pitches were made by some 34 startups from 12 countries in the agri-food tech, carbon neutral innovation, smart city solutions, digital transformation, health tech, and robotics, who showcased interesting business models.

The symposium featured a different keynote presentation each day (day 1: Japan and a Future Created through Innovation; day 2: Osaka: City of Innovation, Hub for Start-Ups; day 3: Game-Changing Environmental Targets), and panel discussions that generated valuable insights on these topics.

Footage of the start-ups' pitches is available for viewing at the GIF Osaka website, and symposium footage is due to be uploaded shortly.

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**2. HYBIDEVEDNT:LIVE FROM DUBAI!**  
**“12/13 OSAKA & DUBAI BUSINESS NETWORKING”**  
**OSAKA | OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL SCALEUPS AHEAD OF WORLD EXPO 2025**

We are excited to announce our upcoming hybrid event in Dubai for international scaleups interested in Japan, the world's 3rd largest economy!

This event is for Scaleups, SMEs, & Startup supporters from anywhere in the world, to:

- Learn about market

entry & corporate collaboration opportunities for Scaleups in Osaka, Japan, its plans for the World Expo 2025, & its efforts to become a leading smart city & international financial hub

- Hear about how the current World

Expo facility in Dubai, UAE will transform into District 2020, a human-centric future city & innovation

ecosystem- Hear pitches from leading FinTech, Smart Cities, & HealthTech Scaleups, looking to scale into the

Japanese market

For details and registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/201904370407/>

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### **3. OCCI HELPS LOCAL BUSINESSES HARNESS POTENTIAL OF “MEGA-EPA” RCEP**

On January 1, 2022, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership will come into force, a “mega-EPA” involving countries and regions that account for around 30 percent of the world’s GDP, trade (by monetary amount), and population, and around half of Japan’s total trade. Of the 15 signatory countries, ten have ratified the agreement (Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam), while the other five have yet to make a decision on ratification (South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and the Philippines).

RCEP will be Japan’s first economic partnership agreement with China, and with South Korea too, if it decides to ratify. From a local perspective, RCEP is big news. Given that RCEP nations already make up a large proportion of international trade among Osaka and Kansai businesses (China-bound exports, in particular, make up 5% more in this region than the national average), the agreement is bound to have a major effect.

The OCCI has long experience in advising local companies on EPA matters, and our experts are already offering advice on RCEP based on what is publicly known. An online seminar is scheduled for December 8, 2021.

We are committed to ensuring local SMEs are informed about RCEP and helping them take full advantage of the deal.

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### **4. NO MORE SCRATCHING! OSAKA START-UP WINS PITCH CONTEST WITH ITCH INHIBITOR**

OCCI recently teamed up with the Kansai Innovation Initiative (led by the Urban Innovation Institute) to hold

U-Start Up × World Expo 2025, a pitch contest for Osaka-based start-ups. Pitches were heard from two finalists chosen from the document screening round. Following robust deliberation, the judges pronounced the winner: Osaka Heat Cool, which submitted a device that regulates hot and cold sensation to inhibit itching. The prize was a coveted exhibitors' spot at CES 2022.

The Knowledge Capital Prize went to EneCoat Technologies for its charge-anywhere flexible film solar battery.

OCCI will partner with the Kyoto and Kobe chambers of commerce to hold similar contests there, and will offer support for business match-making among business in the Osaka-Kyoto-Kobe region.

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## **5. OCCI PROPOSAL TO PM REQUESTS SUPPORT FOR POST-COVID RECOVERY AND PROGRESS**

OCCI recently presented a proposal titled “Requests for the Second Kishida Cabinet” to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, government institutions, and senior members of the ruling party. The document requested the government’s help for a variety of initiatives, including support for business rebuilding and generating sustained consumer demand to drive a solid recovery from the Covid recession, as well as support for digitalization, carbon neutral innovation, and establishing a data-driven economy to provide growth momentum in the post-Covid era. It also emphasizes the need for deregulation and investment-friendly policies that will allow the local region to harness the momentum of the World Expo 2025 in Osaka to spark innovation, and test and implement state-of-the-art technologies.

Details are available (in Japanese) at the OCCI website:

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/index2-08.html>

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## **6. OSAKA ENTREPRENEUR - KONOSUKE MATSUSHITA, PANASONIC CORPORATION -**

## **DEDICATED TO IMPROVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS THROUGH PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

We would like to introduce entrepreneur related to Osaka.

In the long history of business in Osaka, one figure looms large. Konosuke Matsushita, founder of Panasonic, is a legend in these parts, famous not only for his shrewd business sense, but also for his foresight in corporate management.

More than half a century in corporate leadership taught Matsushita the importance of a clear philosophy to serve as the company's foundation. A company needs, he knew, a clear statement of what it stands for and how it intends to achieve its goals.

He alit on Panasonic's true mission after a period of deep consideration in 1932, a time when the company's business interests were expanding rapidly. That mission was announced to the Panasonic workforce and became the philosophy that guided the group's various activities thereafter. The establishment of a philosophy turned out to be a catalyzing event; it encouraged one and all to pour their hearts and souls into their work, and led to Panasonic's swift growth.

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### **7. VIP REPORTS (OCT-NOV)**

-H. E. Shihab Ahmed Mohammad Alfaheem, Ambassador of the United Arab

Emirates to Japan

-Mr.Jules Irrmann, Consul General of France in Kyoto

-Mr.Nikhilesh Giri, Consul General of India, Osaka-Kobe

-Ms.Diana Emilla Sari Sutikno, Consul General of the Republic of

Indonesia Osaka

-Mr.Marco Prencipe, Consul General of Italy in Osaka

-Mr.Marc Kuipers, Consul General of the kingdom of the Netherlands

-Mr.Nguyen Hong Ha, Consul General of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

in Osaka

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**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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**OSAKA FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

Midosuji Illumination will be held on Midosuji Ave., one of the Osaka’s most symbolic streets, and the Osaka Hikari-Renaissance will be held in the Nakanoshima area. In addition to these two main programs will also be held in various locations throughout Osaka Prefecture to beautifully and magically light up the Osaka night sky. This year, we will be sharing the “Light of Hope,” bringing a sparkling and joyous atmosphere to the Osaka area.

<https://www.hikari-kyoen.com/en/>

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**INFORMATION FOR COVID-19**

Japanese Government

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

Osaka Prefecture Government

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

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[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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<http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/emagazine/>



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