

disruption” (24.7%).

In the question about demands of the government for economic recovery, the most commonly selected answer was “response/support for high resource/material/parts prices,” which hit a record high of 60.5%.

This was followed by “exchange rate stabilization” (23.4%) and “stable energy supply” (17.1%). The survey was conducted from May 12 through 30; questionnaires were sent to 1,552 companies and 304 responses were received (VRR 19.6%).

Further information available online (in Japanese only):

https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Chousa_Kenkyuu_Iken/Bsi/bsi_86.pdf

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2. O-BIC HELPS 18 NEW FOREIGN COMPANIES INVEST IN OSAKA IN 2021

Numbers Slightly down Due to Covid-19, but Expectations Grow for Future Investment

The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) has announced that it facilitated 18 cases of investment in Osaka by foreign companies in FY2021. This is slightly down year-on-year and reflects the impact of Covid-19. Investment activity struggled as the movement of people from overseas was limited. Almost all investments were fostered and achieved by parties resident in Japan, including business partners and subcontractors. There were also many cases where investment has been postponed due to border controls, as illustrated by the drop in the number of inquiries: 115 in FY2021 down from 176 in FY2020.

Further information available online soon:

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

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3. GIF OSAKA 2022 KICKS OFF WITH KEYNOTE AND LIVE PITCHES BY NORTH & SOUTH AMERICAN STARTUPS

The 2022 edition of Global Innovation Forum (GIF) Osaka, Japan’s premier event for matching international startups with Japanese companies, began on June 28 with a keynote address and live pitches from North and South American startups. In the keynote address, Mike Fuerstman of Rhapsody Venture Partners (a partner

organization of GIF Osaka) spoke about successful open innovation between Japanese companies and North American startups.

This was followed by pitches from seven North and South American startups, who outlined their technologies and spoke about the kind of collaborations they are seeking. Starting this year, GIF Osaka has a new category – virtual reality - and the audience heard from VR-related startups from Canada, Mexico, and Colombia. Other startups included those with the latest technologies in the agritech and greentech spaces.

Next on the GIF Osaka 2022 agenda are the one-on-one meetings between the startups who made live pitches and Japanese companies on July 12 and 13.

Keynote address and live pitches are available online from July 1:

(Keynote address) <https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/en/>

(Pitch) <https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/en/company/>

Search exhibitors, Request meetings

<https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/en/company/>

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4. OCCI HOLDS “THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF JAPAN-CHINA DIPLOMATIC TIES COMMEMORATIVE NETWORKING EVENT”

OCCI Chairperson Shingo Torii and China Business Committee Chairman Yoshihisa Suzuki are scheduled to meet with Xue Jian, Consul General of the People’s Republic of China in Osaka, on July 19 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China. Despite current restrictions on travel between Japan and China due to Covid-19, the event is expected to attract people from the Osaka business community, Japanese subsidiaries of Chinese companies, Chinese business person in Osaka, and others. Plans include company information sessions and product exhibits. The steady increase in

people signing up to attend indicates that people are hungry for in-person interaction via these events after a long period of restrictions on direct contact under Covid rules. Organizers are eager to put on more such in-person events and provide opportunities for international business exchange.

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5. OCCI TO SUPPORT OSAKA STARTUPS' OVERSEAS EXPANSION WITH JOINT BOOTH AT CES2023

As part of our quest to foster local startups, we at the OCCI are focusing on supporting overseas expansion. To that end, we are organizing a joint booth at CES 2023, the world's largest tech exhibition, which will be held in Las Vegas, to exhibit alongside OCCI member startups. Following on from our support for the Japan Tech pavilion at past CES events, our joint booth will be a special area within that pavilion. OCCI has provided training such as individual acceleration programs for domestic startups in Japan which are eager to expand overseas. CES support this time goes one step further from conventional training for startups, and supports actual efforts to acquire opportunities for business collaboration. We will also provide practical and strategic support for exhibitors, such as improving English negotiation skills and fine-tuning their pitches to suit overseas audiences. At the OCCI, we are committed to helping Osaka startups leverage their advanced technological capabilities and potential to expand overseas.

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6. JAPAN'S BORDERS REOPEN

Following the Japanese government's easing of border restrictions more than two years since their introduction due to Covid, the number of VIP visitors from overseas has begun to increase. In May, a delegation of the Binh Duong Provincial Government from Vietnam held a seminar at the OCCI regarding the local investment climate, and the vice-president of international strategy and innovation at Colombia's trade and investment agency paid a courtesy visit to the OCCI. In June, the Vietnam Binh Duong Provincial Party Secretary also visited the chamber and exchanged opinions on future business interaction. An OCCI spokesperson said that overseas visitors were expected to increase as border restrictions continued to ease, and encouraged visitors to see Osaka, which is undergoing fascinating transformation in the run-up to 2025 World Expo.

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<COURTESY VISIT (1ST-30TH JUNE)>

(India) 8th June

-Ms. Mona Khandhar, Minister(Economic and Commerce) of Embassy of India

(Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia) 28th June

-H. E. Tefera Derbew Derbew Yimam, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

-H.E. Takako ITO, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Embassy of Japan in Ethiopia

(People’s Committee of Binh Duong Province) 28th June

-Mr. Nguyen Van Loi

Member of Party Central Committee, Secretary of Binh Duong Provincial

Party Committee, Head of delegation of National Assembly *

-Mr. Mai Hung Dung

Standing Vice Chairman of the Provincial People’s Committee

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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://intl.osaka.cci.or.jp/>



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Back Numbers of OCCI e-Magazine:

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



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to inform us of your change of e-mail address, or of

your wishes not to receive OCCI e-Magazine.