

integrated resort plan, which is to be located in Osaka. He also gave a rundown of the OCCI's initiatives in the medical and health fields, startup incubation, and the promotion of field testing, and expressed hope that Japanese and Korean business would seek ways to cooperate.

The summit concluded with the joint Busan Declaration, and both sides reaffirmed their desire to pursue wide-ranging exchanges and deepen mutual understanding. The next summit will be held in Osaka.

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2. OCCI AND AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN JAPAN HOLD ROUNDTABLE

Representatives of the OCCI met with counterparts from the ACCJ for a roundtable meeting on June 15. Following opening remarks from Minoru Tomita, OCCI executive councilor and chairperson of OCCI's International Business Committee, and Victor Osumi, Vice President of ACCJ, followed by a lively exchange of opinions and sharing of initiatives by both parties.

The ACCJ raised the topic of sustainability, which will likely be a key focus at APEC 2023, to be held in San Francisco in November, and showcased its ongoing efforts relating to LGBTQ issues. The OCCI shared information on its life science-related projects in areas such as medtech, healthcare, and biotechnology, demonstration projects being carried out under the Team Osaka banner, as well as the Global Innovation Forum (GIF) Osaka, the Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC), the upcoming and World Expo, and the recently approved plan to build an integrated resort. Expectations are high that both sides will continue to cooperate across a broad range of fields.

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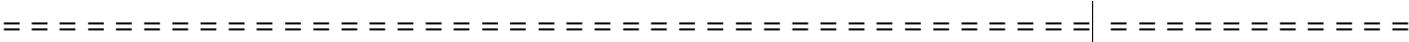
3. OCCI TO SUPPORT OSAKA STARTUPS' OVERSEAS EXPANSION WITH JOINT BOOTH AT CES 2024

One exciting part of GIF Osaka, the OCCI's Global Innovation Forum that aims to promote global open innovation, is the GIF Challenge, which helps startups take their business worldwide through a variety of activities including exhibiting in the Japan Tech section of Japan's booth at CES 2024.

This follows on from a highly successful delegation to CES 2023, which was buoyed in part by heightened expectations for the return from the Covid-enforced online events to CES “in the flesh.” Hopes are even higher for CES 2024, and we at the OCCI look forward to leveraging the event as a means of supporting startups’ global expansion. To that end, we provide training such as individual acceleration programs for domestic startups in Japan which are eager to expand overseas.

We 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 Japanese startups leverage their advanced technological capabilities and potential to expand overseas.



4. O-BIC FACILITATES MOST FDIS SINCE COVID IN FY2022, GENERATING STRONG MOMENTUM FOR FY2023

The Osaka Business & Investment Center (O-BIC) recently announced the results of its efforts to attract foreign companies to Osaka in FY2022. O-BIC is a one-stop service center established in 2001 by the Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, and the OCCI to support foreign companies, foreign diplomatic missions, economic organizations, and others in their efforts to invest in Osaka. Services include assistance with set-up costs, referrals to professionals able to help with the set-up process, and advisory services.

O-BIC facilitated 23 new investments in Osaka in FY2022, the most since FY2020, when foreign direct investment was suddenly curtailed by Covid. Ten of those were from China, seven from the Republic of Korea, and three from Taiwan.

One of the Taiwanese investments was by a major global semiconductor manufacturer, which has set up a design solutions hub. In recent years, we have seen an increase in SDG-focused startups, indicating that

Osaka is seen as a promising market for investment in a variety of business domains. Moreover, post-Covid optimism, the upcoming World Expo, and Japan’s first integrated resort have increased expectation for even more investment in Osaka.

For more on O-BIC and how it can help your business invest in Osaka, check out the official website at: o-bic.net

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5. ASEAN BUSINESS PLATFORM FORGES STRONGER COOPERATIVE TIES AMONG JAPANESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, FACILITATES COLLABORATION AMONG JAPANESE AND ASEAN BUSINESSES

Since its inception on April 11, 2023, the ASEAN-Japan Business Promotion Platform (“AJB) Platform”) has hit the ground running, helping connect businesses while maintaining a focus on core themes such as sales channel development, green business, and startups. The June-to-August period has been particularly busy, with the platform organizing pitch meetings with Courts Singapore (an electronics retailer) and a seminar focusing on Thailand's green sector, as well as a delegation visit scheduled for the end of August with the support of the Thai Consulate-General.

Meanwhile, nearly 200 people signed up for an online tour of Indonesia and pre-tour study workshop, underscoring the high level of interest in ASEAN among Japanese companies. The platform is all set not only to help Japanese businesses expand overseas and overseas businesses invest in Japan, but also to establish an ASEAN Japan Business Promotion Network (“AJB Network”) with Japanese chambers of commerce interested in ASEAN business, and use that as a resource to facilitate collaboration between Japanese and ASEAN companies.

Find out more (in Japanese) about the AJB Platform at: <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/abp/>

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6. OCCI LAUNCHES TWO EXCITING NEW TECH BUSINESS PROJECTS

<Emerging Tech Forum>

Here at OCCI, we are excited to announce the Emerging Tech Forum, a showcase events designed to encourage innovation in emerging technologies and industries.

At a time when digital technology develops at a mind-boggling pace and change is a constant part of daily life, the Emerging Tech Forum serves as a platform for the creation of innovation in emerging technologies and industries with a view to the year 2030.

The forum is not just about sparking new businesses in AI, mobility, new energy, and other next-generation fields; it will also serve as a source of information, business matching, and support for demonstration field testing through subject-specific “cluster” subcommittees.

The OCCI will host a kick-off symposium on July 13, 2023. This must-see event will feature a program packed with insights into future-shaping technologies and business creation, including:

- * A keynote address by Yuichi Tsuda, a team leader on JAXA’s Hayabusa 2 (asteroid sample collecting module) project, on the latest in space research and the boundary-crossing business potential that the space industry holds;

- * Case studies of major companies and start-ups in the AI, mobility, and new energy spaces, including Panasonic Holdings, Eight Knot, and Osaka Gas;

- * An expert panel discussion on the possibilities of cross-disciplinary collaboration. Admission is free. Sign up at

the OCCI website: <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/seminar/202306/D22230601017.html>

<Metaverse Business Creation Platform>: Solid Support to Help Get Metaverse-related Businesses Off the Ground

In the new “normal” of the post-Covid era, hopes are high for new and exciting uses of extended reality (a catch-all term for augmented reality, virtual reality, and mixed reality) throughout the industrial spectrum in the run-up to the 2025 World Expo in Osaka.

In keeping with that trend, the OCCI has launched the Metaverse Business Creation Platform, which aims to spark the creation of new Metaverse-related businesses. The platform will feature seminars on the latest Metaverse trends and case studies including adjacent works like digital twins, as well as practical workshops where participants can discuss and think about business design while trying out real services and technologies. A kick-off symposium will be held on July 19, 2023, featuring a presentation by Hiromu Negishi, Public Strategy Manager at Meta’s (formerly Facebook) Japanese arm. This is a golden opportunity to learn about the possibilities of, and challenges facing, the Metaverse, and hear about global trends, including Meta initiatives.

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7. A LOOK AT DIFFERENT COUNTRIES’ PAVILIONS AT THE EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN

Australia

Not only are Australia and Japan long-standing partners with close economic and personal ties, but Osaka and Melbourne are sister cities, and Melbourne is building close relations with Osaka's business hubs and facilities like the Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC).

On June 14, 2023, we at the OCCI were pleased to welcome a delegation from the Australian government and its Consul-General in Osaka to discuss the Australian pavilion and other initiatives at the 2025 World Expo.

Australia’s theme for the expo is “Chasing the Sun.” As is only right for a country that is largely solar powered, the sun will be the pavilion’s defining symbol and will represent the nurturing of business, global partnerships, and a diverse society.

Australia is garnering attention in areas such as new energy, decarbonization, healthcare, and med-tech, and all eyes will be on the Australian pavilion, which is sure to contain a whole host of wonders.

Osaka Expo “Theme Weeks”... What’s That?

The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition has announced that “theme weeks” will be held at the expo. These are a fun initiative designed to take advantage of the fact that many countries will gather in one place for six months; the aim is to bring together wisdom from around the world, seek solutions to global-scale issues through dialogue, and create “future society for our lives.” Each week, the expo will focus on the theme of a specific global challenge, and everyone?organizers, participating countries, Japanese central and local governments, co-creation project participants, exhibitors, and the industrial community?will seek solutions through dialogue and business exchange.

The following eight global challenges have been selected as theme week themes.

Future Earth and Biodiversity Week

Health and Wellbeing Week

Peace, Human Security, and Dignity Week

Necessities of Life (Food, Clothing, Shelter) Week

Learning and Playing Week

Co-Creating Cultures for the Future Week

The Future of Community and Mobility Week

SDGs + Beyond (Future Society for Life) Week (the final week)

Stay tuned for more from the OCCI on the various pavilions.

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8. OCCI INSTAGRAM CAMPAIGN: POST ABOUT OSAKA TO WIN GREAT PRIZES

The OCCI has announced another of its fun Instagram campaigns to boost awareness of Osaka’s status as “the nation’s kitchen” and one of Japan’s foremost manufacturing hubs. From July 3 to 31, people are encouraged to post on Instagram images of Osaka’s excellent culinary and manufacturing industries along with the hashtag #大阪ええやん知らんけど, which uses a couple of phrases ubiquitous in the local dialect to say something akin to “Osaka’s awesome.”

Anyone who lives in Japan and has an Instagram account is welcome to participate?just post something you think portrays Osaka’s charms, and add the hashtag #大阪ええやん知らんけど to go into the draw to win fabulous prizes.

Prizes have been chosen to let winners discover even more that’s great about Osaka, including afternoon tea at the Conrad Osaka hotel.

This latest campaign follows on from a previous one held in March 2023, which attracted some 4,497 entries in two categories (roughly equivalent to “in the hood” and “favorite”).Find out more about the campaign (in Japanese) at: <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/instagramcp2023/>

To be eligible for the draw to win prizes, make sure you follow the OCCI Instagram account (@osaka_cci), and ensure your post contains the hashtag #大阪ええやん知らんけど and mentions @osaka_cci.

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<COURTESY VISIT (31ST APRIL-29ST JUNE)>

Tamil Nadu Investment Seminar and Networking Event in Osaka Lunch Meeting

(Government of Tamil Nadu,INDIA) 26 th May

- Mr. Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin , Hon’ble Chief Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu

- Dr. T.R.B. Rajaa, Hon’ble Minister for Industries

Val d'Oise County Council's representatives 31th May

- Mr Philippe SUEUR, 1st Vice-president in charge of the territory and employment development
- Mr Jean-François BENON, General Manager of the Val d'Oise Attractiveness and Development Agency (CEEVO)
- Mr Michel JONQUERES, President of the Val d'Oise Business Committee (MEVO)

Executive Director, PROPANAMA 8th June

- Ms. Carmen Gisela Vergara Mas

VICE PRESIDENT- KANSAI 15th June

- Mr.Jiro Kawakami

Austrian Business Agency (ABA) - Director Asia 20th June

- Mr.Matthias Adelwoehrer

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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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