

2. GIF OSAKA MEET-UPS

Meet-ups are a major part of GIF Osaka, in which the OCCI and the Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) seek to match up Japanese companies and startups with high-potential technologies from around the world.

This year's meetups will feature Q5D Technology from the UK and IPtoki from Canada. These two were the winners of the recent live pitch sessions, chosen in real time by the audience from among a competitive pool of startups from the EU, the Middle East, and North and Latin America. Their pitches focused not only on their technologies, but their potential for tie-ups with Japanese businesses.

The two winning startups have been invited to Osaka, and will be here on January 30 and 31, 2024, to meet with interested local companies.

Find out more about Q5D Technology here:

<https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/en/company/index.php?mode=show&seq=8>

Find out more about IPtoki here:

<https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/en/company/index.php?mode=show&seq=10>

Find out more about GIF Osaka 2023 here :

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

GIF Osaka Challenge: Joint Exhibition at CES

Japan Tech Exhibitors Finalized for CES 2024, the World's Largest Tradeshow

Another feature of GIF Osaka is the GIF Challenge, in which Japanese startups are given a helping hand to expand overseas.

As part of this, the OCCI will co-host the Japan Tech booth in the startup-focused Eureka Park area of the 2024 Consumer Electronics Show (CES), the world's largest tradeshow, between January 9 and 12, 2024.

Japan Tech is one of Japan's two official booths at CES, and will feature 24 exhibitors.

The Osaka-based exhibitors are:

Horiuchi Machinery (environmentally friendly, people-friendly hydraulic cylinders) Kaltec (innovative air purifiers that use photocatalysts) Jikantechno (high-performance carbons made from residual chaff and husks from farms) Lithon (unique home appliances and outdoor products) Cool Flash (medical devices to treat hot flashes; this was the winning entry in U-Start Up Kansai, the OCCI's university startup support program).

Find out more about the Japan Tech project at the official website:

<https://ces-japantech.jp/en/>

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3. INAUGURAL GIF ASEAN-JAPAN EVENT SPARKS INTEREST

The OCCI held GIF ASEAN-JAPAN on December 14, 2023, a startup-focused online event bringing together business executives, international organizations, and others from Japan and the ASEAN region. The event, which was held as part of the ASEAN JAPAN Business Promotion Platform, attracted a total of 70 participants.

GIF ASEAN-JAPAN sought to promote international business development and multilateral cooperation through a live pitch session featuring startups carefully selected by ASEAN JAPAN Business Promotion Platform constituents, including the Singapore Business Federation, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the OCCI.

The audience heard from eight startups with unique technologies in the DX, green tech, and food tech fields. The startups spoke about their technologies and services, as well as the kind of cross-border tie-ups they are seeking. The presentations drew significant interest, and were followed by discussion between startups and audience.

The OCCI plans to hold similar events next year in cooperation with its ASEAN counterparts, and remains committed to holding events that help Japanese companies develop their businesses overseas.

Find out more (in Japanese) about the ASEAN JAPAN Business Promotion Platform at:

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/abp/>

Phone inquiries: +81-6-6944-6400

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4. OCCI HOLDS GREATER MANCHESTER SEMINAR

The OCCI, supported by O-BIC, held a seminar on December 6, 2023, relating to doing business with Greater Manchester. The seminar showcased business development in the UK and Greater Manchester City, the potential for collaboration between UK and Osaka enterprises, as well as opportunities for innovation and the possible benefits.

Greater Manchester City is working with its industrial, university, and research communities on initiatives aimed at decarbonization. The OCCI and O-BIC are ideally positioned to help with this: the annual GIF Osaka events aim to establish Osaka as a place where people gather to spark new business by connecting Japanese companies with international startups with high-potential technologies and products in the DX, carbon neutrality, and health tech fields.

The OCCI looks forward to strengthening its collaboration with Greater Manchester City and matching the city's outstanding startups with likely Japanese companies as part of its ongoing efforts to attract international startups to Osaka's fertile business environment.

Check out the O-BIC LinkedIn account at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/osaka-o-bic-2025/>

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5. HANSHIN TIGERS, ORIX BUFFALOES WIN OCCI VITAL OSAKA GRAND PRIX 2023

The OCCI announced on December 12, 2023, that the winners of the Vital Osaka Grand Prix for 2023 were the Hanshin Tigers and the Orix Buffaloes, the two Kansai-based baseball teams that won their respective leagues and made this season's Nippon Series a Kansai derby for the first time in 59 years. The Vital Osaka Grand Prix is an award for companies and organizations that contribute to Osaka's economic and industrial development.

The organizers judged that the showdown between Tigers, who emerged as the victor, and Buffaloes was a tremendous boost of vitality and encouragement to Osaka and the broader Kansai region.

At the award ceremony, Manabu Murayama, head of the Hanshin Tigers General Affairs Department, said the Tigers remained devoted to building a stronger, more widely loved team. Fumihiro Suga, executive officer of the Orix Baseball Club, remarked that this was the second year in a row Orix had won at the Vital Osaka Grand Prix awards, having previously won the Special Prize, and spoke of his wish for more Kansai derbies in the future for the benefit of the region.

This year's Vital Osaka Grand Prix saw the addition of a new category, the Future Design Challenge Award, which is intended to support companies pioneering new designs for the future of society. The inaugural winner in this category was Komi Hakko, an Osaka University startup.

The Future Design Challenge Award was established as part of the Yatte Minahare Osaka Plan: A Roadmap for a City of Daring and Ambition. Its aim is to spread the word about future-oriented initiatives in Osaka.

Award winner Komi Hakko was recognized for becoming the first in the world to successfully quantify smell.

The company is working to develop substances that render

unpleasant odors imperceptible, as well as techniques for combining just a few aromatic essences to reproduce

and even “send” scents. Chief Business Development Officer Kenji Kubo said the company hoped to complete its scent transfer method in time for the 2025 World Expo in Osaka, so that they could, for instance, send scents from one pavilion to another.

For more on this article, contact the OCCI at +81-6-6944-6304

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6. OCCI ALL-OSAKA EXPO CARNIVAL MARKS 500-DAYS-TO-GO MILESTONE

The OCCI set the Namba Carnival Mall alight on November 30, 2023, with its All-Osaka Expo Carnival to mark the 500-days-to-go milestone and build momentum toward the 2025 World Expo.

OCCI Chairperson Shingo Torii remarked that holding these kinds of promotions throughout the community were just as important to ensuring the expo’s success as those held at the official venue on Yumeshima Island. Indeed, such experimental events were very much in keeping with the expo’s People’s Living Lab theme, he said.

The OCCI looks forward to holding a range of promotional events to build momentum in the run-up to Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, not just in Japan but also in those countries who have committed to participating in the expo.

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/kansai-news/20231130/2000080053.html>

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7.O-BIC UPDATES

Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) is a joint initiative established in April 2001 by the Osaka Prefectural Government, the Osaka City Government, and the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. As a one-stop service center for business investment, O-BIC provides comprehensive yet detailed support for prospective foreign investors. International companies, foreign government offices and economic organizations as well as foreign-capitalized companies located in Japan are encouraged to take full advantage of O-BIC’s

wealth of accurate information and essential advice for entering the Osaka market.

For more information, contact O-BIC via the official website at <https://o-bic.net/e/about/>

Upcoming Event: Inspection tour of environmental and new-energy facilities in Osaka

14:00~16:30 on February 13, 2024 (TBC)

Open to foreign consulates and diplomatic missions in Osaka

Upcoming Event: Online inspection tour of TEQS Software Industry Plaza

15:00~16:00 on February 26, 2024

Open to international companies

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8. SEASON' S GREETINGS

2023 is drawing to a close, and what a year it's been! We thank you for reading our email newsletter this year, and look forward to bringing you more exciting information about business in Osaka and the Kansai region in 2024. So, stay safe over the holiday period, and may 2024 bring you and yours health and happiness, peace and prosperity.

OCCI Holiday Season Schedule

Closed from December 29 to January 3

Further Information

OCCI website: <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/>

O-BIC LinkedIn account: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/osaka-o-bic-2025/>

O-BIC website: <https://o-bic.net/>

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<Courtesy Visit (1th-28st December)>

(NIA : National Innovation Agency) 4th December

- Dr. Krithpaka Boonfueng, Executive Director

-Mr. Yuzo Takahash, Senior Advisor

(Turkish Embassy)

- H.E.Mr. Korkut Gungen

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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>

[linkedin]

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/osaka-o-bic-2025/recent-activity/all/>



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to inform us of your change of e-mail address, or of
your wishes not to receive OCCI e-Magazine.

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