

Melbourne. Our intention is to use this visit and others like it to deepen business ties between Japan and Australia.

[Inspection Tour to Bangladesh Reveals Great Potential]

The OCCI teamed up with JETRO Osaka to organize a tour to Bangladesh (Dhaka and surrounding areas) between November 9 and 14, 2025. The delegation was led jointly by Hiromitsu Morishima (executive councilor of OCCI; chairperson of the OCCI's

International Business Committee; executive officer of Marubeni and general manager of their Osaka Branch) and Hideki Sho, (director general of JETRO Osaka), and comprised ten people from ten companies and organizations.

The tour was focused on three characteristics of Bangladesh: first, its increasing prominence as a useful production base with a low-wage workforce; second, its growing domestic markets, driven by the middle class; and third, the abundance of local human resources. The group visited companies and government agencies chosen to look further into those aspects. Production facilities visited included local Japanese companies, government agencies, and leading industrial parks.

The tour gave a strong impression of Bangladesh's potential. Although there are still some infrastructural and procedural issues that need to be addressed regarding manufacturers setting up in Bangladesh, the relatively low-wage workforce has given rise to a concentration of textile industries, and the government is working to foster peripheral, supporting industries and diversify into other sectors. This potential has begun to attract manufacturers from Japan and around the world.

One significant takeaway was that Bangladeshi human resources are showing increasing interest in Japan. Visits to Dhaka University and Japanese language schools revealed a sharp increase in the number of people studying Japanese, many of whom are hoping to work at Japanese companies.

The potential of Bangladeshi workers is illustrated by the example of BJIT, which runs an offshoring business in Bangladesh, and has successfully harnessed local human resources to improve business performance.

Meanwhile, the expansion of Bangladesh's middle class is leading to growth in domestic markets. Also, a growing number of companies have increased market share in Bangladesh by targeting the country's large population of young people via social media branding. Yamaha, for instance, has successfully done this for its motorcycles and there is growing hope for Japanese food and other products at upscale supermarkets.

Moving forward, we at the OCCI will leverage the insights gained and networks built during this visit to help companies develop their businesses in Bangladesh and tap their rich supply of human resources.

[OCCI to Exhibit Again at US Consumer Electronics Show]

The OCCI will once again lead a team of Japanese businesses to exhibit in the Japan Tech booth within Eureka Park at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas from January 6 to 9, 2026. With over 4,500 exhibitors and 140,000 visitors, CES is the world's largest tech trade show.

The event showcases a huge array of technologies, including everything from 5G, AR, and VR to health tech, food tech, and other fields related to daily life and the environment. CES is the best show in town, so be sure to drop by!

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2. OCCI FLIES THE FLAG IN INDIA

The OCCI Industry Division represented Osaka at two events in India recently - one focused on startup support, and another focused on green business.

Firstly, on November 24 and 25, 2025, we had a booth at the Iconn Summit, a startup-focused event in Hyderabad. Here, we made a presentation in which we showcased the startup nurturing benefits of Osaka and the broader Kansai region, including Osaka’s recent hosting of the 2025 World Expo, which had a heavy focus on startups, as well as the OCCI’s various startup support programs.

Secondly, between November 26 and 29, 2025, we helped two companies, TSK Corporation and Nippon Paper Trading Co., Ltd., exhibit at the Green Building Congress in Mumbai. This event is an excellent opportunity for Japanese companies to promote their products and services in India, where environmental regulations are becoming stricter and demand for green-related products is increasing rapidly.

For our part, we at the OCCI look forward to working with the Confederation of Indian Industry, which organized these two trade shows, to help spark business creation between Japanese and Indian companies.

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3. NEWS FROM O-BIC

[“Why You Should Invest in Osaka” Seminar Tokyo 2025: A Timely Update on Osaka’s Business Advantages

Growth Potential]

The OCCI teamed up with Osaka City to hold the “Why You Should Invest in Osaka” Seminar in Tokyo on December 12, 2025. The event attracted an audience of around 40 people.

Osaka City made a presentation outlining its direction for urban development and mid-to-long-term infrastructure investment in the wake of the 2025 World Expo, and CBRE talked about the market for office space in Osaka, explaining the low vacancy rates, solid demand, and the prospects for future rent increases.

There was also a panel discussion, in which the panelists talked up the merits of locations such as Umeda, Kyobashi, and Namba, and showcased successful industry-government-academia collabs and notable achievements by innovation centers. In this way, the event was the ideal opportunity to update people on Osaka’s growth potential. Feedback was resoundingly positive, with participants saying they gained a clearer picture of Osaka’s business potential and future direction.

We at the OCCI remain committed to promoting Osaka throughout Japan and around the world.

[Osaka Online “Tour”: Pop-up Shops for Test Marketing]

On December 16, 2025, O-BIC and Nankai Electric Railway teamed up to hold the Osaka Online Tour: Pop-up Shops for Test Marketing, an event aimed at foreign companies. The “tour” was popular, attracting an audience of 76 people. Nankai Electric Railway beamed in live from Namba Parks to give a talk on the Japanese B2C market, the Namba Parks facility, and the ins-and-outs of opening a pop-up store.

The “tour” served to confirm that overseas interest in the Osaka and Japanese markets remains high even after

the conclusion of the 2025 World Expo, and was a fine opportunity to share the importance of test marketing before taking the plunge in a market like Osaka.

O-BIC is ready and equipped to offer tailored support for foreign companies to help them conduct test marketing through pop-up stores.

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4. NEWS FROM THE OSAKA & KANSAI ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

[Japanese Medical Association’s 2027 General Assembly to be Held in Osaka]

The next general assembly of the Japan Medical Association, which is held every four years, will be held in Osaka in 2027. Centered on the theme of “Resilience in Medicine: Challenges and Contributions to the Future,” the assembly is the foremost gathering of academics nationwide, and is expected to further invigorate research, industry, and international exchange.

Find out more (in Japanese) at: <https://isoukai2027.jp/>

[Japan’s First Waldorf Astoria Hotel Opens in Osaka’s Umeda Area]

The Waldorf Astoria Osaka, one of the premier brands of Hilton Hotels & Resorts, has opened in Umeda. As Japan’s first Waldorf Astoria hotel, the arrival of this world-famous luxury hotel brand is expected to further enhance the area’s credentials for hosting international business travelers and high-wealth individuals, thus further boosting Osaka’s urban value.

[OCTB Compiles MICE Catalog for Izumisano]

The Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau(OCTB) has compiled a sparkling new catalog to spread the word about Izumisano as a MICE destination. Izumisano is nestled in the ideal MICE location just a stone's throw from Kansai International Airport, and has all the facilities needed to meet conference, incentive, and exhibition travel needs. The new catalog will no doubt prove a handy tool for attracting business events to the area.

Find out more at: <https://i-cb.jp/en/archives/513634>

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5. COURTESY VISIT (1ST DECEMBER-31ST DECEMBER)

(General of the Export Authority of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire,3rd December)

-Mr. KALADJI FADIGA, Director of the Agence Cote d'Ivoire Export

(Consul General of India in Osaka-Kobe, 5th December)

-Mr. Chandru Appar, Consul General of India, Osaka-Kobe

(Vietnam's Parliamentary Economic and Financial Committee, 12th December)

- Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Bao, National Assembly representative from Bac Ninh province, Vice

Chairman of the Economic and Finance Committee, Head of the Construction, Industry,

Trade and Services Subcommittee, Head of Delegation.

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And finally, some Osaka trivia. Did you know that the Osaka business community has a big festival coming up in early January?

It's the Toka Ebisu Festival, where everyone involved in business goes to a shrine dedicated to the deity Ebisu to pray for prosperity.

The most famous one is at Imamiya Ebisu Shrine near Namba, but there are many others - large and small - all over the place. The festival is held between January 9 and 11, but the main event is on January 10 (hence "toka" in Japanese). Why not drop by, pray to Ebisu, mingle with the happy crowds, and pick up a few lucky items to ensure your business gets off to a good start this year?

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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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