



session, after which, participants interested in particular companies can contact them directly. The event is open to attendees from around the world, and Japanese-English interpreters will be on hand. Overseas registrations (incl. foreign companies in Japan) are available here: <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/b/rd20260306/>

Find out more about the ASEAN-Japan Business Promotion Platform at

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

[Fresh Momentum for Osaka-Thailand Healthcare and Nursing Care Collabs: OCCI-JICA Seminar Attracts Large Audience]

The OCCI and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) teamed up to hold the Thailand Healthcare and Nursing Care Industry Business Matching Seminar on January 22, 2026. The online seminar was aimed at helping Japanese enterprises market healthcare and nursing care products and services in Thailand, which faces similar issues to Japan relating to a rapidly aging population. The event drew an audience of more than 110, underscoring the high level of interest in the Thai healthcare and nursing care market. Attendees heard an overview of Thailand's investment environment and up-to-date information on local needs from a variety of perspectives. For instance, there was a live-from-Thailand report from a JICA volunteer working in nursing care, and a presentation on local institutions' specific product and service needs. The seminar marks the mere beginning of this initiative; moving forward, the OCCI and JICA will set up one-on-one meetings between Japanese companies and Thai organizations interested in using their products and services, thus paving the way

for participants to pursue opportunities together. We at the OCCI are committed to promoting this kind of business interaction between Japanese and overseas enterprises in the healthcare and nursing care sector.

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## 2. OVERSEAS BUSINESS NEWS

[OCCI and O-BIC Exhibited at the U.S. CES]

The OCCI and the Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) teamed up once again to present the Japan Tech booth at the CES, one of the world’s largest tech-related trade shows, in Las Vegas from January 6 to 10, 2026. Seeking to help Japanese startups and SMEs expand overseas, we at the OCCI have put on this showcase at CES every year since 2019. This year, some 37 Japanese companies exhibited at the event; the Osaka contingent included Sharp, Nagase, and Nisshin Denki Kosaku. This year, we doubled the exposure for Japan’s state-of-the-art technological capabilities by installing two Japan Tech installations: one in the Eureka Park area, where it has always been located, and another in the Global Pavilion. We also held our first ever OCCI CES Tour, in which expert guides led visitors around high-buzz areas. The tour attracted the participation of 21 of the Japanese companies attending CES. What’s more, we took the opportunity to spread the word about Osaka through five-minute mini-pitches and booth exhibitions. And to follow up, we intend to hold a debrief in early February to discuss everything we saw and experienced at CES.

This year’s CES was a huge affair, with participants from more than 150 countries and regions worldwide attracting some 148,000 visitors, a much larger audience than last year. The Japan Tech booth attracted people

from throughout the corporate and media landscape, and exhibitors reported that their presence led to substantial business meetings with key people and companies of all sizes. In addition, the delegation visited Chicago under the O-BIC banner, where we met and spoke with officials from JETRO Chicago, World Business Chicago, Choose Chicago, and other organizations to promote Osaka.

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### **3. NEWS FROM O-BIC**

[O-BIC Advisory Clinic Helps Local Foreign Residents Find Solutions to a Range of Concerns]

The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) recently held a one-day clinic where foreign nationals could seek advice in a variety of languages on subjects including healthcare, insurance, law, tax, human rights, and education. O-BIC was tapped to provide advice relating to doing business here, including getting visas. Preliminary figures show that 81 visitors sought advice on 135 matters.

If you are interested in doing business in Osaka, O-BIC is your first port of call. Contact O-BIC now.

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

If you are already in Japan and experiencing problems regarding day-to-day life here, Osaka International House is an excellent place to seek advice.

Osaka International House website: <https://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/english/>

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### **4. NEWS FROM THE OSAKA & KANSAI ECONOMIC COMMUNITY**

[Osaka Leaps to 18th on 2025 Global Power City Index: A Business Center of Increasing World Renown]

Osaka leaped from 35th place to 18th in the 2025 Global Power City Index (GPCI) run by the Mori Memorial Foundation. The improvement in ranking was the result of advances in livability, culture and exchange, as well as an increase in international presence and global attention due to Osaka's hosting of the 2025 World Expo.

< Why More People and Businesses Are Choosing Osaka >

- Competitive cost of living and business
- Prices in Osaka are generally 5% lower than in Tokyo
- From tiny startups to big global corporations, Osaka is a great place to start a business and pursue long-term growth
- Osaka has a well-developed urban environment

< International Interaction Sparks New Business Opportunities >

Some 40% of all foreign visitors to Japan come to Osaka. The 2025 World Expo brought people, technologies, and ideas together from all around the world, which further cemented Osaka's reputation as a place for international business exchange. Osaka is ideally placed to serve as a gateway to Asian markets, making the area one of the most important investment and business centers to watch.

Find out more about the GPCI at

<https://mori-m-foundation.or.jp/english/ius2/gpci2/index.shtml>

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And finally, some Osaka trivia. Quiz question: Osaka has the longest shopping street/arcade in the world. Which of Osaka's famous shotengai is it?

- A. Shinsaibashi-suji Shotengai
- B. Senbayashi Shotengai
- C. Tenjinbashi-suji Shotengai
- D. Doguyasuji Shotengai

Answer: C. Tenjinbashi-suji Shotengai

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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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