



Issue 211 [March, 2026]

<Back number available at <http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/emagazine/>>

Sign Up Now for DocoDemo Festival Osaka (DDFes):

A Showcase of the Best That Osaka Has to Offer About 60 startups from

Japan and abroad will gather in Osaka's Namba Plaza to showcase cutting-edge services and technologies.

There will also be a Revival Zone, where visitors can relive the thrills of the 2025 World Expo. All are welcome at DocoDemo Festival Osaka, so be sure to bring your colleagues, family, and friends.

What: DocoDemo Festival Osaka

When: 10:00-18:00, March 27 & 28, 2026

Where: Namba Plaza & Nansan-dori (<https://www.namba-hiroba.jp/>)

Don't miss:

- * Products and services from Japanese and international startups
- * The Revival Zone, featuring popular pavilions and food trucks from the 2025 World Expo

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

* Workshops offering hands-on experiences of Osaka's innovative craft manufacturing

* Traditional Noh drama performances

Organizer: Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Find out more (in Japanese) at: <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/ddfes/>

No booking required - just drop by!

Direct inquiries to: ddfes@osaka.cci.or.jp

[GIF ASEAN-Japan Event - All Speakers Confirmed! (March 6)]

The OCCI is gearing up for another GIF ASEAN-Japan event on March 6, 2026.

As always, the event provides an online forum for startups from Japan and the ASEAN region to showcase their technologies and services, and to discuss the kinds of international collaborations they are seeking.

Held as part of the ASEAN-Japan Business Promotion Platform (AJB Platform), the event will feature pitch sessions by Japanese and ASEAN enterprises in the green tech and products sectors.

GIF ASEAN-Japan aims to promote international business development and multilateral cooperation through live pitch sessions featuring startups carefully selected by AJB Platform constituents, including National Chambers from the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Singapore Business Federation, and the OCCI.

Speakers:

[Indonesia] PT Empat Beruang Perkasa (EBP) - SOILPEDIA (powered by bFARM)

[Philippines] Waste4Good Technologies Co. / LESSTICS INC.

[Singapore] SEADLING

[Thailand] Centrovision Company Limited

[Vietnam] BioWraps Solutions JSC

[Japan] SPACECOOL Inc.

Website (Japanese): <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/seminar/202512/D11251216027.html>

Pitches will be followed by a Q&A session.

Participants interested in specific companies may contact them directly afterward.

The event is open to attendees worldwide. Japanese-English interpretation will be provided. Overseas registrations (including foreign companies in Japan) are available here:

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/b/rd20260306/>

Learn more about the ASEAN-Japan Business Promotion Platform: <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/abp/>

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2. NEWS FROM O-BIC

[O-BIC Flies the Flag at Smart City Summit & Expo in Taiwan]

O-BIC will participate in Smart City Summit & Expo 2026, to be held from March 18 to 20, 2026, at the Taipei World Trade Center Nangang Exhibition Hall.

The event is one of Asia’s largest smart city exhibitions and an important forum connecting city officials, government agencies, and businesses.

As part of the program, O-BIC representatives will present the center’s initiatives and outlook at the Global Startup Ecosystem Forum on the afternoon of March 18. An additional O-BIC presentation will take place on March 19 during the Smart Open Mic session. Osaka’s strong life science ecosystem and support initiatives for biotech startups will also be showcased at Taipei Biotech Park.

More information is available at: <https://en.smartcity.org.tw/>

[PR TIMES: Profiles of Foreign Companies Supported by O-BIC in 2025]

O-BIC actively supports overseas companies in promoting their technologies and products. One such initiative was an online tour of the Namba Parks Pop-Up event held in December 2025. The article reports on this tour and introduces several foreign companies that O-BIC helped establish operations in Osaka in 2025.

Article link: <https://prtimes.jp/main/html/rd/p/000000004.000157167.html>

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3. 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, held every four years, will take place in Osaka in 2027. Centered on the theme “Resilience in

Medicine: Challenges and Contributions to the Future,” the assembly is Japan’s premier academic gathering and is expected to invigorate research, industry, and international exchange.

A public exhibition is scheduled for March 20 to 28, 2027, in the Umekita district north of Osaka Station.

Applications from prospective exhibitors are now open. Official website: <https://isoukai2027.jp/>

Inquiries: 32nd JMA General Assembly Public Exhibitions and Events Admin Office

E-mail: shimintenji2027@dentsu.co.jp

[Three Female Entrepreneurs Added to the Entrepreneurial Museum of Challenge and Innovation]

On February 20, 2026, the Osaka Museum of Entrepreneurship added three female entrepreneurs to its permanent exhibition, bringing the total to 108, including four women - the first update since the museum opened in 2001.

The new additions are:

- Asako Hirooka, Daido Life Insurance/Japan Women’s University
- Yoshie Kongo, Japan’s first female master carpenter of Kongo Gumi
- Ayako Koshino, a pioneer of Japanese fashion design

As of February 5, 2026, the museum - celebrating its 25th anniversary this June, has welcomed 388,329 visitors from 110 countries and regions.

Learn more at: <https://www.kigyoka.jp/e/index.html>

[Invest Osaka Launches “Global Voices in Osaka” Video Series]

Invest Osaka has launched a new video interview series featuring representatives of overseas companies operating in Osaka. The series provides firsthand insights into market entry, business conditions, and available support. Watch the videos at: <https://www.investosaka.jp/eng/>

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4. COURTESY VISIT (JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 28)

(Consulate General of India in Osaka-Kobe, January 29)

-Mr. Chandru Appar, Consul General

(American Consulate General Osaka-Kobe, February 2)

-Mr Richard N. Larsen, Consul General

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And finally, some Osaka trivia.

Did you know that the last Osaka-born rikishi to win the makuuchi division of a Grand Sumo tournament was Goeido (from Neyagawa) in 2016? That victory marked the first such win since Yamanishiki in 1930-a full 86 years earlier. There are still many Osaka-born rikishi today, including Ura, Gonoyama, and Asakoryu - but the top prize remains elusive.

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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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