



[CONTENTS]

1. CALL FOR DRUG- DISCOVERY RESEARCH & TECH PITCHES AT DSANJ BIO CONFERENCE

2. INITIATIVES TO HELP BUSINESSES EXPAND SALES CHANNELS IN 2026

3. OSAKA & KANSAI ECONOMIC TRENDS

4. COURTESY VISIT (APRIL 1ST- 30TH)

E-MAIL MAGAZINE

Issue 213 [May, 2026]

OCCI e-Magazine

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

1. CALL FOR DRUG-DISCOVERY RESEARCH & TECH PITCHES AT DSANJ BIO CONFERENCE

The OCCI has put out a call for universities, research institutions, and startups interested in participating in the DSANJ Bio Conference, an

online event aimed at matching quality drug-discovery research projects from throughout Japan and around the world with innovation-hungry pharmaceutical companies. Since 2010, the DSANJ Bio Conference has served as a twice-yearly opportunity for those engaged in research to pitch their drug-discovery seeds and base technologies to pharmaceutical companies in one-on-one meetings as a first step toward potential joint research projects aimed at developing new drugs.

Applications are currently being accepted from interested parties from the academic and startup communities for the August 2026 conference. The deadline for submitting applications is June 9, 2026 (There is no entry fee).

Details and an application form are available at

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/dsanj/en/researchers/2026summer.html>

=====

2. INITIATIVES TO HELP BUSINESSES EXPAND SALES CHANNELS IN 2026

[Global Buyers]

The OCCI is once again offering a generous line-up of support for businesses looking to expand overseas in 2026 via the Global Buyers program. Upcoming events include three product-showcase-and-networking events: a B2B event targeting Indian buyers on July 10; one targeting buyers from multiple countries (who will visit Osaka for the event) around October; and food-focused event targeting Canadian buyers around December. Other events include an online meet-and-match event on July 8 for Japanese companies interested in doing business with buyers from the overseas division of Hands Inc., which is currently expanding its retail presence in Singapore.

We at the OCCI are always eager to hear from buyers interested in sourcing unique, high-quality Japanese products. Information about the program is available at:

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/globalbuyers/common/pdf/english.pdf>

=====

3. OSAKA & KANSAI ECONOMIC TRENDS

[Survey Reveals Widespread Concern About Effects of Middle East Tensions]

Survey conducted: March 12-15, 2026

Target: 1,847 OCCI member companies

Valid responses: 397 (RR: 21.5%)

The OCCI conducted an urgent survey of companies in Osaka about the effects on business of the current tensions in the Middle East. More than 70% of respondents said they were concerned about the impact, with many citing direct effects on business activity such as rising material and energy costs, and logistics disruption. While companies are doing what they can to adapt, such as by diversifying procurement sources, many say there is a need for support measures relating to cash flow and energy stability.

The poll's results are available (in Japanese) at:

https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Chousa_Kenkyuu_Iken/Iken_Youbou/20260319kchousa.pdf

[Surveys Show Mixed Business Trends and Eagerness to Expand Sales Channels, Attract Workers]

The 101st Business and Economic Trends Survey, jointly conducted by the OCCI and the Kansai Economic Federation between February 12 and 24, 2026, revealed a Business Survey Index (BSI) score (calculated as “up” responses minus “down” responses) of 3.4 for the January - March 2026 quarter. While the latest BSI score remained in positive territory, the improvement was slight compared to the previous figure of 21.7.

A closer look shows that larger corporations reported a positive BSI score, while SMEs reported a collective

BSI of -4.8. Meanwhile, the OCCI's SME & Mid-Market Business Sentiment Survey, conducted between February 6 and 20, 2026, showed that most commonly cited priority tasks were finding new clients and developing new sales channels (46.0%), and tackling labor shortages (42.7%). Some 70% of respondents said that co-creation and collaboration with other companies, universities, or research institutions were important or somewhat important, or that they were interested or somewhat interested in these, citing expectations such as developing new sales channels and markets, supplementing business resources, and developing new products and services.

The surveys' results are available in Japanese.

101st Business and Economic Trends Survey

https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Chousa_Kenkyuu_Iken/Bsi/bsi_101.pdf

SME & Mid-Scale Business Sentiment Survey

https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Chousa_Kenkyuu_Iken/Iken_Youbou/20260319kkadai.pdf

[Conference for the Creation of a Bright Future (※provisional translation)]

The inaugural meeting of the Conference for the Creation of a Bright Future was held on March 31, 2026. The conference was formed by the government, Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, the Union of Kansai Governments,

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

and the business community at large to ensure that the achievements of the 2025 World Expo in Osaka are harnessed for sustainable growth. OCCI Chairperson Shingo Torii co-chaired the meeting. The conference is intended as a top management body to oversee a region-wide effort to leverage the expo's legacy for the greater good, using the residual revenue from the event (yes, it turned a profit!) to support projects aimed at real-life deployment of state-of-the-art technologies displayed at the expo.

An overview of the conference's inaugural meeting is available (in Japanese) at

https://www.pref.osaka.lg.jp/o020060/20260323_zissouka.html

=====

4. COURTESY VISIT (APRIL 1ST- 30TH)

(Indonesia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN), April 2)

- Mr. Muhammad Lutfi

(Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Osaka, April 9)

- Mr. LEE Young-Chae

=====

And finally, some Osaka trivia. You know Kuidaore Taro, the iconic clown-like doll that beats on a drum outside the Nakaza building in Dotonbori? It's quite commonly known that his name (and that of the former dining establishment he represented) derives from the Osakan concept of "kuidaore" (eat 'til you drop). But did you know that therein lies a cultural distinction with, for example, Kyoto? Kuidaore reflects the Osakan philosophy that it's better to spend your money on good food rather than fine clothes or appearances ("kidaore")

as they supposedly do in Kyoto.

=====

[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/>



Chief Editor :NEGORO Takayoshi (Mr.), Executive Director, OCCI

Mailed by : Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, International Division

Address : 2-8 Hommachi-bashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, Japan 540-0029

Tel : +81-(0)6-6944-6400

Fax : +81-(0)6-6944-6293

Contact Persons :SHIMIZU Ryosuke (Mr.), SEZOKO Hana (Ms.)

Back Numbers of OCCI e-Magazine:

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



* Please contact us by email (intl@osaka.cci.or.jp) to inform us of your change of e-mail address, or of

your wishes not to receive OCCI e-Magazine.