



[CONTENTS]

1. NEWS ON OVERSEAS TRADE SHOWS AND DELEGATIONS FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

2. WORKSHOP ON DOS-AND-DON'TS OF BUSINESS IN THE US KICKS OFF WITH SEMINAR

3. NEWS ON LOCAL EVENTS FROM REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

4. NEWS ON SEMINARS AND MATCHING EVENTS FROM DISTRIBUTION & SERVICE INDUSTRIES DIVISION

5. OCCI TO HOST SYMPOSIUM FEATURING NOBEL LAUREATE SHIMON SAKAGUCHI ON HOW UNIVERSITY OF OSAKA RESEARCH IS TACKLING GLOBAL PROBLEMS

6. COURTESY VISIT (JULY 1ST- 31ST)

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1. NEWS ON OVERSEAS TRADE SHOWS AND DELEGATIONS FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

- SITE (Startup x Innovation Thailand Expo) 2026: Local Help

Results in More Effective Support for Participating Osaka

Enterprises

The OCCI and two Japanese companies made concrete strides toward

opening up new pathways to market quality Japanese products and

technologies overseas. This progress is the result of the chamber and

those enterprises exhibiting at SITE, the Startup x Innovation Thailand

Expo, in Bangkok in June, 2026. For this year's appearance at SITE, we

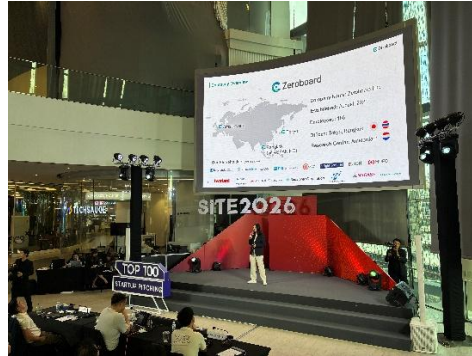
engaged a local consultant who has long experience in helping

international businesses set up in Thailand and an extensive network of

contacts. This enabled us to match our participants with likely target companies and organizations in advance of the event, and arrange eight direct meetings during SITE itself, thus offering strong support for the exhibitors to forge sales channels and promoting their innovative products and services.



▲Exhibition Booth (NPDH)



▲Pitch Stage (Zeroboard)



▲Meeting (NPDH & Zeroboard)

- Greater Manchester Business Tour: Four Osaka/Kansai Companies Study the Business Landscape and Pitch Their Wares

The OCCI joined forces with Osaka City again this year to lead a group of four companies from Osaka and the broader Kansai region on the Greater Manchester Business Tour in July. The Greater Manchester area is significant because it was the heart of the UK's 18th-century industrial revolution and remains the country's second-largest economy. These tours are part of the sister city initiative launched by Osaka and Manchester in September 2025 and the partnership inaugurated by the OCCI and Invest Manchester (formerly known as the Manchester Investment and Development Agency Service) in June of that year. In this way, local governments and business communities from the two regions are working together to boost business interaction.

In addition to a total of 16 one-on-one meetings with local firms chosen for compatibility of business interests and requirements, the participating companies visited advanced technology hubs, including the Graphene

Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC) and the Manchester Fuel Cell Innovation Centre (MFCIC). They were also briefed on the UK's industrial policy and investment environment, and heard from Daikin UK about its local business operations. They also presented brief pitches and participated in networking sessions.



▲ Manchester Fuel Cell Innovation Centre



▲ Meeting

The OCCI is dedicated to helping local enterprises pursue opportunities overseas. To that end, the chamber has similar initiatives in place with other countries and regions, too. For instance, business tours are scheduled for Quebec, Canada in September 2026, and Lodz, Poland in October 2026.

2. WORKSHOP ON DOS AND DON'TS OF BUSINESS IN THE US KICKS OFF WITH SEMINAR

The OCCI held a seminar on July 9, 2026, to kick off its US Business Workshop focusing on the essential rules and regulations of doing business in America. The seminar featured an impressive roster of speakers, including OCCI Chairperson Shingo Torii; Consul General Richard Larsen of the US Consulate General Osaka-Kobe; Mie Kitano, treasurer of the Kansai Chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan; Hiroe Nakai, president of the Osaka Bar Association; Ryosuke Fujii, director of the Americas Division of the METI Trade Policy Bureau; Wataru Morita, president and COO of Maruichi Steel Tube; and Kiyomi Kato, president

of Creative Vision. The seminar drew an audience of more than 150, which heard a variety of insights into Japan-US trade talks, the US market outlook, and practical steps for starting a business in America.



▲ Speakers of the seminar



▲ At the venue



▲ OCCI Chairperson Shingo Torii



▲ Consul General Richard Larsen
of the US Consulate General Osaka-Kobe

Moving forward, the US Business Workshop will comprise four small-group study sessions between August 28 and November 27, 2026, covering topics of high interest to Japanese companies, such as governance, compliance, litigation, trade regulations, and cyber risk. Each of those sessions will feature talks by two lawyers registered with the Osaka Bar Association. Entry is 30,000 yen, and each participant will receive a free gift commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence - a different gift at each study session! (Participants may choose to attend any or all of the sessions.)

Read more (in Japanese) at the OCCI website.

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/seminar/202606/D11260609018.html>

3. NEWS ON LOCAL EVENTS FROM OUR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

- Greater Minami Train 2026

All aboard the Greater Minami Train! Come and join a special railway journey, experience all that's fun, fascinating, and beautiful about southern Osaka, and sample local bento boxed meals, confectioneries, and beverages. Stops include some of the area's most delightful hidden gems.

The Greater Minami Train departs on October 4 and 20, 2026. Seats are limited and tickets are available only by draw. Submit your application between July 20 and August 16. Foreign language assistance will not be provided. Find out more (in Japanese) at <https://nmes.jp/ja/app/GA16234greatertrain2026>



- Yodogawa Fireworks

Circle October 17, 2026, in your calendar! The Naniwa Yodogawa Fireworks is one of Osaka's most famous

events, and you will not want to miss out.

This is a community-driven event, funded solely by local donations, and planned and organized entirely by neighborhood volunteers. And yet, despite being fueled only by local enthusiasm, the event attracts a truly massive audience every year and is a major boon for Osaka's economy.

Tickets go on sale on August 1, 2026. Fireworks start at 19:00 on the day. Find out more (in Japanese) at

<https://www.yodohanabi.com/>

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4. NEWS ON SEMINARS AND MATCHING EVENTS FROM OUR DISTRIBUTION & SERVICE INDUSTRIES DIVISION

OCCI's Best Buyers & Kaimasse Events Put Smaller Businesses in the Room with Major Distributors' Buyers

September and November 2026 will see the OCCI hold two of the signature events held as part of its ongoing quest to help businesses open up new sales channels.

In September, we will hold an event matching licensing companies for Osaka-relevant characters, mascots, and other intellectual property -e.g., companies such as Arctic, Pine, and Fuekinori Kogyo- with businesses interested in using those widely known and loved characters to add value to their own offerings and open up new markets. Details are available (in Japanese) at <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/tbb/>

Following that, the 30th edition of Kaimasse, the trade show where buyers discover the next hit products and vendors forge new sales channels, will be held on November 13, 2026. Kaimasse is a golden opportunity for small-scale manufacturers to gain rare access to major distributors and pitch their products directly at "buyer"

booths. Details are available (in Japanese) at <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/uresuji/>

Gaining a competitive edge in Japan requires more than just building up knowledge through seminars and the like - it takes constant involvement in business negotiations that truly open doors. Events like these can help give your business the boost it needs.

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5. OCCI TO HOST SYMPOSIUM FEATURING NOBEL LAUREATE SHIMON SAKAGUCHI ON HOW UNIVERSITY OF OSAKA RESEARCH IS TACKLING GLOBAL PROBLEMS

***NOTE: THIS ARTICLE IS A REPRINT FROM ISSUE 215**

The OCCI will host a joint industry-academia seminar this summer featuring a keynote address by Prof. Shimon Sakaguchi, who won the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. The event will focus on the University of Osaka's cutting-edge research projects aimed at sparking new businesses to deliver solutions to global challenges. Attendees will be able to hear from some of Japan's foremost researchers in areas such as semiconductors, quantum science, biotech, advanced medicine, nuclear fusion, and material science; see displays on some twenty recent University of Osaka research projects; and meet with researchers at a networking session.

When: 13:00-18:00, August 28, 2026

Where: 3rd fl. Event Hall, Osaka International Convention Center (5-3-51 Nakanoshima, Kita-ku, Osaka)

Details and an application form are available at

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/seminar/202606/D29260618015.html>

AI-based automatic English translations of proceedings will be shown on screen at the venue.

Please direct inquiries regarding this symposium to the OCCI Industry Division at sports@osaka.cci.or.jp

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6. COURTESY VISIT (JULY 1-31)

(Principal Representative, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Tokyo), July 28)

- Ms. Gillian LAM

(Board Chairperson, Investment Fiji / CEO, Fiji Development Bank, July 31)

- Mr. Filimone Waqabaca

(Ambassador-Designate, Embassy of the Republic of Fiji in Japan, July 31)

- H.E Mr. Kemueli Naiqama

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And finally, some Osaka trivia! Did you know that Osaka sits at a latitude of around 34 degrees north? That's the same as places like Los Angeles, where the forecast temperature for 13:00 on July 22 (this section of the newsletter is being written at around 13:00 on July22 JST) is comfortable 29 degrees Celsius. And Beirut, Lebanon, 30 degrees.

Answer: 3

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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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