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1. UPDATES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DIVISION: INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY ROUNDUP

In April 2026, we launched International Activity Roundup, a webpage

dedicated to keeping you up to date about our cross-border various activities and initiatives. International Activity

Roundup reports on a variety of projects, events, courtesy visits, and

much more. In the April-July quarter, we engaged in 40 activities,

including no less than 18 seminars. Check out the reports, which are full of handy photos, to find out more.

The reports are searchable by parameters such as category and country/region.

The International Activity Roundup webpage (Japanese) can be found at

<https://intl.osaka.cci.or.jp/international-reports/>

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2. GLOBAL STARTUP EXPO 2026

It's almost time for this year's edition of the Global Startup Expo, the international showcase of the world's deepest "deep tech." OCCI is a member of the Global Startup Expo 2026 Executive Committee along with Osaka Prefecture, Osaka City, and various business organizations. In addition to the main features, GSE 2026 will feature more than 50 side events.

Meanwhile, OCCI is once again teaming up with MedTech Actuator to hold the Global Pitch Showdown, the final round of the international pitch contest for medical and healthcare industry startups. Other must-see events include the open pitch portion of U-Start Up Kansai 2026, a program designed to boost university-based startups and research seeds.

○Global Startup Expo 2026

When: October 5-7, 2026

Where: Umekita, Nakanoshima Qross, etc.

Find out more at <https://global-startup-expo.com/en/>

○Global Pitch Showdown

When: October 6, 2026

Where: Grand Cube Osaka

Find out more (in Japanese) at

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/seminar/202606/D23260623017.html>

○U-Start Up Kansai 2026

When: October 8, 2026

Where: Jam Base conference room & online

Find out more (in Japanese) at

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/seminar/202604/D22260415028.html>

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3. INITIATIVES TO HELP BUSINESSES EXPAND SALES CHANNELS

Akinai Osaka: The New Hub for Showcasing Osaka's Finest Products, Destinations, and Culture

We at the OCCI have teamed up with the Osaka Convention & Tourism Bureau and the Osaka Business

Development Agency to open Akinai Osaka, a place for selling “oh so Osaka” goods, holding workshops where

people from throughout Japan and around the world can try their hands at local craftsmanship techniques and

experience traditions and cultures, and promoting local businesses. Launched on July 28, 2026, Akinai Osaka is

located on the second floor of the Kitte Osaka shopping center in Umeda.

We are eager to help Osaka-based creators and SMEs who have well designed, well crafted, functional products

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

and services but whose modest size often sees them excluded from access to larger-scale retail locations. By helping such businesses set up in Akinai Osaka, we aim to boost their ability to spread the word and gain a foothold in the market.

Find out more (in Japanese) at <https://www.instagram.com/akinaiosaka/>

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

Heads up! The sign-up period for DSANJ Bio Conference 2027, the online event that connects researchers with pharmaceutical companies, will end in less than two months.

The Drug Seeds Alliance Network Japan (DSANJ) is dedicated to sparking new drug development by matching universities, research institutions, and startups in Japan and worldwide with pharmaceutical companies looking to invest in drug discovery seeds and base technologies. The DSANJ Bio Conference serves to facilitate one-on-one meetings between research organizations and companies eager to stay abreast of drug discovery trends. In this way, the event helps interested parties take the first step on the path toward joint research and licensing partnerships. If you are an academic institution or startup venture in Japan or anywhere else in the world, sign up now for a chance to pitch your drug discovery seeds and base technologies at the DSANJ Bio Conference in January 2027.

Applications close on October 22, 2026. Participation is free.

Details & sign-up: <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/dsanj/en/researchers/2026winter.html>

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5. OSAKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

Osaka Ranked the World's 7th Most Liveable City

Osaka has retained its place as the world's 7th most livable city in the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU)

Global Liveability Index 2026. Once again, Osaka was the highest-ranked city in Asia. Osaka received a perfect 100 in three categories of the 2026 survey: Stability, healthcare, and education. The perfect score for stability reflects Osaka's public safety. It is particularly noteworthy because it comes amid a trend toward lower scores worldwide (only three cities in the top 10 scored 100 in this category).

Elsewhere, Osaka outscored Tokyo (which ranked tenth) on infrastructure and housing affordability.

Meanwhile, the arrival of Grand Green Osaka and upcoming projects like the integrated resort continue to make Osaka a better place to live and do business.

The survey is a favorite benchmark for companies considering overseas expansion and personnel transfers, and has become a key factor in recent years for digital nomads and travelers when choosing their next destination.

Read the EIU Global Liveability Index 2026 report at

<https://www.eiu.com/n/global-themes/report/global-liveability-index-2026/>

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

(Consul General, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Osaka-Kobe, August 20)

- Ms. Susanne Welter

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And finally, some Osaka trivia. Osaka wasn't always called "Osaka." Back in the old days of feudal domains, the area that's now northern Osaka Prefecture was Settsu, the eastern part was Kawachi, and the southern part was Izumi.

Q. What was the area that's now Osaka City called?

1. Owari
2. Yoshino
3. Naniwa

A. Naniwa

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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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