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(NOTIFICATION) “KICK-OFF SEMINAR TO PROMOTE ENTRY INTO WESTERN COUNTRIES” TO BE HELD FOR THE FIELDS OF HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELLS

Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) will hold the “Kick-Off Seminar to Promote Entry into Western Countries” on June 22 to promote the overseas business of Japanese mid-scale firms and SME, which have advanced technologies in the fields of hydrogen and fuel cells as well as other energies, and also to facilitate business collaboration between Japanese and foreign companies in such fields.

Currently, in North America and Europe, especially in England and Germany, both the public and private sectors have actively addressed the issues of hydrogen and fuel cells, including the development of fuel cell vehicles, hydrogen production and storage, establishment of hydrogen infrastructure, and diffusion of fuel cell use. Consequently, in these regions, the related markets are expected to grow rapidly. The seminar aims at assisting Japanese companies with advanced technologies in the fields of energy and electronics to utilize such technologies in terms of issues such as development of hydrogen infrastructure and fuel cells, and thereby enter Western countries.

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry



At the seminar, Roland Berger, a German management strategy consultancy, will analyze the “Latest global trends in hydrogen and fuel cell technologies,” and the Canadian Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association (CHFCA) will talk about “Market Trends in Canada regarding hydrogen and fuel cells.” Meanwhile, Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. will give a lecture on the “Development status of home-use fuel cell systems and expansion of the technology into overseas markets.

The seminar will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the City Plaza Osaka (Chuo-ku, Osaka City), admission free (Advanced registration required.) The second seminar in the series will be held in September with a guest speaker from the U.K., and the third seminar will take place in October with a guest speaker from the U.S. These seminars are conducted as part of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry’s commissioned projects in 2016 to create and support regional core enterprises.

1. FINANCE MINISTER OF INDIA VISITS OSAKA TO PARTICIPATE IN SEMINAR ON INVESTMENT IN INDIA

The “Seminar on Investment in India,” was held on June 2, inviting Finance Minister of India, Mr. Arun Jaitley as a guest speaker in collaboration with OCCI, other economic organizations, the Indian Embassy in Japan and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Mr. Jaitley emphasized the attractiveness of the Indian market, saying, “India is one of the largest markets in the world, which has marked annual growth of between 7 to 8 percent in two consecutive years in the midst of global economic stagnation.” He also called on Japanese companies to enter the Indian market and expressed his hope for an expansion of economic exchange between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Ms. Ravneet Kaur, Joint Secretary of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India, talked about the “Make in India initiative (MII),” (a policy to accelerate manufacturing in India) which the Modi administration has been promoting vigorously. Ms. Kaur commented that the Indian government has been making efforts to develop infrastructures such as transportation and logistics as well as to improve investment circumstances in India through various measures including the easing of regulations. She also pointed out that excellent human resources are available in the country.

Representing OCCI, Vice Chairman Minoru Furukawa participated in the seminar. He gave a speech and said, “Osaka-based companies have become increasingly interested in India. I also see great potential in the huge Indian market. I hope that cooperation between Japanese and Indian enterprises will accelerate further in the near future.”



After the seminar, a reception was held, attended by more than 200 guests from both India and Japan. This clearly shows that the Indian market has drawn much attention because of its continuous rapid economic growth.

2. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION COMES TO OSAKA FOR TALKS WITH OCCI EXECUTIVES

A European Parliament delegation (comprising 10 members including Chair Petr Ježek), which visited Japan for the 36th EU-Japan Interparliamentary Meeting, made a courtesy call on May 18 on OCCI’s Vice Chairman Atsushi Kojima and President Tsutomu Miyagi.



Vice Chairman Kojima said that interest in EU member nations has been increasing among Japanese small and medium-sized companies in terms of ensuring promising markets and excellent human resources. He also expressed his hope for the easing of regulations regarding the export of Japanese foodstuffs to EU countries when the currently-discussed Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is concluded by the end of this year. Meanwhile, the delegation mentioned that the Japan-EU EPA negotiations have been steadily developing and expressed their

hope that the EPA would not only provide tariff reduction effect, but also accelerate industrial cooperation between the two parties.

The OCCI side introduced its various projects, including the dispatch of overseas missions (to England and Romania in 2014 and to Germany and Italy in 2015) and the holding of seminars this year on issues such as Japan-EU EPA and investments in Slovenia and Hungary. OCCI also indicated

that it actively provides business exchange programs with EU member nations to deepen business relationships between the Osaka/Kansai region and the EU.

3. ASEAN SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITS OSAKA TO PARTICIPATE IN “ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY FORUM”

Mr. Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary-General, who has been visiting Tokyo for the 22nd International Conference on The Future of Asia, came to Osaka to participate in the “ASEAN Economic Community Forum”.

Secretary-General Minh said in his speech that tariffs had already been eliminated on more than 90 percent of listed items in the Community. He then explained the issues the AEC is now addressing. The issues include non-tariff barriers; barrier elimination within the Community, an example of which is the ASEAN Single Window, an initiative to allow mutual connection of electronic customs clearance among member countries; cross-border liberalization of logistics; and infrastructure development. Mr. Minh also commented that the AEC is determined to continue promoting these issues in the future.

As for the relationship between Japan and ASEAN, Mr. Minh said that the amount of investment by Japan in ASEAN countries is the second largest after that by EU nations. He also commented that the entry of Japanese companies into ASEAN member countries and the development of industry clusters have significantly contributed to technology advancement in ASEAN nations. He then talked about the importance of the Japan-ASEAN Economic Partnership Agreement as well as Japan’s assistance for economic corridors (inland ASEAN), maritime transportation (coastal ASEAN) and infrastructure projects within ASEAN. Finally, Mr. Minh expressed hope for the further deepening of cooperation between Japan and ASEAN as well as ASEAN’s determination to accelerate ASEAN 2025, an action plan that looks 10 years ahead.

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) was established at the end of last year, which is the world’s 7th largest economic community with over 600 million people and a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of USD 3 trillion. Because the majority of its population is 30 years of age or younger, the AEC offers a young and abundant labor force. Also, the AEC has drawn much attention not only as a production location but also as a large consumer market as the middle class population is increasing.

On the same day, a dinner reception was held in honor of Mr. Le Luong Minh at Consulate General of Vietnam in Osaka, where OCCI Vice Chairman Teiichi Nishimura joined, along with representatives of other Economic organizations and Consulate Generals based in Osaka, to exchange views on ASEAN economy and future relationship between ASEAN countries and Osaka/Kansai.

4. RESULTS OF THE ISSUANCE OF TRADE-RELATED CERTIFICATES (TRADE-RELATED CERTIFICATES AND PREFERENTIAL CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN) IN FY 2015

Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) issues trade-related certificates, such as certificates of origin and invoices. It also issues preferential certificates of origin to countries and regions based on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) concluded with Japan, as the Osaka Office of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OCCI summarized the results of the issuance of these certificates from April 2015 to March 2016 (FY2015) as shown below.

<Results of the issuance of trade-related certificates>

--The number of trade-related certificates issued, mainly certificates of Japanese origin, was 118,053, an increase of 7.3 points year on year.

--In terms of destination, the issuance of certificates for exports to Oceania increased by 29.0 points, and those for exports to Europe and North America increased by 15.6 points and 11.7 points, respectively. Certificates for exports to Asia, which comprise a large portion of the total, increased by 4.6 points, while those for exports to the Middle East decreased by 4.2 points.

--In terms of item, the issuance of certificates for foodstuffs increased sharply by 91.3 points (because it was made mandatory to attach a certificate of origin to foodstuffs exported to Taiwan). Meanwhile, those for transport equipment and precision machines decreased by 11.0 points and 10.7 points, respectively.

<Results of the issuance of preferential certificates of origin>

--Since more and more companies enhanced their price competitiveness for exports due to the reduction of customs duty and aimed to develop their supply chain capacity, the issuance of

preferential certificates of origin continued to show a steady increase. In FY 2015, the number of certificates issued was 38,239, a rise of 15.0 points year on year.

--The issuance of preferential certificates of origin for exports to Thailand (12,773), Indonesia (7,640), and India (6,589) based on EPAs accounted for approximately 70% of the total, followed by those for exports based on the EPA with Malaysia, the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership, and the EPA with Vietnam.

--In terms of product, the issuance of preferential certificates of origin for metal products, chemical products, machinery and transportation-related products including vehicles amounted to 43.2%, 17.5%, 17.3%, and 12.8% of the total issuance, respectively.

5. OCCI INTERNATIONAL DIVISION REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

May 26 (Thu.) Mr. Istvan SZERDAHELYI, Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary,
Embassy of Hungary in Tokyo

Mr. CHANG, Jen Joe, Director-General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in
Osaka

June 1 (Wed.) H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General, The Association of Southeast Asian
Nations (ASEAN)

June 2 (Thu.) Mr. SHRI ARUN JAITLEY, Finance Minister of India

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