

CONTENTS

1. THE OCCI DISPATCHED DELEGATION TO STUDY ECOSYSTEM IN ISRAEL

2. THE OCCI DISPATCHED DELEGATION TO STUDY ELDERCARE/WELLNESS INDUSTRIES IN CHINA

3. G20 SUMMIT FORUM HELD

4. CHAIRMAN HIROSHI OZAKI JOINS DINNER WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND

5. RESULTS OF THE 72ND BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC TREND SURVEY (DISCLOSED IN DECEMBER 2018)

6. VIP REPORTS (2018/12/20~2019/2/20)



E-MAIL MAGAZINE

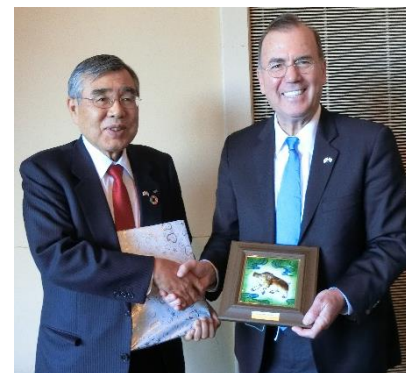
Issue 133 [February 2019]

OCCI e-Magazine

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

1. THE OCCI DISPATCHED DELEGATION TO STUDY ECOSYSTEM IN ISRAEL

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) dispatched Vice Chairman Minoru Furukawa to the Japan-Israel Business Forum that was jointly organized by Israel Export Institute and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) held in Israel from January 13 to 17, 2019. 98 Japanese companies participated in the Forum held in Jerusalem. Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko delivered a



speech following Economy and Industry Minister of Israel Eli

Cohen and expressed that the two countries would work together to strengthen cooperation in areas such as digital health and investment. Mr. Furukawa had a meeting on January 15 with the Chairman of the Board of Israel Innovation Authority Ami Appelbaum, who delivered a keynote speech in the Forum. Mr. Furukawa asked Dr. Appelbaum to recommend leading start-ups in AI- and IoT-related businesses to participate in the event to be held in Osaka this October. He also visited the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation founded by Former President of Israel Shimon Peres and cyber-security companies in Tel Aviv. After the visit, he said, “there are potential start-ups in Israel that have technologies Japanese companies do not have, and we would

like to further expand our cooperation with them.”

=====

2. THE OCCI DISPATCHED DELEGATION TO STUDY ELDERCARE/WELLNESS INDUSTRIES IN CHINA



The OCCI dispatched a delegation to study eldercare/wellness industries in China from December 11 to 14, 2018. The delegation was headed by Chairman of the China Business

Committee, Mr. Hiroyuki Fukano (Representative for Business Community Relations and Executive Advisory Officer for Kansai District Operation of ITOCHU Corporation). Members of the delegation consisted of 10 companies and organizations totaling 12 members who were interested in the eldercare/wellness market in China. They visited three cities, namely Beijing, Shanghai, and Suzhou, in which they visited to nursing homes for the elderly and had an opportunity to interact in an event with concerned associations in each city.

During this period, with several local media covering the delegation, the delegation not only actively exchanged opinions with eldercare industry-related associations, but also had Japanese specialists make presentations, trying to improve Japanese presence in the eldercare industry. They also visited popular nursing homes with an aim to look for their advantages for Japanese companies to learn.

There is a forecast that the market size of elderly business in China will reach approximately 360 trillion yen in 2030. Therefore, local eldercare industry has a strong interest in gaining Japanese expertise and know-how in measures for dementia and rehabilitation. The OCCI will continue following the trend of eldercare-related business in China attentively, while organizing related seminars and study sessions and supporting the development of eldercare-related market in China.

=====

3. G20 SUMMIT FORUM HELD

On February 4, 2019, the Kansai Promotion Council for the 2019 G20 Osaka Summit, which the Osaka

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) takes part in, organized “G20 Osaka Summit Forum” in partnership with Osaka Convention and Tourism Bureau. Some 500 residents and business operators participated. The Governor of Osaka Prefecture, Mr. Ichiro Matsui; Mayor of Osaka City, Mr. Hirofumi Yoshimura; Former Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Visiting Professor of Ritsumeikan University, Mr. Mitoji Yabunaka; Ambassador for Representative of the Government of Japan for the G20 Summit, Mr. Koji Tomita; and Mr. Kiyoshi Nisikawa from Yoshimoto Kogyo Co., Ltd. mounted a platform and exchanged their opinions and expectations for the Summit. Mr. Yabunaka said, “this will be a chance for Japan to take the leadership and disseminate new technologies from Osaka to the world.” Mr. Nishikawa expressed his expectation that Osaka could advertise itself as being the third most livable city in the world in Global Livability Ranking and would gain more liveliness.

=====

4. CHAIRMAN HIROSHI OZAKI JOINS DINNER WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND

On January 31, 2019, Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Somkid Jatusripitak of the Kingdom of Thailand, along with key economic ministers and the Secretary General of the Board of Investment of Thailand (BOI) visited Osaka and hosted a dinner for 14 representatives from Osaka business



community including Chairman Hiroshi Ozaki and Vice Chairman Minory Furukawa. It was organized as one of the programs of new economic policies that the Deputy Prime Minister himself is actively promoting, namely Thailand 4.0 and Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC).

Deputy Prime Minister Jatusripitak opened his speech emphasizing: “the world economic outlook is unclear, but Thailand’s economic fundamentals are solid, and we are expecting our economic growth to be about 4%. We will have a general election in March and coronation ceremony of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn in May. Through these events, Thailand will further establish stability as a state.” In response, Mr. Ozaki

explained: “The OCCI has a partnership with the Thai Chamber of Commerce and Kasikornbank in Thailand and implements projects in partnership with them. We would like to further enhance economic relationship between Osaka and Thailand.”

=====

5. RESULTS OF THE 72ND BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC TREND SURVEY (DISCLOSED IN DECEMBER 2018)

The results of the Business and Economic Trend Survey were disclosed. This quarterly survey is jointly conducted by the OCCI and the Kansai Economic Federation to grasp the business sentiments of member companies and the status of their corporate management. For the 72nd survey, a questionnaire was sent to 1,626 companies from mid to late November 2018, with responses from 378 companies (valid response rate: 23.2%).

The survey results show that the 2018 October?December business sentiment index (BSI: “the percentage of companies seeing business as improving” minus “the percentage that of declining”) concerning “Domestic Business In General” is 16.2, a positive figure for 9 consecutive quarters. The BSI concerning responding “each company’s own business” conditions during the same quarter is 13.3, a positive figure for 9 consecutive quarters, maintaining the longest period since the survey started in 2001.

Next, asked about “what made your company’s achievement well,” 56.9% mentioned “domestic and external demand” being the major answer. Meanwhile, for the question of “what affected your company negatively,” the answer “raw materials costs and logistics costs” was the most common answer (33.9%), followed by “natural disasters” (18.8%) and “labor cost” (15.9%).

Finally, as for the question “outlook of the USD/JPY rate for 2019,” the respondents answered that “your company’s desired rate level” was “from 110 to less than JPY 115” the most (33.1%), followed by “from 105 to less than JPY 110” (19.3%).

=====

6. VIP REPORTS (2018/12/20~2019/2/20)

2019/1/17 Ms. Natalie Black, Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner Asia Pacific,
Department for International Trade, British High Commission

2019/1/31 H.E. Mr. Somkid Jatusripitak, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

2019/2/18 Gediminas Varvuolis Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Republic of Lithuania to Japan, New Zealand,
the Commonwealth of Australia and the Republic of Singapore



O-BIC as one-stop service center for creating a foothold in Osaka

<http://o-bic.net/>

Osaka Business & Investment Center (O-BIC), established in 2001, is operated through the joint efforts of the Osaka Prefectural Government, Osaka City Government, and Osaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

As your one-stop service center for business investing, O-BIC provides a comprehensive yet detailed support system. International companies, foreign government offices and economic organizations as well as foreign-capitalized companies located in Japan are welcome to use the center to obtain accurate information and essential advice for creating a foothold in Osaka.

For further information, please contact: o-bic@osaka.cci.or.jp



Information about scheduled events (in Japanese only):

If you wish to receive information about scheduled events, please visit

<http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/mailstation/>

and submit your subscription request to OCCI Email Station.

Alternatively, please check out information about scheduled seminars and other events on the OCCI's website (in Japanese only).

=====

Chief Editor : Susumu SAITO, Director of International Division, 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 : Yumiko NAGOSHI (Ms.), Kana TATEBAYASHI (Ms.)

Back Numbers of OCCI e-Magazine: <http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/e/emagazine/>

=====

* Please contact us by email (ka-tatebayashi@osaka.cci.or.jp)

to inform us of your change of e-mail address, or of

your wishes not to receive OCCI e-Magazine.