

[CONTENTS, JUNE 2019]

1. OSAKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY LAUNCH A SPECIAL WEBSITE

ON THE SDGS (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS)

2. FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE URBAN OPEN INNOVATION LAB "XPORT"

3. O-BIC'S FY2018 REPORT OF SUCCESSFUL INVITATIONS- SECOND-HIGHEST RECORD OF 42 INVITATIONS

4. AI / IOT MEETUP HELD BY OCCI WITH US STARTUPS FROM SEATTLE

5. TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS ON HANSHIN EXPRESSWAY DURING THE G20 OSAKA SUMMIT

6. RESULTS OF THE 73RD SURVEY ON MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC TRENDS (RELEASED IN MARCH 2019)

7. REPORT ON VIP VISITORS (2019/4/23~6/20)



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1. OSAKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY LAUNCH A SPECIAL WEBSITE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

To educate and familiarize small and medium size companies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) advocated by the UN, Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) launched a special SDGs website within its main website on June 17. The OCCI will become the first chamber of commerce to provide such a website in Japan.

This website offers a useful tool called Diagnosis of Efforts Aimed at Achieving the SDGs, which enables companies to evaluate their efforts on a 3-point scale based on 74 questions so that they can identify which goals are achievable by putting their strength to effective use. The SDGs are composed of 17 goals, which do not need to be achieved in any specific order, making it

easier for small and medium size companies to take their first step. The OCCI also introduces examples of SDGs projects carried out by companies in Kansai and distributes SDGs badges via the Internet.

OCCI's special SDGs website: <http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/sdgs/> (in Japanese).

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2. FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE URBAN OPEN INNOVATION LAB “XPORT”



Xport (cross port), an urban open innovation lab collaboratively established and administered by Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Osaka Institute of Technology, marked its first anniversary in April. With 68 members currently comprising companies, students, and individuals, Xport has so far instituted 39 programs including open innovation programs by Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd., involving about 2,500 participants.

As a one-year celebration project, a workshop was held on April 16. Under the theme “design thinking,”

Dr. Tamara Carleton and Dr. William Cockayne from Stanford University, which leads the world in innovation development, gave lectures and supervised group work on topics never discussed in Japan before. On April 19, Keung Leung, the Vice Chairman of the Galanz Group? a major Chinese manufacturer of electronic home appliances and a member of Xport?gave a special lecture on the group’s international strategies and future business expansion plan.

Xport will continue to offer various programs, with doors open at all times for companies interested in becoming a member. For details, please visit the following website: <https://xport.osaka.jp/> (in Japanese).

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3. O-BIC’S FY2018 REPORT OF SUCCESSFUL INVITATIONS?SECOND-HIGHEST RECORD OF 42 INVITATIONS

Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC; located in the International Division of Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry), which was established by Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Osaka Prefecture, and Osaka City, released its FY2018 report of successful invitations. With not only prosperous Asian companies but also more western companies making investments, O-BIC

successfully invited 42 companies (investing about ¥340 million in total), the second-highest number of companies since the program began, and equivalent to that of last year. Over the past 18 years since it was established, O-BIC has successfully invited a total of 548 companies.

Categorized by country and region, most of the successfully invited companies were from China (21 companies), South Korea (7 companies), and Singapore (3 companies). Companies successfully invited from Asia totaled 34 and accounted for 80% of all invited companies, reflecting the close economic relationship between Osaka and Asia. There was also an increase in the number of countries from which companies were successfully invited, including Chile, from which no companies had previously been successfully invited, the U.S., the UK, Switzerland, and Germany.

There were three characteristics in inviting companies from overseas. (1) The number of overseas companies in the service industry, which have temporarily stopped investing in inbound related businesses in Japan and shifted to targeting Japanese companies and consumers, greatly increased to 22 companies from 14 last year. (2) With active efforts and activities worldwide aimed at promoting innovation development in Osaka, there came to be foreign capitalized companies wanting to participate in Osaka's innovation ecosystem. (3) Changes quickly responding to political and economic conditions in Japan and overseas countries also influenced investment in Japan; for example, American companies relocating their factories from China to Japan due to U.S.-China trade friction, and Chinese companies entering the temporary staffing business in the nursing care field after the establishment of new specified skills residency visas for foreign workers in Japan.

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4. AI / IOT MEETUP HELD BY OCCI WITH US STARTUPS FROM SEATTLE

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry held the 'AI/IoT Meetup with US startups from Seattle' on May 23-24, to pitch their business proposals and have Individual Business Talks with Japanese companies.

OCCI had invited a total of 14 people from the State of Washington, nine startup companies and a venture fund management company on-site to Osaka.

In the greeting at the beginning of the pitch event, Mr. Minoru Furukawa, Vice Chairman of OCCI, said:

“AI will be a source of social value in the future, and Japanese companies should actively use AI to create innovation. I expect that these events will trigger new technological exchanges.” Ms. Julie Monahan, ICT Business Development Manager at the WA Department of Commerce, stated: “The State of Washington has the largest number of overseas-oriented companies in the U.S., which have a strong interest in the Japanese market. The startups that have visited Osaka this time were selected from various business fields, including AI, machine learning, big data analysis, and VR/AR, and has technological depth. I would like to strengthen business relationships between Osaka and the State of Washington through technological exchanges with Japanese companies.”

>From Japan, 117 people attended the pitch event. At the individual business meeting event held the following day, a total of 50 business meetings were conducted, of which 15 meetings are still ongoing.

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5. TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS ON HANSHIN EXPRESSWAY DURING THE G20 OSAKA SUMMIT

Due to the G20 Osaka Summit, traffic will be greatly restricted on some Hanshin Expressway roads and some roads in Osaka Prefecture from around June 27 to 30. Please cooperate in refraining from using your car and reducing the use of business-use vehicles during this period. Please also note that it will likely take longer for transported goods to arrive.

Please visit the Osaka Prefectural Police website for details on traffic restrictions:

<https://www.police.pref.osaka.lg.jp/topics/G20/7402.html> (in Japanese).

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6. RESULTS OF THE 73RD SURVEY ON MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMIC TRENDS (RELEASED IN MARCH 2019)

Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Kansai Economic Federation released the results

of their survey on management and economic trends, which they collaboratively conduct once every quarter with the aim of finding out their member companies' economic assessments and the actual state of company management. The 73rd survey was carried out from the middle to the end of February and sent out to 1,622 companies, of which 364 responded (response rate: 22.4%).

According to the survey, the BSI value representing domestic economic conditions for the Jan.-Mar. quarter of 2019 was -5.5, which was the first negative value in 10 quarters since the July-Sept. quarter of 2016. In addition, the BSI value representing the respondent's business conditions for the same quarter was 2.2, continuing a positive-value trend for 10 consecutive quarters since the Oct.-Dec. quarter of 2016.

Next, when asked what affected their planned capital expenditure amount for FY2019, most respondents answered, "domestic and foreign demand" (35.2%). In addition, when asked whether they have a capital expenditure plan for FY2019, 68.4% answered "Yes," of which 50.2% said they plan to increase their capital expenditure compared to that of FY2018.

In response to our question about their reason for making capital expenditures, most respondents answered, "equipment replacement" (50%); when categorized by industry type, most respondents in manufacturing answered, "productivity improvement and labor saving" (57.1%).

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7. REPORT ON VIP VISITORS (2019/4/23~6/20)

2019/5/23 Ms. Karen Kelley, Consul General, American Consulate General Osaka-Kobe

2019/6/11 Mr. Michele Geraci, Secretary of State at the Italian Ministry of Economic Development

Mr. Giorgio Starace, Italy Ambassador to Japan

Mr. Luigi Diodati, Consul General of Italy in Osaka



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



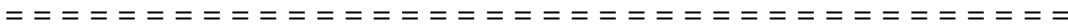
Information about scheduled events (in Japanese only):

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).



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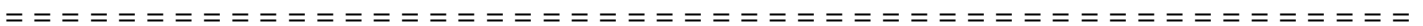
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