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## 1. CHAIRMAN HIROSHI OZAKI HEADS DELEGATION TO THE PEARL RIVER DELTA ECONOMIC ZONE (GREATER SHENZHEN)

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) dispatched a delegation headed by Chairman Hiroshi Ozaki to China's Pearl River Delta Economic Zone (Greater Shenzhen) from July 3 until 6.



The group visited Zhongshan and Shenzhen, cities in Guangdong Province of southern China. In Zhongshan, the team met with executives of Galanz Group, one of the world's biggest makers of household appliances, to exchange views regarding the company's plan to expand its Japanese operations with the use of "Xport" (cross port). In Shenzhen, the delegation visited Huawei Technologies, a major IT company, and Makeblock, a STEM education related Unicorn Company. The delegation also held talks with an industry organization that supports startup companies' open- innovation efforts, as well as an

association of companies involved in drones, a new business field that is receiving increasing attention, and signed memorandums of further cooperation.

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## **2. CHAIRMAN HIROSHI OZAKI ATTENDS BIE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AMBASSADOR INVITATION EVENT**

On June 13, the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) held a general assembly in Paris, France. There, OCCI Chairman Hiroshi Ozaki attended the assembly jointly with Mr. Hiroshige Seko, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry; Mr. Sadayuki Sakakibara, the Chairman of the 2025 Japan World Expo Committee; Mr. Ichiro Matsui, the



Governor of Osaka Prefecture; Mr. Hirofumi Yoshimura, the Mayor of Osaka City; Mr. Masayoshi Matsumoto, the Chairman of the Kansai Economic Federation; and Mr. Hiroyuki Ikeda, the Co-Chairperson of the Kansai Association of Corporate Executives. On June 12, the day before the BIE meeting, the Japanese government hosted a reception for government officials from other countries. At the reception, Mr. Ozaki urged the attendees to support Japan’s expo bid.

Prior to the BIE event, on June 29, a briefing session on the Osaka Kansai Expo 2025 was held for foreign ambassadors residing in Tokyo. Ambassadors from about 30 nations visited Osaka and took a tour of Yumeshima, the proposed site for the expo.

At the lunch reception, Mr. Ozaki, along with Mr. Kazuhide Ishikawa, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in charge of the Kansai region, Mr. Matsui, and Mr. Matsumoto welcomed the guests. Following Governor Mr. Matsui’s speech, Mr. Ozaki spoke on behalf of the regional business community. Mr. Ozaki emphasized Osaka’s resilience against natural disasters by citing an earthquake that had recently occurred in northern Osaka, explaining that the waiting lines at USJ, as well as sales of duty-free items at department stores, returned to almost normal levels on the following day. Mr. Ozaki asked the attendees to support the area’s bid to host an expo, saying that Osaka is a cosmopolitan city where Expo officials from other nations can enjoy a pleasant long-term stay. A similar event was held on July 11, with the attendance of OCCI Vice Chairman Minoru Furukawa.

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### 3. PRE-EVENT HELD ONE YEAR AHEAD OF THE G20 OSAKA SUMMIT

On June 28, exactly one year ahead of the G20 Osaka summit scheduled for June 28 and 29, 2019, a “kickoff forum” pre-event was held in Osaka City. Mr. Ichiro Matsui, the Governor of Osaka Prefecture; Mr. Hirofumi Yoshimura, the Mayor of Osaka City; Mr. Hiroyuki Ikeda, the Co-Chairperson of the Kansai Association of Corporate Executives, and Mr. Tatsuki Kodama, the Managing Director of the OCCI, were among the roughly 250 people, including area residents, who attended the event.

The G20 summit will provide a great opportunity to showcase Osaka to the international community, Mr. Matsui said, adding that the prefecture would do its part to promote the city to the world. Mr. Matsui also asked for people’s understanding as the local government prepares to step up traffic and security measures. Representatives of the area’s port facilities who attended the event asked the local government to keep them informed regarding the summit so that it wouldn’t disrupt their business operations. An area resident said that it was gratifying that a world-class event would be held in the city, asking the local government to hold briefing sessions for local citizens to prevent any chaos.

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### 4. TURKISH AMBASSADOR VISITS MR. HIROKI INOUE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCI’S FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL

On May 28, Honorable Hasan Murat Mercan, Turkish ambassador to Japan, made a courtesy visit to Mr. Hiroki Inoue, the Chairman of the OCCI’s Foreign Trade Council, and discussed economic exchange between Osaka/Kansai and Turkey.



Ambassador Mr. Mercan, who visited Osaka for the first time, said that his most important task was to promote trade between the two countries. Ambassador Mr. Mercan said that many Japanese companies, such as automakers, were operating in Turkey and that the nation also wanted to expand its economic ties to small and medium-sized enterprises.

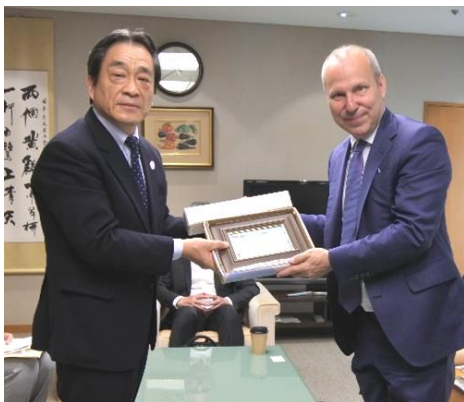
Mr. Inoue responded by saying that the OCCI, which marked its 140th anniversary this year, also wanted to expand its economic exchange with Turkey and pointed out the existence of many superior small- and medium-sized companies in Osaka. The OCCI has just begun preparations for a summit for Group of 20 nations, of which Turkey is a member, to be held in the city next year, he said.

The OCCI held a Turkey business seminar after the ambassador's visit. A total of 146 people participated in the event, during which a reference was made that Mr. Katsutaro Inabata, the OCCI's 10th chairman, established a Japan-Turkey trade association 92 years ago, in 1926.

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## 5. NETWORKING EVENT HELD WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF METROPOLITAN MONTREAL

The OCCI on June 7 held a networking event with a business delegation of 20 people, including Mr. Michel Leblanc, the president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal (CCMM), which was visiting Osaka at the time. Ms. Luci Tremblay, the Delegate General of Quebec in Tokyo, as well as President Leblanc, made speeches at the event. Executives of five companies, in the area of AI, IoT, and biotechnology, introduced their businesses. A meet-and-greet session followed with the attendance of Mr. Chenier La Salle, the Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner at Consulate of Canada in Nagoya.



Mr. Tsutomu Miyagi, the President of the OCCI, had a courtesy call by President Leblanc prior to the event. President Miyagi said that he was extremely glad that the two sides had been maintaining exchanges for a long time, since the signing of an MOU in 1990. The relationship between Montreal and Kansai may further strengthen now that there is a direct airline route between Narita and Montreal, President Miyagi said. The OCCI wants to deepen its ties with the CCMM in the area of AI and IoT and jointly as to pursuing open- innovation projects between the two regions, he said.

President Leblanc told President Miyagi that there had been an increase in industrial clustering in Montreal in the area of artificial intelligence, with AI facilities serving as a hub, thanks to \$93 million in subsidies from the Canadian government. Leblanc reminded Miyagi that the last time he visited Osaka was February 2015, expressing his eagerness to deepen the ties between the CCMM and Osaka/Kansai in these new fields.

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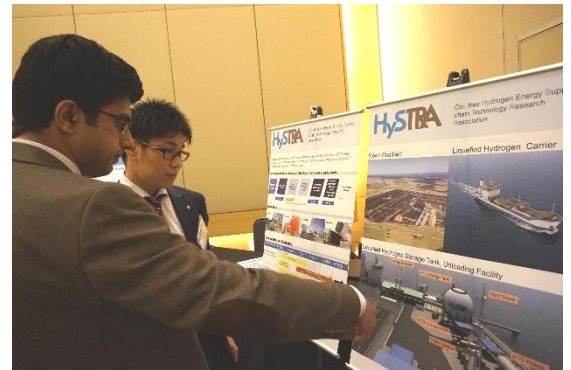
## 6. O-BIC AND OCCI TAKE PART IN U.S. INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITIONS

Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC, jointly established and operated by Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Osaka Prefecture Government and Osaka City Government) exhibited at "2018 Bio International Convention" from June 5 to 7 in Boston, USA. By setting up an O-BIC booth, engaging in one-on-one partnering, and by receiving visitors as well as by visiting other exhibitors, we interacted with approximately 85 companies regarding Osaka's life science industry predominance as well as its latest trends,

and in addition to introducing O-BIC services, we held hearings about partnership requests with Japan and Osaka business, gauging interest in its advancement and more, with a plan to conduct ongoing follow up. For details: <https://o-bic.net/upload/pdf/file00000590.pdf>

Also, the OCCI's International Division supports hydrogen and fuel-cell companies in the Osaka/Kansai area as they seek to enter the European and the U.S. markets. This is a follow-up measure to a fiscal 2017 project entrusted by the Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, and designed to promote the creation of, and support for, core regional companies through business cooperation with European and U.S. companies in the area of hydrogen and energy.

Iwatani Corp. and Takaishi Industry Co., Ltd. both based in Osaka, exhibited in the 2018 National Fuel Cell & Hydrogen Forum, which was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and held in Washington D.C. on June 12. Iwatani and Takaishi promoted their own technologies and products and held business talks with U.S. companies. About 350 industry representatives participated in the event, including executives of hydrogen and fuel-cell companies around the world and officials of the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Transportation.



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**7. REPORT ON VIP VISITORS**

6/7 Mr. Michel Leblanc, the president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal

7/18 H.E. Mr. Sujan R. Chinoy, Ambassador of India



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

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essential advice for creating a foothold in Osaka. For further information, please contact: [o-bic@osaka.cci.or.jp](mailto:o-bic@osaka.cci.or.jp)



Information about scheduled events (in Japanese only):

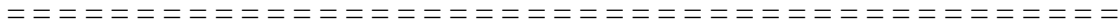
If you wish to receive information about scheduled events, please visit

<http://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Jigyou/Sonota/annai.htm>

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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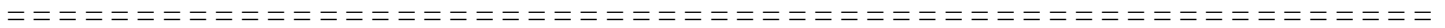
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