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CCCI E-MAIL MAGAZINE

Issue 127 [August 2018]

OCCI e-Magazine

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

1. MR. MINORU TOMITA (MARUBENI) WAS

ELECTED AS A NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE;

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The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) on Aug. 3, 2018 held its International Business Committee, and Mr. Minoru Tomita, Executive Officer of Marubeni Corporation and the General Manager of the company's Osaka branch, was elected as the new chairman.

Lectures were presented following the meeting. First, Yoshimoto Kogyo Co., Ltd., an entertainment company in Osaka which pursues regionally based initiatives in accordance with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) not only in Osaka but throughout the country, introduced their latest activities. In the seminar, the company played commercials starring Yoshimoto's popular comedians, which they had created to raise awareness of the issue, and urged support for, and active participation in these activities.



Afterwards, Mr. Mitoji Yabunaka, former administrative vice-minister for foreign affairs who is now a visiting professor at Ritsumeikan University, made a speech entitled "Strained International Affairs and Japan's Diplomacy." Mr. Yabunaka pointed out the importance for Japan to strengthen its cooperation not only with the U.S. but also with China, ASEAN nations, and South Korea at a time when the global situation was becoming increasingly strained.

2. CHAIRMAN OZAKI PROMOTES THE OSAKA EXPO 2025 AT A MEETING WITH MINISTER TO THE LAOS PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

On July 12, H.E. Dr. Phet Phomphiphak, head of Prime Minister's Office and Minister to the Prime Minister's Office of Laos, visited Japan. OCCI Chairman Hiroshi Ozaki, together with Mr. Ichiro Matsui, the Governor of Osaka Prefecture and others, hosted a dinner for the visitor.

Chairman Ozaki explained OCCI's activities that emphasize the importance of its relationship with ASEAN nations, including Laos, and urged the country to support Osaka's bid to host the 2025 Expo.

3. CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA IN OSAKA VISITS CHAIRMAN OZAKI

On July 25, Mr. Mirza Nurhidayat, Consul-General of the Republic of Indonesia in Osaka, visited OCCI Chairman Hiroshi Ozaki and OCCI President Tsutomu Miyagi upon his assignment to the post. He was accompanied by Mr. Ichwan Joesoef, Director of the Indonesian Trade Promotion Center Osaka (ITPO).

Mr. Mirza Nurhidayat expressed his gratitude for OCCI's efforts to strengthen the relationship between Japan and Indonesia, saying that this



year marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the two nations' diplomatic relationship and that he wanted to see the friendship develop even further. Chairman Ozaki responded by saying that Indonesia was an extremely important nation for Japan, that the people of the two nations had a strong affinity to each other, and that he wanted the two countries to deepen their relations in various areas, such as economy and culture. He also asked the Indonesian government to support Osaka's

bid to host the Expo 2025, saying that cooperation from ASEAN nations was essential for this endeavor.

The Consul-General stressed the importance of building a cooperative framework for disaster-prevention between the two countries, which are both prone to natural disasters. He also referred to the Indonesia-Japan festival for the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the countries' diplomatic relations.

4. CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN OSAKA VISITS CHAIRMAN OZAKI

Mr. Oh Taikyu, consul-general of the Republic of Korea in Osaka, on July 26 visited OCCI Chairman Hiroshi Ozaki upon his assignment to the post. Mr. Oh thanked OCCI for its cooperation with the consulate general and the Korea Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), saying that the chamber of commerce is the most powerful economic organization in South Korea. Mr. Oh asked for the OCCI's cooperation regarding the South Korea-Kansai Economic Forum, which features the latest developments in South Korea, slated for Oct. 22.

Chairman Ozaki welcomed Mr. Oh to his new position and asked for his



support for Osaka's bid to host a 2025 Expo. He also explained that the heads of chambers of commerce in Japan and South Korea hold annual meetings in each other's nations, adding that he hoped to welcome South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Osaka during the 2019 G20 summit.

5. CHAIRMAN OF THE TAIWAN EXTERNAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (TAITRA) MR. JAMES C. F. HUANG CHAIRMAN VISITS CHAIRMAN OZAKI; AND SIGNS MOU



Mr. James C. F. Huang, chairman of the Taiwan External Trade

Development Council (TAITRA) visited Osaka and paid a courtesy call to

Mr. Hiroshi Ozaki, OCCI chairman; Mr. Hiroyuki Fukano, executive

councilor; and Mr. Tsutomu Miyagi, president, on Aug. 1.

Mr. Ozaki thanked Mr. Huang for his visit, which took place for the first time in 14 years, and proposed that the two organizations expand

their cooperation in the area of nursing care, such as elderly-care services and elderly-care equipment. Mr. Ozaki also suggested that TAITRA pursue partnership with Osaka-based companies through Xport (Cross-port),

an urban open-innovation facility which opened in April of this year.

Chairman Huang thanked the OCCI for its cooperation with the TAITRA's Osaka office (located in the Osaka Nanko ATC building), and expressed the organization's plan to strengthen its cooperative relationship with Japanese companies in electric vehicles and cutting-edge fields, such as automation that uses IT and

Chairman Ozaki and Chairman Huang signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to strengthen the partnership between the two groups. TAITRA is the 59th economic organization with which the OCCI formed a partnership agreement. TAITRA is an organization similar to the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). It is the fifth Taiwanese economic organization with which the OCCI has signed an MOU.

6. BUSINESS DELEGATION FROM MALTA VISITS OSAKA; PRESIDENT MIYAGI WELCOMED THEM AND SEEKS SUPPORT FOR EXPO 2025 BID

The OCCI on Aug. 1 hosted a networking event for 40 visitors from Malta, including Mr. Frank Farrugia, President of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry; and Mr. Anthony Micallef, President of the Malta-Japan Chamber of Commerce.



Prior to the event, OCCI President Miyagi greeted the visitors with the following remarks: "The Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and the EU will take effect in 2019. We expect that business activities between the two jurisdictions will become even more vigorous as a result. We would appreciate your support for our bid to host a 2025 Expo." Mr. Farrugia responded by saying that the economy of Malta continued to expand thanks to solid growth of service industries such as fintech, that Japan was a very important economic partner, that now was a great time to expand the two nations' trade and business relations, and how he hoped that companies in Kansai would set up operations in his country.

About 40 people from companies and organizations based in Osaka took part in the event and interacted with the business delegation. On the same day in Tokyo, H.E. Dr. Joseph Muscat, prime minister of the Republic of Malta, held talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and agreed to strengthen the two countries' cooperation in dealing with he latest international developments and in the area of economy.

7. REPORT ON VIP VISITORS

7/9 Ms. Andrea Clements, Counsellor and Senior Trade Commissioner, Investment, Energy, Natural Resources and Advanced Manufacturing, Embassy of Canada

- 7/11 Mr. Luis P. Salaveria, Director, Department of Business, Economic Development & Toruism, State of Hawaii
- 7/12 H.E. Dr. Phet Phomphiphak, Head of Prime Minister's Office and Minister to the Prime Minister's Office of Laos
- 7/13 H.E. Dr. Hubert HEISS, Ambassador of Austria to Japan
- 7/18 H.E. Mr. Sujan R. Chinoy, Ambassador of India to Japan
- 7/19 Dr. S. Kishore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Industry, Commerce & Enterprises, Government of West Bengal
- 7/25 Mr. Mirza Nurhidayat, Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Osaka
- 7/26 Mr. Oh Taikyu, Consul-General of the Republic of Korea in Osaka
- 7/26 Mr. Afzanil MD. Anuar, Director, Malaysian Investment Development Authority
- 8/1 Mr. James C. F. Huang, Chairman of the Taiwan External Trade Development Council
- 8/1 Mr. Frank Farrugia, President of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry



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

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