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1. OVERSEAS MARKET EXPANSION EVENT FOR MADE-IN-JAPAN PRODUCTS - INVITATION TO HOLD INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS MEETINGS (ONLINE) WITH THAI AND SINGAPORE BUYERS AND EUROPEAN BUYERS

In order to provide opportunities to sell Japanese products overseas, OCCI invites overseas buyers to Osaka every year and conducts an "Overseas Market Expansion Event for Made-in-Japan Products" for individual business meetings with companies in Osaka. This fiscal year, due to the COVID-19, the business meetings will be conducted ONLINE under the schedules below:

<Meetings with Thailand and Singapore buyers>

March 4 - 5, 2021 7 companies in total will participate from Thailand and Singapore, where Japanese food is particularly popular (5 companies from Thailand and 2 companies from Singapore). They are interested in Japanese frozen foods, famous brand meat and other high-quality foods, health foods, snacks and beverages.

<Meetings with European buyers>

March 11 - 16, 2021 (excluding March 13-14) Buyers from Europe interested in food and beverages will

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry



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participate. This will support the expansion of exports to Europe at the opportunity of the elimination / reduction of tariffs through the Japan-EU EPA and the Japan-UK EPA that took effect last month.

This event is held every year. If there are any foreign companies that wish to buy Japanese products in the future, please contact OCCI.

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2. DISTRIBUTION OF EXPO PIN BADGES (RECEPTION PERIOD: UNTIL MARCH 5)

The Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition, a public interest incorporated association, has started distributing the "Osaka, Kansai Expo logo pin badge" (with charge).

Applications will be accepted until March 5th. The price is 500 yen per badge. However, applications must be made in units of 10 badges. The shipping is planned to start from the middle of February. Only the member companies of the Association's board of directors, such as the members of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), are eligible for the paid distribution this time. (Please refrain from reselling.) For details, please contact the contracted company as below:

CHIJIKI - TEL: 06-6910-1338, E-mail: osaka2@chijiki.com.

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**3."THE 80TH BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC TREND SURVEY" RESULTS
(ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER 2020)**

This quarterly survey is conducted jointly by OCCI and the Kansai Economic Federation, to grasp the business sentiments of member companies and the status of their corporate management. The 80th survey was conducted from mid to late November 2020 on 1,587 companies, of which 390 responded (valid response rate: 24.6%).

According to this 80th survey, the BSI (Business Sentiment Index: “Improving” minus “declining”) for the domestic economy for the period from October to December 2020 was minus 3.3, which is smaller than the

result for the period from July to September (-29.1), but a negative figure for eight consecutive quarters. However, during the same period, the BSI index for the business situation of the company itself was 5.7, turning positive for the first time in five quarters. Next, of the support measures from the national and local governments to maintain employment and continue business in response to the spread of new coronavirus infections, the most commonly used measure between April and November 2020 was the "employment adjustment subsidy" (46.9%).

Lastly, when asked for any particular requests to the government for economic recovery, the most common response was "Restarting travel to and from foreign countries" (13.8%). Also, by business size, the most common answer for SMEs was "Financial support" (16.2%).

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4. CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN HAS BEEN ELECTED FOR THE NEW TERM OF THE CHINA BUSINESS COMMITTEE AND FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL OF THE OSAKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (OCCI)

◆China Business Committee

Chairman:

Mr. Hiroyuki FUKANO
Senior Vice Representative for External Affairs
Representative for Kansai Business Community Relations
ITOCHU Corporation

Vice Chairman: (in alphabetical order of organization / company name)

Mr. Satoshi SASAKI
Executive Officer for Osaka, Industry Finance Group
Japan Bank for International Cooperation

Mr. Kenji IMAMURA
Secretary-General, Kansai Head Office,
Japan-China Economic Association

Mr. Hiroyuki NEMOTO
Director-General, JETRO Osaka

Mr. Minoru TOMITA

Executive Officer, General Manager, Osaka Branch,
Marubeni Corporation

Mr. Masaki FUJITA
Advisor, OGIS-RI Co.,Ltd.

Mr. Katsuhiko TATSUNO
Chief Executive Officer, TATSUNO Corporation

◆Foreign Trade Council

Chairman

Mr. Keiji TANAKA
Managing Executive Officer, General Manager for Japan Region
General Manager, Kansai Office,
SUMITOMO CORPORATION

Vice Chairman (in alphabetical order of company names)

Mr. Kazuo Sakihama
President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer
CHORI CO., LTD.

Mr. Katsutaro INABATA
Director, President, Inabata & Co., Ltd

Mr. Hiroyuki FUKANO
Senior Vice Representative for External Affairs
Representative for Kansai Business Community Relations
ITOCHU Corporation

Mr. Yoshiki HADASE
President, DAIDOHANT CO., LTD.
Mr. Kenji IMAMURA
Secretary-General, Kansai Head Office,
Japan-China Economic Association

Mr. Shinya YOSHIDA
Member of the Board, Executive Vice President,
General Manager, Kansai Branch
Mitsubishi Corporation

Mr. Shinichi HORI
Managing Officer, General Manager of Osaka Office,
MITSUI & CO.,LTD.

Mr. Reiji NAGASE
Director, Vice Chairman,
NAGASE&CO., LTD.

Mr. Nobuo KUBOKAWACHI
Executive Officer, NISHIZAWA LIMITED

Mr. Yuzo YAGI
President, The Osaka Foreign Trade Association

Mr. Yasushi NISHIMURA
Managing Executive Officer, General Manager , Kansai Office,
Sojitz Corporation

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<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 OCCI's website (in Japanese only).

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to inform us of your change of e-mail address, or of your wishes not to receive OCCI e-Magazine.