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1. LAUNCHING“SDGS AND ESG RESPONSE SUPPORT PROJECT”

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry recently announced the results of its “Questionnaire Survey on the Impact of the SDGs on Corporate Management.” The survey was conducted of 2875 member companies from March 15th to 25th, with 317 companies responding. The results were divided into companies with more than 300 employees and companies with 300 or fewer employees.

Regarding the status of efforts for the SDGs, the percentage of companies that were “working on them” was in the mid 70s (76.1%) for companies with more than 300 people, but only around 20% (20.8%) at those with 300 people or less, so there was a significant difference. At companies with 300 or less people, around 50% (54.4%) said either “We are making preparations in order to work on them, such as by gathering information” (11.2%) or “We want to work on them in the future” (43.2%). In the challenges in working on the SDGs, the top issue at companies with over 300 people was “a lack of manpower” (34.3%), and at companies with 300 people or less, it was “we do not know how to work on



them” (30.0%).

In this survey, we also examined how supply chain management affects the initiatives for the SDGs and ESG at companies. We also asked, “Will you place importance on whether or not suppliers are making efforts for the SDGs when you select suppliers in the future?” At companies with over 300 people, a total of nearly 80% (79.1%) answered that they would either “attach great importance to it” (16.4%) or “give a little weight to it” (62.7%). At companies with 300 people or less, this was only about 40% (40.4%). Throughout the survey, the impression given was that “Large companies have a high awareness of the SDGs, but the awareness at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is yet to develop.”Based on the result that many SMEs say that they do not know how to work on the SDGs, the OCCI will gain the cooperation of Resona Research Institute Co., Ltd. and the National Students Information Center Co., Ltd., and will start a new “SDGs and ESG response support” consulting service. Group training will also be incorporated into the consulting services for individual companies, which can tend to be expensive. There will be a double system including low-cost workshops to enable the creation of business plans that incorporate the SDGs and ESG, and an optional menu that can be used for customization to suit the circumstances of individual companies. Details can be found on the website (<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/sdgs/esg.html>).

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2. GLOBAL INNOVATION FORUM OSAKA 2021

The OCCI will hold the Global Innovation Forum Osaka (GIF) 2021. The GIF invites startups from around the world promoting technology innovation and technology related to smart cities, digital transformation, decarbonization, food tech, health tech, robotics, etc., and matches them to Japanese companies that want to collaborate with overseas startups. In addition, the top eight companies in the Japanese startup contest held by OCCI participate and present their unique technologies and excellent business plans to the world. In 2020, 23 companies participated and there were more than 100 matches made. This year, the number of participating companies will be increased and the plan is to invite at least 30 companies. Join the GIF and connect with cutting-edge startups from Japan and all over the world to create new business!

The forum this year will be held fully online. Check out demonstration movies and summaries of the participating startups on the GIF website (Scheduled to open around end of August) and then watch the live pitches in October! After that, it will also be possible to apply on that website for individual meeting with the participating startups you'd like to collaborate with.

Schedule: Exhibiting startups - Website opening scheduled for end of August

Keynote speeches and live pitches - October 26th to 29th (Tuesday to Friday)

Individual matching - November

Event format: Online

Participation fee: Free

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3. REPORT ON BUSINESS MEETINGS WITH A WIDE RANGE OF JAPANESE FOODS AND OTHERS! - DISCOVER “AS YET UNKNOWN JAPANESE PRODUCTS”

There are an increasing number of consumers in Asia and Europe who want Japanese food and others.

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry held online business meetings between Japanese companies with products that are not yet known in the world and buyers in Southeast Asia (Thailand and Singapore) and Europe (A total of seven countries: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden) who are looking for such Japanese products. The meeting was a great success and there were more than 80 business meetings held, with the agreement of contracts expected to be reached for six of them, and the negotiations to be continued for more than 50 of them. There is a prosperous food industry in Osaka and there are many “hidden masterpieces” with high quality and market competitiveness. The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry will continue to develop its efforts to link Japanese products from Osaka and Japan with consumers around the world.

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4. FY2021 OCCI INTERNATIONAL DIVISION TEAM & STAFF

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[Preferential country of origin]

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[Certificate of origin]

Mr. Masatoshi TANAKA, Mr. Kei SASAMOTO, Ms. Michie Yokoyama

[B2B meetings with “made in Japan” products]

Mr. Taro FUKUDA, Ms. Miryung CHO

[D2C project]

Mr. Masatoshi TANAKA, Mr. Kei SASAMOTO

[Global Innovation Forum 2021]

Mr. Kentaro NAGAO, Ms. Kana TATEBAYASHI, Ms. Risa TAKESHIMA

[SDGs/ESG promotion project]

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[Tech Match Osaka]

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5. OCCI FY2021 BUSINESS PLAN - PLAN FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS (EXCERPT)

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry will promote its business in line with its three-year medium-term plan that started from FY2020, called “Action Program ‘Tanto’ Business Osaka NeXT: Co-creating a New Prosperity by Combining Industry, City, and Infrastructure.”

In preparation for the Expo, in this medium-term plan, we will support new business creation and the small and medium-sized enterprise entry in growth sectors such as “wellness,” “urban appeal” and “innovation,” and will also develop business that embodies a “People's Living Lab.” In addition, the OCCI is also putting full effort into the creation of new prosperity in Osaka by achieving both improved productivity and stronger

management capabilities at the small and medium-sized enterprises that support the regional economy.

Towards and Beyond EXPO 2025

With a view to future society in the eras living with coronavirus and after coronavirus, and to the 2025 World Expo in Japan, the Chamber will promote a corporate cooperation project for demonstration in the Umekita Phase 2, the Expo, and Yumeshima, etc.

In addition, we will coordinate with the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition, the national government, local government, and others and will bring our organization together to cooperate in preparations for the Expo, such as by fostering momentum for it, and by providing information on corporate participation.

Open Innovation Promotion Project

[1] Promotion of startup support business

We will establish a new startup subcommittee and in cooperation with the Kyoto and Kobe chambers of commerce and industry, we will work for the formation of a startup ecosystem base through Keihanshin cooperation. We will hold a contest to select startups that strongly want to expand overseas and recommend participation in the “Global Innovation Forum 2021” which gathers together startups from Europe, America and Asia. In addition, the three chambers of commerce and industry will work together on initiatives such as jointly publicizing startup support. We will also hold events for startups in cooperation with Xport and startup support groups.

[2] Interaction with innovation creating regions

In order to promote matching between domestic and overseas startups and Osaka companies, we will hold the “Global Innovation Forum 2021” in Osaka for business pitching, business meetings, and demonstrations. In addition, for promising Japanese startups, we will implement “Tech Match Osaka” to provide mentoring and opportunities for pitching overseas.

Project to secure human resources

[1] “Program to support the acceptance of highly skilled foreign human resources”

For companies that aim to acquire highly skilled foreign human resources as core human resources for the expansion of their business, including overseas expansion, we will share examples of success and solutions to

problems in each phase of recruitment, acceptance, and retention, and will also implement an internship acceptance program in cooperation with overseas higher education institutions and others.

Business expansion

[1] Promotion of Osaka and attracting foreign capital

The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) will coordinate with the government measures to promote foreign investment in Japan and with JETRO in Japan and overseas to support the entry of foreign companies into Osaka. It will prepare materials to encourage foreign companies to enter the market, such as a list of Japanese companies seeking joint ventures with foreign companies, and will conduct promotional activities to attract them.

[2] Support for globalization

We will support the overseas production, imports and exports of SMEs by dispatching and accepting overseas missions, and holding seminars. In addition to issuing various trade certificates (General, EPA), we will also provide consultation services on document preparation methods and proxy services for the preparation of Origin Certification Documents for the utilization of the self-certification system under the EU-Japan EPA and the TPP11, etc. We will also provide information on the RCEP agreement.

Support for the strengthening of business establishment, management capabilities and disaster response capabilities

[1] SDGs and ESG response support

We will implement projects such as information provision in order to support measures for the SDGs and ESGs, especially by small and medium-sized enterprises. In addition to holding educational seminars and workshops to promote the introduction of basic measures, etc., we will also provide consulting services that provide guidance on measures to individual companies.

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Do you need more information ?

[Information on COVID-19 in Osaka] New!

<https://o-bic.net/e/covid/>

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

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

[Information about scheduled events (in Japanese only)]

<https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/event/index.php>



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