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E-MAIL MAGAZINE

Issue 155 [May,2021]

OCCI e-Magazine

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

1. O-BIC HELPS 20 FOREIGN COMPANIES INVEST IN OSAKA IN 2020

April 28, 2021-Osaka, Japan- The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) has announced that it facilitated 20 cases of investment in Osaka by foreign companies in FY2020. This is around half of the normal annual figure, but is still a significant achievement as Covid-19 continues to hit economies hard. Due to Covid-related travel restrictions, most of those cases involved locally-based business partners or others assisting with administrative procedures on behalf of the foreign companies. Further reading

Press release from O-BIC: <u>https://o-bic.net/upload/pdf/file00000870</u>

2. OCCI AND TVCC HELP AN INTERNATIONAL MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION DEAL GET OFF THE GROUND

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry' s collaborative arrangement with the UK's Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce (TVCC) has given rise to an exciting new development. TVCC, together with Ocean Bridge Management Ltd. (OBM), a member company that serves as TVCC's Japan Desk, have announced that the innovative computer-aided engineering solutions of Integral Technology Ltd., an Osaka-based company, are to be marketed in the UK by OBM. In this way, the two chambers' arrangement, which was formalized with an MOU in 2014, has enabled hard-working companies from Osaka and the UK to seek new business opportunities in the UK and Europe.

Since Integral Technology' s founding in 2007, its solutions have proven popular, particularly among Japan's notoriously quality-obsessed auto manufacturers. The company's selection for the Japanese Cabinet Office's overseas accelerator program for Japanese start-ups was also instrumental in bringing this deal to fruition.

The Thames Valley is at the heart of the UK's high-performance technology cluster. It is a base for many Formula One racing teams, including Williams, Renault, Red Bull, and Haas, and the region is fast becoming a growing base for international Tier 1 and 2 suppliers.

We at the OCCI look forward to working closely with TVCC to help more Osaka and Kansai companies pursue business success in the UK and Europe. Meanwhile, TVCC, through its Japan Desk, is again this year helping to enliven OCCI's Global Innovation Forum Osaka by calling for local startup ventures to participate. Japan's Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry is also a supporter of these inter-regional initiatives.

Further reading

Press release from OBM:

https://www.obm-gb.com/en/viewsfromthebridge/official-distributor-for-integra

l-technology/

Japanese translation of the press release:

https://www.obm-gb.com/ja/news-and-insights/integral-technology/

The Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry

3. UPDATE ON GLOBAL INNOVATION FORUM OSAKA 2021

The 2021 edition of Global Innovation Forum Osaka, the high-profile international business matching event, will be held entirely online. In addition to demonstrations and pitches from startups from around the world, the forum will feature a symposium of local and international speakers. Because the event will be online, organizers have been able to cast their net further than usual and, in cooperation with accelerator programs, venture capital, and government investment bodies worldwide, are endeavoring to book a diverse range of participants from around the world.

The list of participating companies is still to be finalized, but the organizers are lining up businesses from South Korea, China, Germany, and elsewhere.

GIF2021 is the ideal place to discover new, high-potential startups and seek business opportunities. The official website is scheduled to launch in July. DO! NOT! MISS!

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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