



performance improving technologies for baseball and other sports.

In addition to the online exhibitions, there will be a live pitch session on October 27, 2022, as well as one-on-one meetings on November 9 and 10.

For an overview of GIF Osaka 2022 and online booths, and to sign up, visit the GIF Osaka website at

<https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/en/>

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## **2. OCCI'S ONLINE INSPECTION "TOUR" OF SOUTH VIETNAM EARNS HIGH PRAISE: "JUST LIKE BEING THERE"**

The OCCI held an online inspection "tour" of South Vietnam on September 13 and 14, 2022. This was the chamber's first online overseas inspection tour, and Vietnam was an apt destination given its current standing as part of the "China Plus One" strategy.

Participants rated the tour highly, saying that it was almost like being there; that it served as a solid, easy-to-participate first step in getting a feel for the destination; and that it went much further than typical video-and-PowerPoint presentations in showcasing the destination so that participants could get a clear idea about actual on-the-ground conditions.

The OCCI sees online inspection tours not only as a "next best" option at a time when travel remains difficult for some, but also an efficient means of providing effective support for local businesses beginning to turn their attention to overseas markets. As such, the chamber is eager to organize more tours in future.

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## **3. BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC TRENDS SURVEY SHOWS BUSINESSES STRUGGLE TO PASS ON RISING PRICES TO CUSTOMERS**

The OCCI and the Kansai Economic Federation have released the results of their 87th quarterly Business and

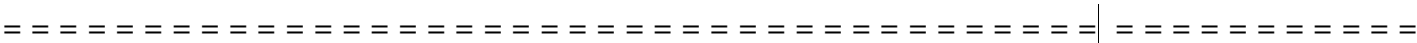
Economic Trend Survey. The Business Survey Index (BSI) score (calculated as “up” responses minus “down” responses) for the Japanese economy in the July-September quarter was down 6.8 points, and the BSI score for respondents’ own business situation was down 4.1 points. Both were down for the third survey in a row. By scale of business, large corporations returned a BSI score (for own business situation) of 8.3, the first positive score since two surveys ago, while SMEs returned a score of -14.1, which was further into negative territory than the previous survey. The BSI score regarding commodity prices was 41.5, higher even than the 38.4 recorded in the previous survey, which was itself the highest ever score in this category.

Regarding rising prices, 16.5% of respondents said they could not pass on the increased portion of higher procurement and freight costs to customers; 18.9% said they passed on less than a quarter of the increased portion, and 14.5% said they passed on between a quarter and half of the increased portion. Thus, approximately half of all respondents were unable to pass on even half of the increased portion of those costs. The most commonly cited reason (49.8% of respondents) for struggling to pass on the increased portion of rising costs was “Prices are rising too fast for us to keep up by passing on increased costs.” The most common method of dealing with rising costs other than passing on costs (41.8% of respondents) was cutting costs (excluding personnel expenses).

Conducted between August 18 and September 1, 2022, the survey polled 1,548 companies, and responses were received from 297 (VRR: 19.2%). Details of the survey can be found at the OCCI website.

(Japanese only)

[https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Chousa\\_Kenkyuu\\_Iken/Bsi/bsi\\_87.pdf](https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/Chousa_Kenkyuu_Iken/Bsi/bsi_87.pdf)



**4. KAP CONGRESS DISCUSSES WAYS TO HELP AIRPORTS HARNESS PREDICTED INCREASES IN DEMAND**

The 12th KAP Congress was held on September 18, 2022. The KAP Congress is a high-level government-and-

private-sector body formed the Osaka prefectural and city governments, the OCCI, and others to discuss matters relating to the Kansai region's three airports: Kansai International Airport, Osaka International Airport (Itami), and Kobe Airport. The recent meeting was attended by 16 members, including OCCI Chairperson Shingo Torii and others from national and local governments, and major economic organizations.

Discussion centered around helping the three airports recover from the chaos of Covid 19 and making sure they have frameworks in place to fully harness the Kansai region's upcoming growth opportunities, including the 2025 World Expo and the establishment of an integrated resort. To that end, it was decided that a request would be put to the government to review current flight paths to expand Kansai International Airport's inbound and outbound capacity, and to enable Kobe Airport to handle regularly scheduled international flights.

In his address to the meeting, Mr. Torii said that in light of the predicted increase in air travel demand and the current limits on flight departures and arrivals, reviewing current flight paths will be a vital part of any effort to bolster Kansai International Airport's frameworks for handling international flights. He also emphasized the importance of optimizing and maximizing the Kansai region's three airports' capacity to handle demand, and urged the KAP Congress to engage in close dialogue with Kansai Airports (the company that operates the three airports) and local communities as part of those initiatives.

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## **5. OTHER HEADLINES (SEE LINKS FOR DETAILS)**

Sakai, Osaka, to host G7 trade ministers' meeting in 2023

(Japanese only)

<https://www.pref.osaka.lg.jp/kikaku/2023-g7/index.html>

Japan relaxes its Covid-related border controls: Daily limits on tourist arrivals (incl. FITs) from all countries

and regions discontinued from October 11

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/cp/page22e\\_000925.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/cp/page22e_000925.html)

O-BIC delegation visits Milan, showcases Osaka and O-BIC's services

at Osaka Promotion Seminar organized by Osaka City

(Japanese Only)

<https://o-bic.net/upload/pdf/file00000993>

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**< EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN >**

Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan “Future Society Showcase Project Exhibition” Sponsor companies Announced  
- Three projects “Expo Virtual Venue”, Personal Agent for Visitors” and “EV Bus for Visitors Mobility”

The Association for the 2025 Japan World Exposition has announced the names of the sponsor companies of the three projects “Expo Virtual Venue”, “Personal Agent for Visitors” and “EV Bus for Visitors Mobility” for “Future Society Showcase Project Exhibition” in Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. On August 19, 2021, the Association held a briefing session on exhibition participation for companies and organizations and started the recruitment for sponsor companies for “Future Society Showcase Project Exhibition” which aims to realize a part of the future society by incorporating advanced technologies and systems while the Expo site is regarded as “People’s Living Lab.” Today, as a first step, the Association has announced the sponsor companies of the above-mentioned three projects. Regarding the sponsorship of the “Future Society Showcase Project Exhibition”, which allows for diverse way of participation, the Association is currently discussing with a large number of companies and organizations in each project, and will announce names of new sponsor companies and organizations in a timely manner.

Further information available online

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20220907-01/>

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<COURTESY VISIT (1ST-31ST OCTOBER)>

(Hong Kong) 14th October

-Ms. Margaret Fong, Executive Director of Hong Kong Trade Development Council

(Republic of Korea) 24th October

-Mr. Park RyangGi, Chairman of Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry Osaka

(People's Republic of Bangladesh) 24th October

- Dr. Ariful Haque, Minister (Commerce), Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

(The ASEAN Secretariat) 27th October

-Mr. Tran Duc Binh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs

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**INFORMATION FOR COVID-19**

Osaka Prefecture Government

<https://covid19-osaka.info/en/>

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[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://intl.osaka.cci.or.jp/>



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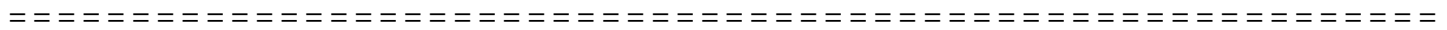
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to inform us of your change of e-mail address, or of your wishes not to receive OCCI e-Magazine.



\* No official English translation could be reliably confirmed for this term. This is our own unofficial translation.

