

Now that overseas business travel is feasible again in the post-Covid era, the ASEAN JAPAN Business Promotion Platform, in cooperation with the Thai consulate, is organizing the Thai Green Inspection Tour for August 28 to 30. The three-day program includes a guided tour of ASEAN Sustainable Energy Week 2023, the largest green exhibition in ASEAN, a visit to a smart agriculture demonstration testing facility, and business matching with Thai companies. Application are already closed. Having survived the turmoil of Covid, Japanese companies are likely to be eager to do business and invest overseas again, and we look forward to working with the consulates and trade and investment organizations to help facilitate international trade.

Find out more (in Japanese) about the AJB Platform at: <https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/abp/>

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2. DISCOVER OSAKA TOUR FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN JAPAN

On June 26, the OCCI held a special tour to raise awareness of Osaka's attractions among foreign diplomatic and missions in Japan and overseas economic organizations. The event consisted of two parts. First was a talk on the OCCI's major projects to strengthen cross-border ties, and second was a cruise on a sightseeing boat to experience the charms of Osaka, the Aqua Metropolis. The cruise was guided in inimitable Osaka style by a rakugo comic storyteller. The tour attracted some 30 participants from 17 countries, including the heads of foreign diplomatic missions, as well as economic and government-related organizations. The tour served not only as a call for increased international cooperation, but also as a means of spreading the word about Osaka's merits as an investment destination for overseas businesses, as typified by large-scale projects, including hosting the 2025 World Expo, the development of an integrated resort, and the second phase of the redevelopment of the Umekita precinct north of Osaka Station. We at the OCCI hope to use the tour as a launchpad for deeper mutual understanding and cooperation with countries and regions worldwide.

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3. GLOBAL INNOVATION FORUM (GIF) OSAKA IS BACK AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER 2023 AND REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.

GIF Osaka has been a fixture of the business calendar since 2019. This year, as always, we look forward to matching international start-ups with Japanese companies in the fifth edition of GIF Osaka.

GIF Osaka is an online event, and registration is required to attend and meet with participating startups, so sign up now to avoid disappointment!

What's on at GIF Osaka 2023 GIF Osaka provides startups interested in doing business in Japan to exhibit, make pitches, and meet with local business. For the 2023 edition of the event, we are seeking startups from two regions. There will also be parallel events for those from all other areas of the world.

About GIF Osaka 2023

Event details are as follows.

1) This year's GIF Osaka will be divided into two region-specific editions

Online exhibits, live pitch sessions, and business matching to be held separately for each region.

This year's regions are Europe and the Middle East (events scheduled for October 19) and North and Latin America (November 21). In addition, there will be a special pitches-only session for participants from Southeast Asia. This is scheduled for September 27.

2) Pitch session winners to be invited to Osaka

During each regional event, there will be a vote to select the start-ups that Japanese participants would most like to meet in Osaka. Winners from each region will be invited to visit Osaka in early 2024, allowing the winners the chance to promote their state-of-the-art technologies to Japanese companies in person and pursue business opportunities.

3) Exhibitors sought from GIF's 7 focus sectors, now including new sectors

GIF 2023 is open to start-up companies operating in one (or more) of these seven sectors:

- (1) Augmented/virtual/mixed reality
- (2) Robotics
- (3) Digital transformation
- (4) Agri-tech, food-tech
- (5) Health-tech
- (6) Advanced materials
- (7) Green tech, carbon neutrality, new energy

Dates and Times: (all dates and times JST)

GIF Osaka 2023: Europe & Middle East

GIF Osaka 2023 website and online exhibition launch: September 20 (subject to change)

Live pitches: 16:00 ? 18:30, October 19

One-on-one meetings: November 8 and 9

GIF Osaka 2023: North & Latin America

GIF Osaka 2023 website and online exhibition launch: September 20 (subject to change)

Live pitches: 09:30 12:00, November 21

One-on-one meetings: December 7 and 8

*Schedule subject to change.

*Pitch and meeting times will take time zone differences into account and vary by region.

How to Participate

Registration is required to participate in GIF Osaka events.

Registration is available here: <https://gif.osaka.cci.or.jp/en/registration/>

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4. WORLD EXPO 2025 NEWS: “REBORN CHALLENGES” UPDATE

“Reborn”: That’s the core theme of the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion at World Expo 2025. It speaks to the possibility of all people to start anew and take the first step toward a different future, and encourages us to contemplate a time in which every individual can achieve better personal understanding and build a life true to themselves. There has been plenty of progress as we enter the run-up to the big event. A tie-up agreement has been inked linking the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition’s Gundam Pavilion (name TBC) and the Osaka Health Care Pavilion in recognition of the compatibility between the Bandai Namco Group’s corporate purpose (fun for all into the future) and the Reborn theme of the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion.

The deal provides for a variety of projects, including sustainable initiatives in and around Osaka.

These will kick off with Gun·Pla Academia, in which pupils at elementary schools in Osaka Prefecture can learn about, the model-making process, from planning, design, molding, and production, as well as the latest technologies, and initiatives for sustainable manufacturing, such as recycling plastic waste materials.

The collaboration is expected to add momentum in the run-up to the expo and build progress toward achieving the SDGs.

Meanwhile, we at the OCCI, have begun accepting applications for the third phase of the Osaka Healthcare Pavilion’s Reborn Challenges: “Series A: Selection? Creators of Future Society.” The project aims to present a vision of the future society created by cutting-edge technology developed in Osaka and the greater Kansai region, and applications are now open for SMEs and startups interested in exhibiting at the pavilion.

This fiscal year, the OCCI will provide support through two projects: the Next Generation Tech Forum and the Metaverse Business Creation Platform. This assistance is intended to promote new business development in emerging technologies and next-generation industries, as well as cross-innovation between fields, including services and technologies related to artificial intelligence, mobility and MaaS, and Greentech and SDGs.

Theme-specific “cluster” working groups will be established to provide up-to-date information, hold networking events for cluster members, support business matching, and provide backing for demonstration experiments.

We at the OCCI look forward to undertaking a variety of programs to help companies from Japan and around

the world take part in the World Expo 2025 in Osaka.

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



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