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## 1. OCCI ENTERS INTO PARTNERSHIP DEAL WITH MEDTECH ACTUATOR

1.1Helping Medical and Healthcare Startups Achieve GrowthMectech Actuator has helped more than 200 startups to date; at least 20 products and services have been released to market, and more than US\$750 million funding raised. Now Mectech Actuator is focusing on Japan, and plans to open an office in Osaka.

With the partnership agreement in place, the OCCI hopes to combine Mectech Actuator's connections in overseas startup ecosystems and expertise in nurturing programs with the chamber's own network of

medical institutions and companies throughout Japan and around the world, carefully cultivated over two decades as part of its life science promotion activities, to develop programs that nurture innovation in Japan and the rest of East Asia that makes the world sit up and take note, and foster medical and healthcare startups ready to take on the world.

The OCCI also hopes to ensure that the 2025 World Expo in Osaka will spur a global expansion of Osaka's medical and healthcare innovation, and looks forward to working together with Medtech Actuator to further promote life sciences in Osaka.

Further reading:

https://medtechactuator.com/press-release-the-occi-to-sign-mou-with-medtech-actuator-australia-to-build-a-commercialization-ecosystem-as-legacy-of-expo-2025-osaka-kansai/

Please direct inquiries pertaining to MedTech Actuator to the OCCI Life Science Promotion Section at +81-6-6944-6484.

For inquiries about the international partnership with the OCCI, please contact the OCCI International Division at +81-6-6944-6400.

#### 2. GIF OSAKA: KOREA

#### OSAKA × KOREA STARTUP TECH MATCH

The OCCI recently held the Osaka × Korea Startup Tech Match, in which five South Korean startups looking to expand into Japan were matched with companies in the Kansai region. South Korea boasts considerable strength in ICT-related industries, and is home to the HQs of some of the world's leading semiconductor and electronics companies. In recent years, the Korean startup scene has been on the up, as illustrated by the many unicorn companies arising from proactive government investment and industry development.

The five startups featured in the Osaka × Korea Startup Tech Match brought state-of-the-art technologies and services in diverse sectors, including AI-based platforms and customer response solutions for the construction industry, as well as AIoT services, sensors, and smart devices. Following their compelling pitches, the five startups had one-on-one meetings with local companies.

Osaka has a well-formed startup ecosystem, and offers support for startups locally and internationally. If your startup is interested in doing business with Osaka, get in touch with the OCCI now!

OCCI International Division

TEL: +81-6-6944-6400

Email: intl@osaka.cci.or.jp

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#### 3. ASEAN-JAPAN BUSINESS PROMOTION PLATFORM NEWS: THE OCCI'S 2024 PLANS

April 2024 marks the first year of the ASEAN-Japan Business Promotion Platform. The platform is currently composed of chambers of commerce from seven nations? Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan? and is set to undertake a variety of projects in FY2024. These are the OCCI's planned initiatives for the year.

Human Resources ForumThe Human Resources Forum provides basic information relating to hiring foreign workers (e.g., employment schemes, etc.) to help SMEs alleviate labor shortages and harness existing foreign workers for overseas expansion.

Matching-and-meeting Events with Japanese ImportersThe OCCI will hold events to match ASEAN-based suppliers with Japanese importers interested in buying food, home knickknacks, and other products from the ASEAN region.

GIF Osaka: ASEAN-Japan EditionThe OCCI supports cross-border business by holding online events where startups nominated by the platform's member institutions can pitch their products and services to buyer companies.

Philippine Green MissionThe OCCI will send a mission to the Philippines for business matching with local companies, company visits, etc., in the green sector.

Joint Exhibit at SITE 2024 in ThailandThe OCCI will work with Japanese startups to exhibit at Startup × Innovation Thailand Expo 2024 in Bangkok.

Online Inspection "Tour" of MalaysiaThe OCCI will hold an online inspection "tour" focusing on Malaysian consumer markets. Participants will get to see local commercial facilities and other locations.

Find out more (in Japanese) about the ASEAN Business Promotion Platform at:https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/abp/Phone inquiries: +81-6-6944-6400

# 4. USING THE 2025 WORLD EXPO TO BOOST OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES: MOZUYAN MALL, THE WORLD EXPO BUYER-SUPPLIER MATCHING FORUM

Osaka Prefecture has announced the launch of Mozuyan Mall, its website where businesses can register as suppliers for goods and services related to the 2025 World Expo. The site is intended to help make it easier to find suppliers of the goods and services needed in the run-up to the big event by matching buyers with the right suppliers. Those looking to source materials and services in relation to the expo can use the site to find information on those things and the Osaka-based SMEs (including sole-proprietor businesses) that can supply them, while suppliers can use the site to browse the "supplier wanted" notices posted by prospective buyers.

Suppliers: SMEs (including sole-proprietor businesses) who have a staffed business site in Osaka Prefecture and actual business presenceBuyers: Include businesses from Japan and overseas, the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exhibition, and the Osaka prefectural government

Mozuyan Mall is the perfect solution for overseas companies searching for suppliers in relation to the expo.https://www.expo-mozuyanmall.jp/en/For inquiries related to Mozuyan Mall, call+81-6-6944-6353.

2025 World Expo Pavilion Groundbreaking Ceremonies • February 28, 2024: Takayoshi Negoro, director of the OCCI International Division, attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the Republic of Korea Pavilion. • March 5, 2024: OCCI Vice Chair Kyoko Hirose attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the Netherlands Pavilion. • March 21, 2024: Takayoshi Negoro attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the Canada Pavilion.

Admission tickets information for Expo 2025 Osaka

Tickets for Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan have been going on sale since Nov.30, which is 500 days before the expo opening.

- Admission tickets will be available from 30th Nov. 2023, exactly 500 days before the opening of the EXPO
   2025.
- Firstly, you need to register yourself to Expo2025 website and get your Expo ID. You can buy the ticket, reserve your entry date, and enjoy various services with EXPO ID Admission tickets will be e-tickets. You can purchase them with a smartphone or PC.
- In addition to the ticket, you need to reserve the entry date in advance. The detail information of entry reserve will be announced later.

[Click here to purchase admission tickets]

https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/tickets-index/

Check out the OCCI's 2025 World Expo website at

https://www.osaka.cci.or.jp/expo2025/pavilion

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#### 5. O-BIC ONLINE INSPECTION "TOUR" OF OSAKA A ROARING SUCCESS

With the 2025 World Expo on Osaka's horizon, the region is attracting keen interest from abroad. The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) recently held an online inspection "tour" of Osaka for a non-Japanese audience, including those living inside Japan and internationally. The event attracted 123 "tourists" from around the globe, further highlighting the increasing international interest in Osaka in the run-up to the 2025 World Expo.

The tour showcased all the good things about Osaka that led to it being chosen to host the expo, including its favorable business environment.

O-BIC is committed to rolling out initiatives like these tours as part of its mission to promote business in Osaka.

Check out the O-BIC Linkedln account at

https://www.linkedin.com/in/osaka-o-bic-2025/

For more on O-BIC and how it can help your business invest in Osaka, check out the official website at: https://o-bic.net/

<Courtesy Visit (25th February-31th March)>

(Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania in Japan) 4th March- His Excellency Mr. Baraka Haran

LUVANDA

(Ambassador-Designate, Royal Thai Embassy in Japan) 18th March-Mr. Witchu VEJJAJIVA

(Ambassador-Designate, Royal Thai Embassy in Japan) 18th March

(The Deputy Secretary of the Communist Party Committee of Heze City, Shandong Province, China)

-Mr. Nie Yuanke

[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

[linkedin] https://www.linkedin.com/in/osaka-o-bic-2025/recent-activity/all/



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