

With the aim to encourage Tokyo-based European companies to enter the Osaka-Kansai markets, O-BIC invited the European Business Council headed by Chairman Mr. Richard COLLASSE (President, Chanel K.K. Japan), in the same way as last year, to conduct its Operating Board Meeting in Osaka on September 9th 2008, to take the opportunity to emphasize the greatly changing aspects of Osaka.

Prior to the Board Meeting, 13 members of EBC led by Chairman Collasse had an informal meeting with top representatives of the government and Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, such as Mr. Tomofumi HIRAKU (Director General, Kansai Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), Mr. Teiichi NISHIMURA (Vice Chairman, OCCI; President, Sakura Color Products Corp) and Mr. Satoshi ADACHI (Chairman, OCCI International Business Committee; Corporate Advisor, Marubeni Corp.) who stressed the great potentials as well as current attractiveness of the Osaka · Kansai region for investments, citing concrete or specific cases as examples. Guided by Mr. Kiyoshi KAWAMOTO (Director General, Port and Harbor Bureau, Osaka City Government), Mr. Masafumi ARITA (Managing Director, Osaka International Business Promotion Center) and Mr. Yutaka UEDA (Executive Director, Osaka Prefectural Government), they all went for a cruise on Osaka City's PR boat to observe from offshore what is dynamically going on in the Osaka Bay Area particularly the ongoing construction at Sharp Corporation's complex for manufacture of LCD panels etc and other facilities to handle materials/goods.

On the occasion of the gathering afterwards, they were entertained with a traditional Japanese dancing performance of "Tour of Osaka" by International Exchange Dancing Club (Chairman: Mr. Ryotaro FUJIMA). Deeply impressed EBC members expressed high praise for the artistic performance that they "personally saw within close range for the first time".

Chairman Collasse said in his enthusiastic concluding comment that he sees a bright future for Osaka-Kansai's large-scale projects, and emphasized his wish to continue to play the role as PR pillar in his homeland France as well as in Tokyo, to enhance recognition of Osaka.

[European Business Council (<http://www.ebc-jp.com>) represents chambers of commerce and industry and other economic organizations of 18 European countries, with its membership of more than 3,000 European companies and individuals.]

