

Venture 2006 Kansai

The creation of new businesses is important for the revitalization of national economies. The APO Asian Forum on Venture Business as part of Venture Kansai is a major annual event under the APO's thrust area of strengthening SMEs and reflects the need to nurture and support venture businesses. Since 2000, the APO has teamed up with the Osaka prefectural government, Nihon Keizai Shimbun, New Business Conference Kansai, Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Japan Productivity Center for Socio-Economic Development, and others to organize this annual forum. Venture 2006 Kansai was held 14 and 15 November in Osaka, its traditional location, and covered themes including New Technologies Developed by Challenging Fixed Ideas, Another Form of Venture—Second Founding of Companies, and Environmentally Friendly Technologies and International Competitiveness.

Venture 2006 Kansai comprised symposia and Venture Expo 2006 where 116 enterprises displayed products and services. The two-day event attracted about 15,000 visitors, especially to the exposition. Forty-nine participants from 15 APO member countries attended. As in other years, the APO's program included the facilitation of business plan presentations and a business matchmaking service.

Since 2003, the APO and OCCI have set up a dedicated Web site to facilitate business-matching called Virtual Business Talks. This year, 13 companies from APO member countries were involved in a total of 54 business matchmaking sessions with 43 Japanese companies at the OCCI building on the final day of the program, made possible through Virtual Business Talks, followed by face-to-face meetings. The Web site (<http://www.g-boc.com/>) remains open for one year to allow business contacts to continue after the forum.



Opening ceremony

Parallel to the forum, the APO held a study meeting on Venture Business Support, 13–16 November, with 23 individuals from 16 APO member countries attending. The meeting enabled participants to share experiences in promoting venture business and to discuss ways to create a favorable business environment through assistance and policy measures. The attendees were mainly from the government and financial institutions who assist venture start-ups, while participants in the Asian Forum on Venture Business were mainly from the private sector. The two groups joined to discuss ways to promote venture business support schemes.