

Through the collaboration of the Osaka Prefecture, City of Osaka and the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, "Osaka Business Networking Club" (OBNC) was founded on October 2, 2008. The aim of OBNC is to promote networking among such companies that O-BIC and IBPC OSAKA-INVESTMENT PROMOTION CENTER have supported in setting up a base of operations in Osaka, as well as to provide these companies with more opportunities to further develop their businesses. 50 representatives of 45 companies entering the Osaka markets including 31 foreign-affiliated companies have participated in the event commemorating the founding of OBNC.

On behalf of the sponsors, Mr. Kunio Hiramatsu Mayor of Osaka gave an address and emphasized that "Osaka abounds in assets formed by Osaka citizens playing the leading role, such as its tradition, culture and industries. Making the most of our potentials, both public and private sectors will continue to make concerted effort to develop and support industries" and encouraged such companies to actively participate in OBNC's projects.

In the lecture that followed, Mr. Shinichi Fukushima (Senior Managing Director and Representative Director, PANASONIC Corporation) introduced the main tasks to focus on in the company's global business strategy including the renaming in view of the well-known brand name or production of flatscreen model TV sets etc.

At the free networking session, appreciation was expressed by these companies for the convenient access to other parts of Asia and also for concentration of manufacturers, as well as for the unified system by public and private sectors to invite investments. Also their expectations were voiced for measures for revitalization of Kansai economy and for offering business opportunities and conducting meetings for business talks.

