

Advocacy

► YCCI as the “voice” of the Yokohama business community



One of our most important missions is to offer proposals, requests, and opinions in a number of areas. The Chamber ensures that our businesses have a voice at the municipal (Yokohama), prefectural (Kanagawa), or national levels of government. The Chamber voices issues and

concerns that affect our member companies or organizations engaging in business in Yokohama. The Chamber also encourages and supports government efficiency, lower taxes, regional economic development, and overall improvement of the business climate and public welfare in the area. The bottom line is “Striving for a better Yokohama is our mission.”

International Activities

► Promotion of corporate globalization

Globalization is widely seen as a powerful engine that has a potential to promote the growth and development for SMEs in Japan. The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce and Industry (YCCI) has recently involved with corporate globalization support activities in cooperation with the City of Yokohama (Economic Affairs Bureau), JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) Yokohama, and Yokohama Industrial Development Corporation (IDEC Yokohama). These four organizations have jointly and cooperatively sponsored and organized a variety of business seminars to promote SME’s corporate globalization.



► Reception of foreign business missions



The promotion of international exchanges with foreign businesses is an important part of our mission. In the current global economy, The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce and Industry (YCCI) has hosted numerous business missions from abroad, providing opportunities to exchange opinions, viewpoints, and information with representatives from various Yokohama economic circles.

As part of international protocol, we also receive courtesy calls from overseas upon request.

▶ Dispatch of business delegations overseas



To promote exchanges with foreign corporations and economic organizations and to observe market conditions and investment climates, we dispatch business delegations overseas and provide participants with opportunities for investment exchanges.

The countries recently visited include Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, India and Thailand.

▶ Trade & investment seminars and international conferences



Trade recently has a tendency to change from commodity to capital/technology dealings. We receive requests from various groups, including foreign embassies in Tokyo, JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization), and local governmental agencies, to host and organize trade/investment seminars, lectures, and meetings.

The recent seminars and meetings hosted or organized by The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce and Industry (YCCI) include:

- Seminar on Business Opportunities in Malaysia
- Indonesia Investment Seminar in Yokohama
- Security Trade Control Seminar
- Seminar on Trade, Investment & Tourism in Thailand
- Vietnam Investment Seminar, etc.

The Chamber hosted such international conferences as ASEAN-Yokohama Forums, where ASEAN ambassadors in Japan meet with the YCCI executive officers to explore possible areas of future bilateral economic cooperation.

We also hosted a council meeting organized by the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) in 2009, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Port of Yokohama Opening of 1859.

► Issuance of “Certificate of Origin” and EPA/FTA for trade facilitation

A “Certificate of Origin” is a printed document used in international trade, attesting that the goods in a particular shipment have been wholly obtained, produced, manufactured, or processed in a country shown in the form. The purpose of the Certificate of Origin is to authenticate the country of origin of the goods being shipped by local exporters, and is a basic requirement in customs clearance or trade documentation.

The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce and Industry (YCCI), just as many other chambers in Japan, is authorized by the Japanese Government to issue Certificates of Origin. For the convenience of all certificate applicants, the YCCI also attests other trade-related documents along with prompt and affordable service.

The basic procedure for application is as follows:

- 1) Register signatories of the Exporter
- 2) Fill in the Certificate of Origin form based on the invoice issued by the Exporter
- 3) Apply with necessary documents
- 4) Complete the payment

To increase and promote EPA/FTA utilization by SMEs is a key factor to facilitate trade activities. In line with current Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce and Industry (YCCI), along with 21 other chambers of commerce and industry in Japan, has been appointed by the Japanese Government as one of Japan’s few qualified chambers to issue preferential Certificates of Origin for particular tariff treatment.

For more detailed information on the application, see here (Japanese only).

<http://www.yokohama-cci.or.jp/international/trade/index.html>