

FCIJ Business Confidence Survey – Spring 2009

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Regulatory issues continue to be major problem. International product standardization would lead to big monetary and time savings for all parties concerned.
- Our assignments center on solving foreign companies' operating problems in Japan. Our clients are having more challenges these days, and therefore our business has improved.
- Trade barriers set up by MITI to inhibit the import of Institutional food products, such as beef and the restrictions on American food colors and preservatives, which drives up the production cost, with additional preparation and labeling to conform to Japanese Laws that were set up as trade barriers to limit these imports into Japan.
- I'm thinking that it would be great if the (*Chamber name*) could pressure the Government for immigration matters to be removed from the Ministry of Justice. I suspect that that, as well as the constant harassing of immigrants and expats to ward off any threat of forward thinking on immigration with snappy headlines, is why it often feels like the Department "against" Immigration. The time really has come for Japan to actively import people to keep this fabulous place ticking over as it should.
- Clients in general are downscaling their needs. Competition is tough between existing competitors for a smaller pie. Price competition is playing its part.
- Would like to know a good place to get tax advice in English for business owners
- There is always a way to survive and make money and the worse it is the more opportunities there are. Partially because competition is declining, and partially because most people only see bad in crisis.
- More activities and energy put into Chubu
- Establishing a network amongst the members
- News sharing on noteworthy trends provided by the (*Chamber name*) is a highly valuable service for my company.
- food trend
- Japan's inflexible labour market makes it particularly difficult to operate here at times like this.
- We would like to promote our capability to collaborate to the members if it can help them in their Japan business through (*Chamber name*).
- Network with other chambers of commerce
- Introduction on Canadian Artist performances in Japan
- Would like more CEO speakers, if possible. More parties. These lift the spirit, and allow for good networking in a rather unstructured way.
- (*Chamber name*) should create more chance for the member to find better business partner.
- We all rely on the US Bailing out which will take some time for the adjustment between the financial sectors and the rest of the corporates, until it really shows its substantial effect. Since our business relies heavily on car and its cascaded industries, I am really interested in how US and Germany key players will take handle this paradigm shift era.
- different situation in the different businesses, until now cost could be managed very well, profit so far as well, focus on cash.

- Frankly, domestic operators and domestic vendors have been cooperating other than foreign vendors and protecting them by paying support money to Japanese vendors. They say market is opened, but reality is different.
- Our biggest business risk is compliance in combination with the grey/unclear legal framework. So the constant feeling that the regulator can sabotage our business if and as they want. As our business is becoming bigger and we are stealing away business from competitors, the risk to step on toes becomes bigger as well.
- Japan's regulatory morass is a nightmare. Laws are policed by the bureaucrats in the different prefectures, and the different prefectures interpret the law in extremely different ways, making it nearly impossible to provide a consistent service nationwide.