

Kansai Keizai Doyukai (Kansai Association of Corporate Executives)

We back up Next-Generation Entrepreneurs through Open Innovation

■ What about Kansai Keizai Doyukai

- Founded in 1946 as an economic association in which business managers take part in a private capacity. The association has 852 members as of November 2019.
- About 20 committees have been set up, including the Committees on Development of a Venture Ecosystem (described below); the Committee to Discuss the Future of Digital Society; and committees on Decentralization, National Security, the promotion of art and culture, and development of MICE/IR.
- Characterized by its open development of bold plans or moving ahead of the times for the sound development of the Japanese economy.

■ Committees on Development of a Venture Ecosystem

[Committee on the Venture Ecosystem in the Kansai region]

- Set up in 2016 based on the recognition that for the Kansai region to form an integral part of a global venture ecosystem, it is vital to offer information about venture enterprises and one-stop services and to work in cooperation with universities and research institutes.
- As a venture ecosystem emerges in the Kansai region, the committee is making efforts not only to make proposals but also to promote implementation of the system throughout society.

[Kansai Bridge Forum Promotion Committee]

- Conducts a mentoring program to provide Association members with opportunities to offer advice to younger entrepreneurs in the region based on their own experiences in their professional practices.
- Since its inauguration in 2016, the program has been conducted every two months. Enabling heart-to-heart communication with a beer in hand has led to the construction of cooperative businesses.

■ Examples of our Activities: The Declaration of Startup Friendly Kansai

- This Declaration was instituted in August 2018 with the goal of encouraging closer cooperation between existing companies and venture companies.
- At present, many venture companies cite as a big hurdle their being turned away at the door due to lack of past trade performance when they approached existing companies.
- To solve this problem, we came up with a list of contact persons at endorsing companies, together with contact email addresses, for information and use by prospective entrepreneurs and venture companies, and put the list on the Association's website.
- We held a reverse pitch leveraging the Declaration.



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