



press release

For immediate release

ACCJ Releases Specific FDI Policy Recommendation on Pharmaceuticals

February 25, 2004 (Tokyo)—Following the October 2003 release of the Fukao Report (Foreign Direct Investment and the Japanese Economy) and the policy piece "From Goals to Reality: FDI Policy in Japan," the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) has released a specific policy recommendation on the topic of pharmaceuticals (to view the full text, please see <http://www.accj.or.jp/content/advocacy/FDI/SPP>). This is the third in a series of policy recommendations on foreign direct investment the ACCJ will be offering over the next few months. The first two, one dealing with corporate governance and transparency and the other on cash mergers, were released earlier this month.

The ACCJ believes that speedier availability and broader use of innovative pharmaceuticals can improve healthcare quality while keeping down overall costs. The reform of the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law and the formation (by April 2004) of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) present an historic opportunity to improve the speed and efficiency of Japan's regulatory procedures and provide patients with wider and faster access to innovative products.

In this policy recommendation, the ACCJ encourages Japanese policymakers to adopt measures intended to promote and reinforce the goals outlined in the "Vision for the Pharmaceutical Industry" policy paper by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW). The ACCJ asks Japan to consider the recommendations of the 2003 U.S.-Japan Private Sector/Government Commission that Japan accelerate implementations covered in "Vision." The ACCJ policy report also makes specific recommendations for pharmaceutical pricing and regulatory reform.

Over the next few months the ACCJ will issue more specific policy recommendations related to foreign direct investment, covering topics such as education and medical devices.

ACCJ FDI Task Force

In 2003 the ACCJ chose to focus on foreign direct investment into Japan in response to Prime Minister Koizumi's January speech to the Diet, in which he announced the government's goal of doubling FDI in five years. A task force engaged the services of Japan's most authoritative experts on FDI, Professor Kyoji Fukao of Hitotsubashi University and Tomofumi Amano of Toyo University, to conduct objective analysis and write a report illuminating the

facts concerning FDI in Japan, including the kinds of benefits that it brings and suggesting policy implications. This report was issued in Japanese on October 29, 2003, under the title "Foreign Direct Investment and the Japanese Economy." In addition, the task force prepared a companion policy document, "From Goals to Reality: FDI Policy in Japan." This report builds on the facts and empirical analysis presented by Professors Fukao and Amano to dispel a number of myths and fears about FDI in Japan and offers a number of ACCJ policy recommendations for achieving the government's goal of doubling FDI into Japan by 2008. To learn more about the ACCJ FDI Task Force, please visit <http://www.accj.or.jp/content/advocacy/FDI>.

About the ACCJ

Established in 1948, the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) has grown into Japan's most influential organization representing the interests of international businesses in Japan, with close to 3,200 individual members representing more than 40 countries and 1,300 companies. The ACCJ promotes commerce between the United States and Japan, supports measures to benefit and protect the interests of U.S. companies, and presents a variety of programs that keep Chamber members abreast of current business practices and trends. For more information, visit the ACCJ public website, <http://www.accj.or.jp>.

ACCJ PRESS CONTACT: Media Relations Officer Emi Ogawa (phone: 3433 6542; email: eogawa@accj.or.jp).