



*For Immediate Release*

**ACCJ Kansai Chapter to Launch Charity Walk-A-Thon  
-Improving the Environment for Working Women in Japan-**

**September 14, 2006 (Osaka)**— The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) Kansai Chapter announced that it will hold its first charity walk-a-thon at HAT Kobe on October 1. The event is one of the ACCJ Kansai Chapter's CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiatives this year that is aiming to improve the environment for working women in Japan.

A walk-a-thon is a type of fundraiser where participants raise money by collecting donations or pledges for walking a predetermined distance or course. A walk-a-thon event entitled, "International Charity Festival Walkathon", has been successfully held in Nagoya by the ACCJ Chubu Chapter with Nagoya International School for the past 15 years.

The ACCJ Kansai Chapter newly formed the Community Service Committee this year to take the role of carrying out its CSR initiatives. With Japan facing an aging society on the forefront and questions about who will fill the gaping hole in labor workforce when the baby boomers retire, the ACCJ Kansai Chapter regards the younger generation of Japanese females more and more as major contributors to the continued growth of the country's economy and decided to hold the event under the theme of "Improving the environment for working women in Japan." The ACCJ Kansai Chapter supports a society where there is an increase in the number of women working in the workforce and a society that allows women to demonstrate their ability and skills for the greater good of Japan.

The ACCJ Kansai Walk-a-thon is scheduled to be held as follows.

Date: Sunday, October 1, 2006  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
(Registration from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)  
Place: HAT Kobe (see the attached map)  
Donation: Adults 2,000 yen, Children & Students 1,000 yen  
(Original T-shirts for all participants while supplies last)  
Tickets: Available at the ACCJ Kansai Chapter office  
Tel: 06-6944-5991, Email: syoshitomi@accj.or.jp  
Course: 3.3km/2.1km  
Events: Live music, International food booths, Free product samples, etc.  
ACCJ Attendees: Michael Bobrove, ACCJ Vice President(President of Nihon Medrad K.K.); Ravi Chaturvedi, ACCJ Governor (President of Proctor & Gamble Japan K.K.); Kiran Sethi, ACCJ Kansai Chapter Community Service Committee Chair (MD of Jupiter International Corp.), Samuel Kidder, ACCJ Executive Director

Host: American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, Kansai Chapter  
 Supporters: Kobe City & Hyogo Prefecture, Osaka City & Osaka Prefecture, Kyoto City & Kyoto Prefecture, U.S. Consulate General Osaka-Kobe, Kansai Economic Federation, Kobe Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Osaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Kyoto Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Japan America Society of Kobe  
 Sponsors: <Platinum Level> Abbott Japan Co. Ltd., Eli Lilly Japan K.K., Proctor & Gamble Japan K.K.,  
 <Silver Level> Citigroup, Shinsei Bank, Limited, Jupiter International Corporation, Nihon Medrad K.K.  
 <Bronze Level> Aflac Japan, Wall Street Associates, SRC Group, Kansai Time Out, Kobe MK Co., Ltd., Sumitomo 3M Limited., Nestle Japan Ltd., Mitsukura Corporation, Minato Kanko Bus Inc., United Airlines, Inc.

The ACCJ focuses on its role as a "Reform Oendan" and on CSR, which form the two pillars of the ACCJ activities in 2006. It released its first publication on CSR titled, "Conscientious Commerce – Exploring the Nature and Scope of Corporate Social Responsibility" on September 7. As the ACCJ members are aiming to contribute to community development as good corporate citizens, the ACCJ Kansai Chapter will continuously hold a series of activities to support community development in Kansai. The above-mentioned CSR report is available from

[http://www.accj.or.jp/document\\_library/Miscellaneous/ACCJCSRReport.pdf](http://www.accj.or.jp/document_library/Miscellaneous/ACCJCSRReport.pdf).

Attachment: Map to HAT Kobe, Event flyer, Original T-shirt logo design

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### **About the ACCJ**

The mission of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) is to further the development of commerce between the United States of America and Japan, promote the interests of U.S. companies and members, and improve the international business environment in Japan. Established in 1948 by representatives of 40 American firms, the ACCJ has grown into one of the most influential business organizations in Japan, with close to 3,000 individual members representing more than forty countries and 1,400 companies.

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