



## Press Release

報道資料

*For Immediate Release*

### **ACCJ Urges the Government of Japan to Establish a Level Playing Field Between Kyosai and Private Insurance Service Suppliers**

**September 14, 2006** – The American Chamber of Commerce (ACCJ) today issued a Viewpoint entitled, “Ensure a Level Playing Field Between Kyosai and their Private Sector Insurance Competitors.”

As the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare deliberate on amendments to the Seikyo Law that could allow the Seikyo Group of Cooperatives to sell products outside of its membership to the general public and to expand beyond the longstanding geographic and other restrictions on the scope of the cooperatives’ businesses, the ACCJ urges the Government of Japan to end the favored status of the Seikyo Group of Cooperatives and other regulated kyosai by taking such measures as requiring them to:

- 1) Pay the same amount of taxes as their private insurance competitors;
- 2) Contribute to a safety net system to protect policyholders from potential failures;
- 3) Follow the same reserving rules as insurance companies; and
- 4) Submit to FSA supervision consistent with globally accepted standards for supervising insurance service suppliers.

Having customers in the millions, with the largest kyosai writing more policies and holding more assets than many private insurers, these kyosai directly compete as large-scale insurance companies, and therefore should be placed under the same regulations governing private sector insurance companies. Any further expansion of these kyosai is inconsistent with the traditional kyosai principle of “sougo fujo” (mutual aid between current members) and Japan’s international commitments under the GATS.

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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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