



***For Immediate Release***

**ACCJ Urges US and Japanese Governments  
to Commit to an Economic Integration Agreement**

**June 22, 2006-** The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) today published a viewpoint entitled "Enhance U.S.-Japan Economic Integration by Committing to an Economic Integration Agreement (EIA) and Continuing Progress in Ongoing Initiatives," calling on the governments of the United States and Japan to deepen bilateral economic ties through initiatives that foster greater economic integration of the two countries.

In addition to being the second largest economy in the world, Japan plays a central role in an increasingly integrating Asian economy and what happens in Japan has a tremendous impact on the development of the Asian economy as a whole and on the U.S. economy as well.

ACCJ President Charles D. Lake II commented, "In this environment, the ACCJ believes that it is essential for the U.S. and Japan to commit to promoting further U.S.-Japan economic integration by strengthening engagement on ongoing bilateral economic mechanisms and committing to the conclusion of an EIA. Such commitment would dramatically strengthen the foundation for sustainable growth in the region."

He further noted, "The upcoming summit between Prime Minister Koizumi and President Bush will further reinforce the strength of the U.S.-Japan political and economic relationship, which will play a critical role in fostering the conditions necessary for further economic integration."

The full text of this viewpoint is available as attached or at [www.accj.or.jp/document\\_library/Viewpoints/VP\\_EIA.pdf](http://www.accj.or.jp/document_library/Viewpoints/VP_EIA.pdf)

**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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