



## Press Release

報道資料

*For Immediate Release*

### **ACCJ Appoints Samuel H. Kidder as Executive Director**

**May 23, 2006 (Tokyo)** - The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) announced today the appointment of Samuel H. Kidder as Executive Director. Kidder will succeed Donald B. Westmore, who will close eight years with the ACCJ, on June 1.

"The ACCJ has benefited tremendously from Don's leadership, experience, and enthusiasm," said ACCJ President Charles D. Lake II. During Westmore's tenure as Executive Director, the ACCJ achieved remarkable growth, breaching the 3000 member level for the first time; expanding the number of member events to nearly 500 per year; overseeing establishment of the ACCJ's the first new chapter in 50 years; and substantially strengthening the Chamber's ability to play an increasingly important and constructive role in the Japanese economic policy making process.

"Don has contributed substantially to the U.S.-Japan relationship and will be deeply missed. We wish him all the best in his future," Lake added. "Although we are sad to see Don Westmore leave, we are delighted that our new executive director will be Mr. Samuel H. Kidder. Sam comes to the ACCJ with a wealth of experience managing complex operations and dealing with policy issues in Asia."

Before coming to the Chamber, Kidder served as Minister-Counselor for Commercial Affairs of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo from 1997 to 2001 and 2003 to 2006. Having entered the U.S. Department of Commerce in 1983, his other assignments include: commercial officer in Seoul and Tokyo, counselor for Commercial Affairs in Tokyo, and Minister-Counselor for Commercial Affairs of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India.

In his role as Executive Director, Kidder will be in charge of ACCJ affairs on behalf of the ACCJ Board of Governors. He will be responsible for helping the Board of Governors to implement the ACCJ's overall mission, including all aspects of operations as well as assisting the Board of Governors in policy formulation and execution and representing the ACCJ to the public and to members.

"We are truly fortunate to have someone of Sam's caliber join the Chamber as Executive Director, and we are all looking forward to working closely with him to continue our efforts to bring the ACCJ to the next level of excellence," said Lake.

Kidder, a native of New Jersey, earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science at Beloit College, Wisconsin, and graduated from Harvard University with Master of Arts in Regional Studies (East Asia). He also completed graduate work in East Asian history at University of Washington and studied at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea, as a Fulbright Fellow.

**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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