



Press Release

報道資料

For Immediate Release

ACCJ Exchanges Views with Key Government of Japan Policymakers during 12th Annual "Diet Doorknock"

November 1, 2007 - The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) today completed its 12th "Diet Doorknock," a coordinated three-day effort to meet and exchange views with members of Japan's Diet, including key committee leaders and Cabinet members. More than 50 ACCJ leaders, led by President Charles D. Lake II, met with approximately 70 senior Japanese policymakers from October 31 to November 1.

Under the slogan "*Sori Kyosei*," or "Working Together, Winning Together," in 2007 the ACCJ has focused its activities on two main pillars: corporate social responsibility (CSR) and its role as an "Economic Growth *Oendan*," or "Supporter of Economic Growth." During the Doorknock, Chamber leaders explained that, as an Economic Growth *Oendan*, the ACCJ continues to believe that a market-based, private sector-led economy – combined with sensible investment in an effective social safety infrastructure as well as balanced and appropriate measures designed to protect consumers – is the best way to achieve sustainable economic growth in Japan and enhance the welfare of all.

In addition, given that Japan and the United States are both striving to increase their international competitiveness amid the same challenges, including rapid globalization, ACCJ leaders continued to call for increased economic integration between the United States and Japan, including through the negotiation of a comprehensive U.S.-Japan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) / Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

ACCJ leaders also presented policymakers with the Chamber's new "Financial Center White Paper," which lays out a strategic roadmap for enhancing the competitiveness of Japan's financial and capital markets, consistent with the government's Cabinet decision outlined in its 2007 Basic Policies (*Honebuto*) to formulate a plan for this purpose by the end of the year. Enhancing the international competitiveness of Japan's financial and capital markets is an essential means of achieving sustainable economic growth despite the challenges of globalization and an aging population, shrinking workforce, and low birthrate, and the ACCJ stands ready to do its part to support the Government of Japan in this important initiative.

"We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to exchange views with so many political leaders and top government officials regarding measures to promote sustained economic growth, and want to express our thanks to them for making time to have an open dialogue with us during an especially busy Diet session" said ACCJ President Lake. "As longstanding good corporate citizens in Japan, ACCJ members take seriously their role as responsible participants in the communities they serve, and we always appreciate opportunities to deepen our dialogue with policymakers," Lake added.

For a copy of “The Financial Center White Paper”, please contact ACCJ Media Relations Officer Mina Takahashi (Tel: 03-3433-6542, Email: mtakahashi@accj.or.jp).

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About the ACCJ

The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) was established in 1948 by representatives of 40 American companies and has grown into one of the most influential business organizations in Japan. Consisting mainly of executives from American companies, currently the ACCJ has members representing 1,400 companies with offices in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka. Working closely with the governments of the United States and Japan, business organizations, and others, the ACCJ promotes activities that help achieve its mission of further developing commerce between the United States and Japan, promoting the interests of U.S. companies and members, and improving the international business environment in Japan. Over 60 committees representing various industries play the ACCJ’s central role in making policy recommendations through advocacy tools such as the Business White Paper and holding over 500 events and seminars annually on public policy and economic trends. The ACCJ is also committed to promoting charitable events and other CSR activities.

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