



Press Release

報道資料

For Immediate Release

ACCJ Welcomes the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement

April 13, 2007 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) welcomes the recent success of the governments of the United States and Korea in negotiating the U.S.-Korea free trade agreement (“KORUS FTA”).

“The KORUS FTA will boost the competitiveness of American farmers, manufacturers, and service providers in a leading country in Asia, the world’s fastest growing region,” said ACCJ President Charles D. Lake II. “The governments of the United States and Korea should be applauded for their vision and extraordinary efforts.” The Republic of Korea is the United States’ seventh-largest trading partner, and the KORUS FTA is expected to increase annual bilateral trade from \$78 billion to as much as \$100 billion.

“The KORUS FTA represents a major step forward for U.S. trade policy and will allow the United States and Korea to lead the way in defining the standards for future Asia-Pacific economic expansion and integration,” Lake said. “Similarly, a comprehensive Economic Integration Agreement (EIA) between the United States and Japan – home to the largest economy in Asia – would further ensure that Asian economic integration continues to take place in a manner that upholds the core values of democracy and the rule of law and addresses international labor and environmental standards in other nations and additional factors that impact the competitiveness of U.S. farmers, manufacturers, and service providers.”

An EIA with Japan – the world’s second largest economy and the United States’ fourth largest trading partner – could increase bilateral trade dramatically, by more than \$100 billion annually by some estimates. The ACCJ urges the governments of the United States and Japan to begin laying the groundwork for a comprehensive EIA by launching a joint study this year on the enormous benefits such an agreement would have.

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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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