



Press Release

報道資料

For Immediate Release

ACCJ 2006 Person of the Year: Hiroshi Okuda

March 14, 2007 — In recognition of his extensive contributions to U.S.-Japan economic relations, the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) has named Hiroshi Okuda, Senior Advisor and Member of the Board, Toyota Motor Corporation (Toyota), as its 2006 Person of the Year.

Mr. Okuda has played a critical role in U.S.-Japan economic relations for the past several decades. Under his leadership as Chairman of Toyota from 1999-2006 and President from 1995-1999, Toyota invested extensively in the U.S., creating thousands of jobs for U.S. workers and contributing as a good corporate citizen in many local communities. Mr. Okuda also led internal corporate reforms that resulted in a period of unprecedented success for Toyota and made it the model for many Japanese companies as they worked to restructure their operations in the post-bubble era. Mr. Okuda was also instrumental in making Toyota a worldwide leader in environmental initiatives.

As a member of the Government of Japan's Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, for the past six years Mr. Okuda has been a tireless advocate for market-oriented structural reform. In light of its demographic and other macroeconomic challenges, such reform is critical to achieving sustained and stable growth in Japan, which, in turn, is vital for the global economy.

Of Mr. Okuda's selection as the ACCJ's 2006 Person of the Year, ACCJ President Charles D. Lake II said, "Through his central role as a business leader and government advisor, Mr. Okuda has made a tremendously positive impact on U.S.-Japan economic relations. When taken together with his position as a pioneer in sustainable management and good corporate citizenship, we are humbled by the opportunity to honor Mr. Okuda as our 2006 Person of the Year."

About the ACCJ Person of the Year Award

The ACCJ inaugurated a program in 1996 to annually recognize an individual who has made a major contribution to enhancing U.S.-Japan economic relations.

Award Recipients

1996	Hon. Walter Mondale, 24 th US Ambassador to Japan
1997	Mr. Yotaro Kobayashi, Chairman and CEO, Fuji Xerox Company, Ltd.
1998	Mr. Hideo Ishihara, Chairman, Goldman Sachs Japan
1999	Dr. Kazuo Inamori, the Founder and Chairman emeritus of DDI Corporation and Kyocera Corporation
2000	Hon. Thomas S. Foley, 25 th US Ambassador to Japan
2001	Mr. Yoshihiko Miyauchi, Chairman, Orix Corporation; Vice Chairman, Keizai Doyukai; Chair, Council for Regulatory Reform
2002	Mr. Masamoto Yashiro, Chairman & CEO, Shinsei Bank Ltd.
2003	Mr. Yuzaburo Mogi, President & CEO, Kikkoman
2004	Hon. Howard H. Baker Jr., 26 th US Ambassador to Japan
2005	Mr. Taizo Nishimuro, Chairman & CEO, Tokyo Stock Exchange; Advisor to the Board, Toshiba Corporation

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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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