

For Immediate Release

ACCJ Advocates a U.S.-Japan Free Trade Agreement as Key to U.S. Success in a Rapidly Integrating Asia

April 25, 2008 (Washington, D.C.)---A delegation of U.S. Business leaders from the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) concluded its two-day "Doorknock" visit (April 23-24) to Washington, D.C. The delegation, led by ACCJ President Allan D. Smith, met with high-ranking Administration officials and Congressional leaders and discussed how stronger U.S.- Japan economic ties are vital to U.S. success in a rapidly growing and integrating Asia, calling for a high standard U.S.-Japan Free Trade Agreement..

ACCJ President Smith said, "Japan is one of the most important overseas markets to the U.S. and the strongest partner of the U.S. in Asia. The ACCJ believes that greater cooperation between Japan and the U.S. will enhance the success of Japanese and American companies throughout Asia and will foster the development of a new emerging trade architecture in Asia. And the ultimate conclusion of a high standard U.S.-Japan FTA would be the best way to achieve this goal."

Smith added, "The ACCJ celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. Under the theme, 'Bringing Business Together for Sixty Years,' the ACCJ's efforts to strengthen U.S.-Japan economic ties will lay the foundation for bringing businesses together for the next sixty years."

The key leaders the ACCJ delegation met with on Capitol Hill and in the Administration included officials at the departments of State, Commerce, USTR, Transportation, and Justice, as well as other key agencies.

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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. Marking its 60th anniversary in 2008, the ACCJ 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 1,300 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 50 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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