

For Immediate Release**ACCJ Elects Thomas W. Whitson President for 2009**

December 9, 2008— Thomas W. Whitson has been elected President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ). Chosen to lead the ACCJ in its 61st year, Whitson himself will be entering his 25th year as an ACCJ member during his tenure as President, which begins January 1, 2009.

"I am honored to take on this role as the ACCJ finishes up a great 60th year. Despite tremendous pressure of the recent financial crisis our membership remains above 3,000 and our finances continue to be solid, with additional benefit from a number of initiatives that we put in place several years ago. I look forward to focusing on our advocacy, networking, information exchange, and other activities based on what our members tell us they want," said Whitson.

Whitson is a Transaction Services partner with KPMG FAS Co., Ltd. in Tokyo. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Champaign - Urbana with a BS in Accounting and joined Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co. in 1974. He transferred to Korea in 1979 and relocated to Tokyo in 1984. He has served recently as ACCJ Treasurer, a member of the ACCJ Business and Financial Affairs Council, a founding member of the ACCJ Community Service Advisory Council, and the ACCJ's representative on the Japan Market Expansion Competition Steering Committee.

Re-elected as Tokyo Vice Presidents are:

- Michael J. Alfant, President and CEO, Fusion Systems Japan Co., Ltd.
- William R. Bishop, Jr., Director, Government & Public Affairs, Nippon Becton Dickinson Company, Ltd.

They join incumbent Tokyo Vice Presidents:

- Laurence W. Bates, Japan General Counsel, General Electric International, Inc.
- Kumi Sato, President, Cosmo Public Relations Corporation
- Mark F. Schwab, Vice President-Pacific, United Airlines

The incumbent Treasurer is Nasir Majid, Partner, International Assignment Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Elected to serve as Governors in Tokyo are:

- Andrew J. Conrad, Senior Vice President & Counsel, Aflac International, Inc.
- Bruce J. Ellsworth, Director, Government Affairs Japan, Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies
- Patricia O'Keefe, Director, USC International Offices - Tokyo, University of Southern California
- Mitsuyo Teramura, Senior Manager, Government Affairs, Federal Express Corporation

Re-elected as as Governors in Tokyo are:

- Douglas L. Peterson, Chairman, Representative Director, President and CEO, Nikko Citi Holdings Inc.
- Jay Ponazecki, Partner, Morrison & Foerster LLP
- Jim Weisser, President, PBXL

The above ACCJ officers will join incumbent Tokyo Governors:

- Christopher K. Ellis, Representative Director and President, Chrysler Japan Co., Ltd.
- James J. Foster, Director, Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Japan
- Tad Johnson, General Manager, P&W Aftermarket Japan KK
- John Kakinuki, Operating Officer and General Counsel, GE Consumer Finance Co., Ltd.
- Nicole W. Piasecki, President, Boeing International Corporation

The Chubu chapter elected for Vice President Chris Zarodkiewicz, President, Cezars International K.K./Interlink Relocations, and re-elected for Governor, Harry Hill, President, Oak Lawn Marketing, Inc. Steve Burson, Chief Operating Officer, H&R Consultants, was re-elected to the non-Board Treasurer position.

In the Kansai chapter, incumbents Michael Bobrove, President, Nihon Medrad K.K., and Jiri Mestecky, Registered Foreign Attorney, Kitahama Partners Legal Professional Corporation are incumbent Vice President and Governor, respectively. Brett Jensen, Account Manager, West Japan, Colliers Halifax, is the incumbent in the non-Board position as Treasurer.

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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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