



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ Elects Thomas W. Whitson President
to Lead the Chamber Again in 2010**

December 8, 2009 - The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) announced today that Thomas W. Whitson has been re-elected to lead the Chamber as President in 2010.

"I am honored to take on this role in challenging and difficult economic times. Despite the tremendous pressures of the recent financial crisis, our membership remains active and engaged and our finances are solid. I look forward to focusing on advocacy, networking, information exchange, and other activities to ensure that the Chamber thrives in the new political and economic environment," said Whitson. "Japan will host APEC in 2010 so a top priority for the Chamber in the coming year will be getting ACCJ member issues into the APEC process."

Whitson is currently a partner at Transaction Services, KPMG FAS Co., Ltd. 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. Entering his 26th year as an ACCJ member, Whitson has served as ACCJ Treasurer, a member of the ACCJ Business and Financial Affairs Council, the ACCJ's representative on the Japan Market Expansion Competition Steering Committee, and a founding member of the ACCJ Community Service Advisory Committee.

Elected to join Whitson on the 2010 Executive Committee as Tokyo Vice Presidents are:

- Andrew J. Conrad, Senior Vice President & Counsel, Aflac International, Inc.
- James J. Foster, Director, Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Japan
- Jay Ponazecki, Partner, Morrison & Foerster LLP

They join incumbent Tokyo Vice Presidents:

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

Re-elected to serve as Treasurer is Nasir Majid, Partner, International Assignment Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Elected to serve as Governors in Tokyo are:

- Nicholas E. Benes, President, JTP Corporation
- Jeffrey Bernier, Managing Director Pacific Sales and Affairs, Delta Air Lines, Inc.
- John Kakinuki, General Counsel and Executive Officer, AXA Life Insurance Co., Ltd.
- Randy Krieger, President and CEO, Ford Japan Ltd.
- Kumi Sato, President, Cosmo Public Relations Corporation
- Jeffrey Shimamoto, Vice President, Head of Legal and Compliance, Lazard Japan Asset Management K.K.
- Ira Wolf, Japan Representative, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

Re-elected as Governors in Tokyo are:

- Tad Johnson, General Manager, P&W Aftermarket Japan KK
- Nicole Piasecki, President, Boeing Japan KK

The above ACCJ officers will join incumbent Tokyo Governors:

- Bruce J. Ellsworth, Director, Government Affairs Japan, Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies
- Mitsuyo Teramura, Senior Manager, Government Affairs, Federal Express Corporation
- Jim Weisser, President, PBXL K.K.

The Kansai chapter elected for Vice President Jiri Mestecky, Partner, Registered Foreign Attorney, Kitahama Partners; for Governor, Alfonso G. Zulueta, President and General Manager, Eli Lilly Japan K.K.; and for the non-Board Treasurer position, Richard Carlow, Division Manager, Osaka Office, Robert Half Japan Ltd.

In the Chubu chapter, incumbents Christopher Zarodkiewicz, President, Cezars International K.K./Interlink Relocations, and Harry Hill, President, Oak Lawn Marketing, Inc., will serve their second years as Vice President and Governor, respectively. Steve Burson, President, H&R Consultants K.K., will serve his second year in Chubu on a non-Board position as Treasurer.

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About 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 1,300 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 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.

For questions and/or interview requests, please contact ACCJ Media Officer Minako Motoki (phone: 03 3433 6542; fax: 03 3433 8454; email: mmotoki@accj.or.jp).