

***For Immediate Release*****ACCJ Launches the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Digital Archive Project**

**May 27, 2008** --- The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) announced today the launch of the "ACCJ Online History Timeline" ([www.accj.or.jp/history](http://www.accj.or.jp/history) : English only), or "History Pages," an interactive and informative website which provides visitors with a trip through time captured in early archive photos, articles on the founding era and other records. A video introduction and exclusive interview with ACCJ President Allan Smith gives visitors a better understanding of the ACCJ's activities and the importance of commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Japan.

"Starting with the first twelve years, from 1948 to 1960, the ACCJ will add materials covering the decades of the 60s through the present over the coming months. We hope that this website's content will continue to grow in years to come, as we look forward to the ACCJ's next sixty years," says ACCJ president Allan Smith.

ACCJ Vice President Bill Bishop, who proposed the project to the ACCJ Board of Governors as Chair of the ACCJ Communications Advisory Council, saw the opportunity to emphasize the ACCJ's deep roots in the Japanese community. "Our history as a positive contributor and participant in Japan is far richer than our 1948 founding date denotes. It is hoped that the "History Pages" website will help us tell this exciting story," said Bishop. "We have been able to select and scan documents from the ACCJ's earliest years thanks to a lot of dedicated labor. Our most ambitious goal in coming years is to digitize and save as much ACCJ archived material as possible and to make it available online for the first time, including contributions from our members. We are also hoping to launch the pages in Japanese in the future."

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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 60<sup>th</sup> 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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