



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ Initiates Program to Exchange Global Insights with Local Business
Masahiko Hosokawa Selected as Guest Lecturer**

November 5, 2009 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) Chubu Chapter expands its influence in the Chubu region today by launching the International Business Certification Program (IBCP) to prepare local business people to succeed in a rapidly changing global business environment. The IBCP will consist of a series of monthly lectures in Nagoya and will be open to all ACCJ members, with a particular focus on employees of local governments and organizations.

The ACCJ conducted a survey of local businesses and identified a clear need for employees who can adapt to an international business environment. The IBCP will award successful participants of the credit-based program with a certificate of completion.

Mr. Masahiko Hosokawa, former Director-General of the Chubu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), will be the first guest lecturer. The inaugural event will be held on November 26, 2009 at the Hilton Nagoya.

“We are deeply honored to have Mr. Masahiko Hosokawa kick-off the IBCP by lecturing about the internationalization of Japan’s human capital,” commented Harry Hill, Governor of ACCJ’s Chubu Chapter. “A graduate of Tokyo University, Mr. Hosokawa will draw from his vast experiences at METI to educate the ACCJ’s membership.”

“As the largest international association in Greater Nagoya, the ACCJ initiated this program at the request of a number of local business leaders,” said Trey Hoffman, Chair of the External Affairs Committee at ACCJ-Chubu. “The International Business Certification Program will groom the next generation of global leaders.”

###

0916 E-N

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 Chubu Noriko Kato (phone: 052-229-1525; email: nkato@accj.or.jp).