

For Immediate Release**ACCJ Kansai Chapter to hold third annual
"ACCJ Kansai Walk-A-Thon – Charity Walk & Festival"
- A chance to learn all about "Happy Working Women" -**

October 16, 2008 (Osaka)— The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) Kansai Chapter will hold its third annual ACCJ Kansai Walk-A-Thon (WAT) – Charity Walk & Festival (<http://www.accjwalkathon.com/>) at Kobe Meriken Park on Saturday, October 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Proceeds from the Walk-A-Thon will be donated to charities supporting working women.

A mini workshop and information for working women and women desiring to enter or return to the workplace will be provided as below.

- ◆ **Mini Workshop "Happy Working Women"** (seating for 30 at each session)
1pm~ Six "Happy Working" participants will share their now-it-can-be told stories, followed by individual counseling for attendees. Hosted by the ACCJ Kansai Women in Business Committee.
2pm~ Counselors of NPO Kosodate Counseling Center using worksheets provide an opportunity for participants to consider what their "Personal Happy Working" style is based on the theme of "Mental and Physical Health".
- ◆ **Introduction of the 12 NPO's that received donations from the 2007 Walk-A-Thon proceeds**
Information will be made available on topics such as day-care, family-care, life-work balance, women's education and development, counseling and training programs that directly provide support to promote "Happy Working Women".
- ◆ **Sponsors provide information on how to "Improve the Environment for Working Women in Japan"**
Clinics such as "Cosmetics for the Workplace—how to look your best" will be held.

Other exciting attractions include entertainment by Universal Studios Japan™, international food booths (requires food tickets), children's play area and games (some activities require activity tickets), a dance troupe performance and live music. This year's WAT will attract women, their families, employees and people from all walks of life.

From the ACCJ's earliest days 60 years ago, corporate members have been leaders in gender and age equality and cultural and ethnic diversity in their employment practices. While companies with progressive hiring practices have benefited from the ability to hire from a larger pool of candidates and select and promote employees based on their capacity to contribute, they have also served as an example to other employers of the advantages of more open employment practices.

The ACCJ Kansai Chapter is pleased to provide the opportunity for training, workshops and networking for both working women and women seeking to enter or re-enter the workforce and companies keen to realize the advantages of building a diverse workforce.

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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.

ACCJ PRESS CONTACT: Keizo Yamada, Director Chapter Office - Kansai (phone: 06-6345-9880; email: kyamada@accj.or.jp).

<Attachment>

- Date: Saturday, October 18, 2008
- Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
(Registration from 9:00 a.m.; Opening Ceremony from 10:00 a.m.; Walk from 10:30 a.m.)
- Place: Kobe Meriken Park (Please refer to the website below)
- Fees: Age 19 and above: 2,000 yen, Age 6–18: 1,000 yen, Age 5 and under: Free
(1) Tickets will be available on the day of the event.
(2) Free original T-shirts for the first 1,500 participants
- Course: 1.3km (Kobe Meriken Park - Mosaic - Kobe Meriken Park)
- Events: Special show presented by Universal Studio Japan™, International food booths (pay), Children's play area and games (partly pay), Dance and live music
- Host: American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, Kansai Chapter
- Supporters: Osaka City & Osaka Prefecture, Kobe City & Hyogo Prefecture, Kyoto City & Kyoto Prefecture, Nara City & Nara Prefecture, U.S. Consulate General Osaka-Kobe, METI Kansai, Kansai Economic Federation, Osaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Kobe Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Kyoto Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Japan America Society of Kobe
- Sponsors: <Platinum Level> GE(General Electric Japan, Ltd.), P&G (Procter & Gamble Japan K.K.), Universal Studios Japan™, Eli Lilly Japan K.K.
<Silver Level> Shinsei Bank, Limited, Nippon Boehringer Ingelheim Co., Ltd. , Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.
<Bronze Level> Aflac Japan, Kobe MK Co., Ltd., Kobe Fugetsudo Co.,Ltd., Japan America Society of Kobe, Jupiter International Corporation, CDS K.K., Sumitomo 3M Limited, Nihon Medrad K.K., Hospira Japan Co.,Ltd., Mitsukura Corporation/Price Club, Minatokankobus Inc., Language Resources K.K., Cat Music Agency K.K., Shimano Inc., Robert Half Japan Ltd. , Wall Street Associates (INPO)
- Website: www.accjwalkathon.com