



Press Release

報道資料

For Immediate Release

ACCJ 2009 Person of the Year: Tadashi Yamamoto

February 5, 2010 - In recognition of his contribution to the U.S. - Japan economic relationship, the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) presented Mr. Tadashi Yamamoto with its 2009 Person of the Year Award on February 2 at a ceremony in Tokyo.

Mr. Yamamoto, President, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) has played an indispensable role in building a broad and strong U.S. - Japan relationship through multi-layered foreign exchange programs including the Shimoda Conferences, the U.S. - Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program and the Trilateral Commission. Some of Mr. Yamamoto's most important contributions include founding JCIE in 1970 and furthering its position from a bilateral post-war facilitator into one that creates exchange programs and networks of think tanks involving Asia, the U.S. and Europe.

"I am particularly pleased because JCIE is celebrating its 40th anniversary. This award therefore is a boost to our organization and I am very grateful..."

Mr. Yamamoto also added, "This ACCJ honor reminds me of all the support, encouragement and cooperation I have received from so many American and Japanese friends over the years."

When asked about Mr. Yamamoto's selection as the ACCJ's 2009 Person of the Year, ACCJ President Thomas W. Whitson said, "Mr. Yamamoto has dedicated most of his life to developing closer US-Japan relations. One of his most important efforts has been a parliamentary exchange program between American and Japanese political figures and future leaders. By selecting Mr. Yamamoto as ACCJ 2009 Person of the Year, we would like to recognize his personal efforts for over 40 years and leadership in strengthening the U.S. - Japan relationship."

About the ACCJ Person of the Year Award

The ACCJ initiated the "Person of the Year" program in 1996 to annually recognize an individual who has made a major contribution to enhancing U.S. - Japan economic relations.

Past Recipients

13	2008	Hon. J. Thomas Schieffer, 27 th US Ambassador to Japan
12	2007	Professor Heizo Takenaka, Director of Keio University's Global Security Research Institute
11	2006	Mr. Hiroshi Okuda, Senior Advisor and Member of the Board, Toyota Motor Corporation
10	2005	Mr. Taizo Nishimuro, Chairman & CEO, Tokyo Stock Exchange; Advisor to the Board, Toshiba Corporation
9	2004	Hon. Howard H. Baker Jr., 26 th US Ambassador to Japan
8	2003	Mr. Yuzaburo Mogi, President & CEO, Kikkoman
7	2002	Mr. Masamoto Yashiro, Chairman & CEO, Shinsei Bank Ltd.
6	2001	Mr. Yoshihiko Miyauchi, Chairman, Orix Corporation; Vice Chairman, Keizai Doyukai; Chair, Council for Regulatory Reform
5	2000	Hon. Thomas S. Foley, 25 th US Ambassador to Japan
4	1999	Dr. Kazuo Inamori, the Founder and Chairman emeritus of DDI Corporation and Kyocera Corporation
3	1998	Mr. Hideo Ishihara, Chairman, Goldman Sachs Japan
2	1997	Mr. Yotaro Kobayashi, Chairman and CEO, Fuji Xerox Company, Ltd.
1	1996	Hon. Walter Mondale, 24 th US Ambassador to Japan

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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 1,000 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. The ACCJ's more than 60 committees represent a variety of industries and make policy recommendations through advocacy tools such as viewpoints, public comments and white papers. The ACCJ holds over 500 events and seminars a year, many of which focus on government policy and economic trends. The ACCJ is also committed to promoting charitable events and 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).