



*For Immediate Release*

## **120 Participants in First ACCJ Charity Ball Walkathon Complete the Course in Pouring Rain**

**September 16, 2009** – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) held its inaugural Charity Ball Walkathon in Tokyo on Saturday, September 12 in Chidorigafuchi Park. 120 participants walked the 5 km perimeter of the Imperial Palace in pouring rain.

“Despite the rain, our first Walkathon in Tokyo went well and exceeded expectations. We would like to continue this effort and target 500 walkers next year,” said ACCJ Special Events Committee Chair, Barry Bergmann.

A walk-a-thon is a type of fundraising event in which participants collect donations or pledges for walking a predetermined distance or course.

ACCJ members, families and guests contributed ¥2,500 to participate. Participants under 18 contributed ¥1,000. Allied Pickfords, Coca-Cola, Latham & Watkins LLP, Reebok and United Airlines sponsored the event this year. All net proceeds from the event (approx. JPY 580,000) will be donated to organizations such as the YMCA/ACCJ Ohisama Camp, Nonohana-no-ie Children's Home, and others.

The ACCJ Chubu Chapter, in cooperation with the Nagoya International School, has successfully held a walk-a-thon in Nagoya for the past 18 years. The ACCJ Kansai Chapter will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> walk-a-thon in Nakanoshima Park as a part of the “Aqua Metropolis Osaka 2009” event on Saturday, October 3.



Please contact the ACCJ for high-resolution photos of the First ACCJ Charity Ball Walkathon.

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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.

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