



## **Press Release**

### **報道資料**

*For Immediate Release*

## **ACCJ Supports Japanese Government in Move to Consider New Child Care Agency**

- Using multi-ministerial approach to set Child Care Policy and address concerns of Women in Business -

**October 9, 2012** – Following the Government of Japan's recent unveiling of a multi-ministerial panel tasked with creating a new Government Agency to direct child care policy, the ACCJ's Women in Business Committee issued the following statement:

*Although newly established in early 2012, the ACCJ's Women in Business Committee already has more than 125 male and female members, both Japanese and foreign, who support women having an equal opportunity to excel at all levels in organizations. To this end, WIB Committee members have expressed their concerns over finding convenient, affordable and trustworthy child care solutions, a basic accommodation necessary for most new mothers to return to work.*

*Ensuring that women may return to the workforce and play productive roles which will contribute to Japan's economic development must be a priority for both private business and the Government.*

*We are delighted that the Government has taken this important step to establish a multi-ministerial panel to create a new agency aiming to meet the needs of modern Japanese society in child care policy. The panel, drawing upon experts from within the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Labour, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, will be tasked with reviewing policy options and will be looking to establish the new agency in two years time.*

*The ACCJ's Women in Business Committee encourages the Government to include leading representatives from the business community in Japan on its panel, and to consider bringing in global viewpoints by allowing representation from the foreign business community in Japan.*

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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 and has grown into one of the most influential business organizations in Japan. Consisting mainly of executives from American companies, the ACCJ has members representing over 1,000 companies with offices in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka. Working closely with the governments of the United States and Japan and other business organizations, the ACCJ promotes trade and investment flows between the United States and Japan, promoting the interests of U.S. companies and members, and improving the environment for international business in Japan. Over 60 committees representing various industries play a central role in making ACCJ policy recommendations by issuing Viewpoints, Public Comments and White Papers and holding over 500 events and seminars annually on public policy and economic trends. The ACCJ also undertakes charitable efforts and supports its members' CSR activities.

**About the ACCJ's Women in Business Committee**

**The Women in Business Committee advocates for gender diversity/inclusion, equal opportunity for women to excel at all levels of organizations and a productive work environment. Activities include networking opportunities, speaker events, training and advocacy. These activities will be aimed at providing working women with skills and career development, as well as networking and advocacy relevant to improving the overall working environment for women. Membership in the committee is open to all ACCJ members irrespective of gender.**

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