



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ Leaders Engage with Japanese Lawmakers
on the 17th "Diet Doorknock"**

November 16, 2012 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) completed its 17th "Diet Doorknock" today. Led by ACCJ President Michael Alfant, the Diet Doorknock is the Chamber's largest consolidated advocacy initiative, and this year more than 60 ACCJ leaders met with members of Japan's Diet as well as Cabinet members and ministry representatives. From November 13 to 15, the ACCJ engaged with approximately 55 senior Japanese policymakers on a number of issues ranging from how the ACCJ can contribute to the government's new growth strategy and due process and transparency in policy-making to Japan's potential participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

"We have been pleased with the warm welcome we received and the constructive dialogue undertaken over the last three days," said Alfant. "The ACCJ has been committed to Japan and working to improve the business environment here for almost 65 years, and we are thrilled to have this opportunity to engage in dialogue with so many government leaders. With the announcement that the Diet would be dissolved today, the ACCJ remains committed to work with the new and re-elected members of the Japanese government following elections next month to create a business environment in Japan that will foster job creation and viable and sustainable growth in the future."

The three-day event organized by the Chamber's Government Relations Committee (GRC) solicits input and participation from members of the more than 60 ACCJ committees. The chairman of the GRC, Arthur M. Mitchell, commented, "We appreciate the opportunity to exchange views with so many lawmakers and top government officials. We would like to express our gratitude for their time and for continuing to allow this annual dialogue between the Government of Japan and the ACCJ."

With regard to Japan's participation in the TPP process, GRC Vice Chair Larry Greenwood noted that most Diet members with whom ACCJ members met appreciated ACCJ's support for Japan's possible participation in the TPP and understand the benefits Japan would receive from participation. "ACCJ is aware of the importance and challenges of making this decision and that Japan's leaders must decide only after careful consideration of the country's long-term national interests."

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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, 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.

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