



For Immediate Release

ACCJ Reaffirms Commitment to Japan on the 16th "Diet Doorknock"

October 27, 2011 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) today completed its 16th annual "Diet Doorknock," a coordinated three-day effort to meet and exchange views with members of Japan's Diet, including key committee leaders and Cabinet members. Approximately 50 ACCJ leaders, led by President Michael Alfant, met with over 60 senior Japanese policymakers from October 25 to 27.

"We were pleased to meet so many members of Japan's Diet. During our Doorknock, we extended our deepest sympathy and unwavering support for the people of Japan in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake," said ACCJ President Alfant. "In addition, we reaffirmed our commitment to working with the Government of Japan to create and implement a viable and successful economic growth strategy, which we believe will be the best way to foster recovery, for the benefit of the Tohoku region and Japan as a whole."

Alfant went on to say, "Japan faces an array of challenges that extend beyond the recovery effort. By implementing structural and regulatory reforms in a transparent and inclusive manner, Japan can overcome these challenges and send a message to the rest of the world that it is indeed, 'Open for Business'."

Regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, Alfant said, "The ACCJ believes that Japan must decide on its own whether to participate in the TPP based on its own strategic interests – not outside pressure. Japan's potential TPP participation – at the same high level as other negotiating countries – presents an important opportunity for the United States and Japan to work together to bolster the global free-trade system to the benefit of all countries in the Region."

While leaders of many of the ACCJ's nearly 60 committees participate in the Doorknock, the three-day event is organized by the Chamber's Government Relations Committee (GRC). The chairman of the GRC, Arthur Mitchell commented, "We are grateful for the opportunity to exchange views with so many political leaders and top government officials and want to express our thanks to them for making time to have an open dialogue with us during an especially busy Diet session. We stand ready to work with the Government of Japan to bring about a robust and sustainable economic recovery."

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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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