



## Press Release

報道資料

***For Immediate Release***

### **Laurence W. Bates Elected as 53rd President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan**

**December 4, 2012—** Laurence W. Bates was elected by the members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) to serve as the Chamber's 53rd President. Bates begins his tenure on January 1, 2013.

"I am truly honored to be elected President of the ACCJ. The importance of Japan for our member companies, both here in the Japanese market and as a partner for growth in the wider Asia-Pacific region, and even globally, has never been greater. As one of the largest foreign business organizations in Japan, the ACCJ is committed, through thought leadership, not only to furthering the development of commerce between the United States and Japan and promoting the interests of U.S. companies in Japan--but also to improving the international business environment in Japan generally," said Bates.

"As President, I will focus on growth – personal leadership growth of our members through information sharing, networking and advocacy; growth of the ACCJ itself, to further energize our members; and growth of Japanese market opportunities for U.S. companies, through thoughtful advocacy and engagement in the wider region," Bates continued.

#### **---Profile---**

Bates currently serves as General Counsel for Japan at GE Global Growth and Operations, with legal, compliance and regulatory oversight for GE's significant portfolio of businesses in Japan. Born in New London, Connecticut, in February 1958, Bates graduated from Yale University (summa cum laude) in 1980, with a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Studies and Economics, and from Harvard Law School (cum laude) with a Juris Doctor in 1986. Fluent in Mandarin Chinese and Japanese, Bates is admitted to practice law in New York, and prior to joining GE in Japan in 1992, practiced law with major international law firms in New York, Beijing and Tokyo. He was elected a member of the Board of Governors of the American Chamber of Commerce in China in 1989. He also served as a Fulbright Senior Professional Research Scholar at Tokyo University in 1990, where he co-taught (in Japanese) a course on comparative international investment law. Prior

to his current role at GE, Bates served as General Counsel for GE Medical Systems-Asia, from 1992 to 1998, based in Tokyo and Hong Kong, and for GE Capital Japan, from 1998 to 2002, based in Tokyo.

The ACCJ membership also elected four Vice Presidents (one for the ACCJ Chubu Chapter) and seven Governors (one for the ACCJ Chubu Chapter) to serve on the 2013 ACCJ Board of Governors. The elected leaders are listed below.

Elected as Tokyo Vice Presidents are:

- Vicki Beyer,\* Executive Director, Morgan Stanley MUFG Securities Co., Ltd.
- Michel Weenick, Managing Director, Gensler and Associates/International, Ltd.
- Jim Weisser,\* President, PBXL Inc.

They join incumbent Tokyo Vice Presidents:

- Jeffrey S. Bernier, Managing Director, Asia Pacific, Delta Air Lines, Inc.
- Andrew J. Conrad, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Aflac Japan

Elected to serve as Governors in Tokyo are:

- Jonathan Kushner, Managing Partner and Representative Director, Kreab Gavin Anderson K.K.
- George L. Maffeo, President, Boeing Japan K.K.
- Andrew Silberman, President and Chief Enthusiast, Advanced Management Training Group
- Yoshitaka Sugihara,\* Government and Corporate Affairs Manager, Intel K.K.
- William J. Swinton, Director, International Business Studies, Temple University, Japan Campus
- Vivian Tokai, Director and Head of Government Relations, Japan, eBay, Inc.
- Ira Wolf,\* Japan Representative, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America [1-year term]

\*Re-elected

The above ACCJ officers will join incumbent Tokyo Governors:

- Bruce Ellsworth, Director of Government Affairs, Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies
- Christopher J. LaFleur, Senior Advisor, McLarty Associates
- Tad Johnson, General Manager and Representative Director, P&W Aftermarket Japan K.K.
- Patricia "Tish" Robinson, Associate Professor, Hitotsubashi University

- Yukio Yoshimura, Executive Officer, Head of Government Affairs, Citigroup Japan Holdings Corp.

All will join the incumbent ACCJ Treasurer:

- Jack E. Bird, International Tax Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Elected to serve as Chubu Chapter leaders are:

- Vice President: Steve Burson, President, H&R Consultants K.K.
- Governor: Christopher Zarodkiewicz, President, Cezars International K.K.
- Regional Treasurer:\*\* Joseph Haldane, Executive Director, IAFOR – The International Academic Forum

Incumbent Kansai Chapter leaders are:

- Vice President: Kiran S. Sethi, President, Jupiter International Corporation – Kobe, Japan
- Governor: Alfonso G. Zulueta, President, Eli Lilly Japan K.K.
- Treasurer:\*\* Herman J. Ehrlich, General Manager, Hilton Osaka

\*\*Note: Regional Treasurers (both Chubu and Kansai) are not Board of Governors position.

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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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