



***For Immediate Release***

**ACCJ Welcomes Japan's Decision to Move Toward Participating in TPP Negotiations**

**March 15, 2013** – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) welcomes and supports Prime Minister Abe's announcement that Japan will move towards joining negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement.

Given the size of Japan's economy and its role in the Asia-Pacific region, Japan's participation in the TPP would be transformative, not only creating the world's largest free-trade zone representing 36 percent of global GDP, but also serving to strengthen the U.S.-Japan bilateral relationship both economically and strategically.

ACCJ President Larry Bates said, "The TPP provides a unique chance for the United States and Japan to work together in shaping the future of the Asia-Pacific region in line with our shared economic interests and values. It both validates the strength of the U.S.-Japan relationship and sets the course for our cooperation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Bates went on to say, "This is an agenda that will strongly benefit our respective industries and support a new framework for innovation and growth in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region."

The ACCJ strongly supports the overriding goal set out by the United States and the other TPP partners to achieve a high-standard 21<sup>st</sup> century agreement that covers all elements of trade and investment, including tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment in all goods and services, as well as regulatory transparency and level playing fields.

We urge the Governments of the United States and Japan to successfully conclude their consultations regarding achieving a high-standard TPP and addressing issues of concern, so Japan can join the TPP negotiations as soon as possible.

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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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