



Press Release

報道資料

For Immediate Release

ACCJ Releases Viewpoint: “Facilitate Diversification and Expansion of the Work Force to Support the Future Economic Base of Japan”

April 5, 2013 – The Labor Force Diversity Task Force of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) issued today a Viewpoint which calls on the Government of Japan (GOJ) to implement policies that promote the diversification and expansion of the work force in Japan.

In the Viewpoint, the ACCJ calls for the GOJ to adopt measures seeking to offset shrinkage of the work force and to boost labor productivity in order to support growth in an economy with a declining population. To that end, ACCJ believes that a policy focused on diversification and increasing the number of long-term foreign workers can offer a wide range of benefits, including new business creation, extending the variety of skill sets available to existing businesses, and providing essential labor in market segments where few Japanese are able to fill roles.

ACCJ President Laurence W. Bates said, "As Japan considers how best to reposition itself onto an economic growth trajectory, we offer these recommendations with the hope that some of the relatively easy-to-implement policy changes will facilitate an influx of labor ultimately critical to sustaining future growth patterns here."

"The ACCJ remains committed to the communities we have served over the past six and a half decades in Japan, and more importantly, we remain optimistic about the prospects for growth in this vibrant economy; prospects we feel can be enhanced with a broader and more diverse labor force."

Bryan Norton, Chair of the Labor Force Diversity Task Force, said "I am excited to head up this task force of dedicated ACCJ leaders and to work with counterparts in the Japanese government to promote policy changes that we believe will improve the Japanese economy."

"While it is important to appeal to highly skilled professionals to come to Japan to live and work, the impact of a declining population requires that a wider variety of foreign workers participate in the Japanese economy."



"We offer the thirteen recommendations in this Viewpoint in the spirit that our President, Larry Bates, has laid out the Chamber's 2013 theme of "*kyouju-seicho*" or "Achieving Growth Together." While certainly there will be economic challenges ahead for both the native and foreign-born populations here, we see the way forward as working together to find prudent ways to overcome and even reverse the challenges we face; the demographic dilemma in which Japan currently finds itself is no exception, and we look forward to continuing to offer up our energy and talents to try to solve this problem."

The full Viewpoint can be found on the ACCJ website at:

< http://www.accj.or.jp/images/130405_VP_Facilitate_Diversification_LFD.pdf>

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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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