

For Immediate Release

ACCJ Applauds Conclusion of U.S.-Japan Consultations Regarding Japan's Participation in TPP Negotiations

April 15, 2013 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) applauds the announcement that the governments of the United States and Japan have successfully concluded consultations regarding Japan's entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement negotiations.

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% of global GDP, but also serving to strengthen the U.S.-Japan bilateral relationship both economically and strategically.

ACCJ President Larry Bates said, "Both the U.S. and Japan would benefit greatly from Japan's participation in TPP. Integrating the world's two largest developed markets together with the world's fastest growing markets in the dynamic Asia-Pacific region would provide a strong boost to productivity, competitiveness and growth on both sides of the Pacific. As the third arrow of Prime Minister Abe's economic strategy, growth through trade and investment made possible by the TPP will once again become a major driver of the Japanese economy. It is also consistent with our focus on achieving growth together."

The ACCJ strongly supports the overriding goal set out by the United States and the other TPP partners to achieve a high-standard, 21st-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.

Bates went on to say, "The ACCJ stands ready to continue to work with the governments of Japan and the United States as they forge even closer linkages between our economies, ultimately benefiting consumers and supporting job creation and economic growth in both countries."

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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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