

For Immediate Release

ACCJ Welcomes Japan's Entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) as it Engages Officials in Annual "Washington, D.C. Doorknock"

ACCJ Applauds White House Notification to Congress of Intent to Include Japan in TPP Negotiations in its Meetings with Key Legislators and other Government Officials

April 26, 2013– The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) conducted its annual Washington, D.C. Doorknock from April 23 to 26. Chamber leaders visited U.S. lawmakers, government officials, business organizations and thought leaders to emphasize the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationship in light of Japan's new growth strategy and its impending participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement negotiations, calling for further engagement between the two countries.

The ACCJ applauds the confirmation made by the U.S. and other TPP member countries to move forward in accepting Japan's entry into the TPP negotiations. Japan's participation in TPP will be a game-changer, not only leading to the creation of the world's largest free-trade zone, but will also help to strengthen the U.S.-Japan bilateral relationship both economically and strategically.

"The progress on Japan's joining the TPP at the same high level as other participants is great news. Through the TPP we will address new and emerging trade issues and 21st-century challenges. The TPP also gives us the leverage to resolve important longstanding bilateral issues," said ACCJ President Laurence W. Bates.

Bates added, "Structural reform is one of the three key tenets of Prime Minister Abe's growth strategy that has come to be known as Abenomics. These reforms will encourage investment and innovation and improve transparency and corporate governance. Growth in Japan's economy will not only be good for ACCJ member companies doing business in Japan but will also provide a stronger market for American exports which means more jobs here in the United States."

During the Doorknock meetings, ACCJ delegates urged continued U.S.-Japan collaboration on the recovery and efforts to return to the economic growth after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Speaking on Japan's recovery from the earthquake and tsunami that devastated communities in the Tohoku region, Bates said, "We have all been impressed by the



courage the Japanese people have shown and their resilience in facing the enormous challenge of rebuilding after so much damage. Many of our companies have been honored to be involved in the efforts to rebuild."

The Washington, D.C. Doorknock is one of the ACCJ's largest consolidated advocacy initiatives.

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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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