



***For Immediate Release***

**ACCJ finds Postal Services Privatization Committee opinion recommending approval of Japan Post Insurance (JPI) business expansion deeply regrettable**

**November 22, 2012** – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) has repeatedly urged the Government of Japan to ensure that Japan Post Group is not allowed to expand its business operations until equivalent conditions of competition are established between the Japan Post Group and the private sector. This position has been raised not only by the ACCJ but also by numerous domestic industry associations. The ACCJ finds it deeply regrettable that the Postal Services Privatization Committee has seen fit to recommend approval of Japan Post Insurance (JPI) business expansion despite broad and consistent calls for the establishment of a level playing field.

In particular, JPI lacks the private sector's level of corporate governance and internal control systems and, when coupled with the benefits JPI receives from its implicit government guarantee, it is clear that the conditions of competition are far from equal. Ensuring that all conditions of competition are equivalent must be a prerequisite for any Japan Post Insurance expansion.

Furthermore, allowing Japan Post Insurance to offer new or modified products before equivalent conditions of competition are achieved is inconsistent with Japan's international trade commitments, including under Article XVII of the World Trade Organization's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

The ACCJ again urges the Government of Japan to ensure that all conditions of competition are equivalent before permitting Japan Post Insurance to expand its business operations, including modification of its education endowment product.

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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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