



For Immediate Release

ACCJ Applauds Revised Growth Strategy as a Positive Step Towards Achieving Sustained Economic Growth in Japan

June 27, 2014 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) applauds the recently unveiled revised growth strategy as a positive step towards achieving sustained economic growth in Japan as well as realizing Prime Minister Abe’s goal of making Japan the “world’s easiest country” in which to do business.

“Taken in its entirety, the revised growth strategy sends a positive message about the Government of Japan’s (GOJ) commitment to break through bedrock regulation and unlock long-term growth in Japan,” said ACCJ President Jay Ponazecki. “However, the GOJ must move forward expeditiously with effective and rapid implementation of revised growth strategy measures to address Japan’s lingering challenges and achieve Japan’s full economic potential.”

The ACCJ has long emphasized through its publications, including the 2010 white paper, “Charting a New Course for Growth,” the need for market-wide reform in areas including corporate governance, labor mobility, and taxation. Nicholas Benes, chair of the ACCJ Growth Strategy Task Force, said, “We were especially encouraged to see that in formulating the revised strategy, the government drew from significant third-party expert analysis and input, as was reflected in the May 23rd report of the LDP’s Japan Economic Revival Headquarters. Sourcing such analysis is a best practice and we were pleased to find that as a result, many of the ACCJ’s core strategy themes and recommendations are now in the strategy.”

Kenneth Lebrun, chair of the ACCJ’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Committee, added, “Implementation of the measures in the revised growth strategy such as lowering the effective corporate tax rate and creating a Corporate Governance Code will help to boost investor confidence, generate new business opportunities and improve Japan’s international competitiveness, ultimately helping Japan attract greater investment, both foreign and domestic.”



As the GOJ moves forward with implementation of growth strategy measures, the ACCJ stands ready in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration to provide policymakers with concrete, solutions-based policy recommendations to further strengthen the U.S.-Japan economic relationship and improve the business environment in Japan.

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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, currently the ACCJ has members representing 1,000 companies with offices in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka. Working closely with the governments of the United States and Japan, business organizations, and others, the ACCJ promotes activities that help achieve its mission of further developing commerce between the United States and Japan, promoting the interests of U.S. companies and members, and improving the international business environment in Japan. The ACCJ's more than 60 committees represent a variety of industries and make policy recommendations through advocacy tools such as viewpoints, public comments and white papers. The ACCJ holds approximately 500 events and seminars a year, many of which focus on government policy and economic trends. The ACCJ is also committed to promoting charitable events and CSR activities.

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