



**Press Release**

**報道資料**

***For Immediate Release***

**ACCJ Applauds the Government of Japan's  
Efforts to Support Foreign Entrepreneurs**

**January 25, 2018** – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) applauds the Government of Japan's (GOJ) efforts to make Japan a more attractive place for foreigners to start new businesses. Measures announced in December to lengthen the foreign startup visa term from six months to one year will improve the ability of global entrepreneurs to grow their businesses in the Japanese market, leading to a more innovative business environment that supports increased economic growth. Efforts by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry to support local governments in attracting global startups are also welcome.

"We know that innovative small and medium-sized enterprises, including startups, have the potential to infuse energy and innovative solutions into the economy. We are pleased to see positive moves being made by the GOJ to make Japan more vibrant and internationally competitive," said ACCJ Venture Company Task Force Co-Chair Barry Hirschfeld.

ACCJ Venture Company Task Force Vice Chair Jim Weisser added, "By implementing measures to amend the startup visa, foreign entrepreneurs with the skills and experience to lead innovative businesses that address key business needs as well as critical social needs will be more willing to consider 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. Over its 70-year history, the ACCJ has positioned itself as one of the most influential business organizations in Japan. The ACCJ has approximately 3,500 members who together represent over 1,000 globally minded companies with offices in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka. Working closely with the U.S. and Japanese governments, business organizations and others, the ACCJ engages in activities that advance its mission of further developing commerce between the U.S. 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 over 500 events and seminars a year, many of which focus on government policy and economic trends. The ACCJ is also committed to promoting charitable and CSR activities.

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