



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ Completes 23rd Annual Diet Doorknock,
urges U.S.-Japan bilateral discussions resolve ongoing
issues to form a forward-looking agreement**

January 9, 2019 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) recently completed its 23rd annual Diet Doorknock, the Chamber’s largest consolidated advocacy initiative, to engage in a series of meetings with Japanese legislators and government officials focused on ensuring a forward-looking agreement is reached in U.S.-Japan bilateral discussions to take place next year. ACCJ President Sachin N. Shah led more than 70 ACCJ leaders and members to meet 38 Diet members, including Cabinet members and high-ranking government officials.

“Our message is one of confidence to resolve issues between the two economies today to focus on future value for both partner nations in the bilateral trade discussions to begin next year. With 70 years of working with both U.S. and Japanese administrations, we are confident to identify opportunities for business to realize significant progress in the economic partnership and strengthen this cornerstone of the U.S.-Japan alliance,” said Shah.

This 23rd Diet Doorknock focused on the ACCJ’s commitment to unlocking Japan’s growth potential through the five pillars of the ACCJ’s relevant and strong advocacy strategy:

- **US-Japan Economic Partnership** to ensure a U.S.-Japan trade agreement builds upon recent economic reform efforts by the Japanese government and address ongoing issues to foster innovation as well as to enhance job creation and economic growth in both countries.
- **Digital Economy** to establish a secured cyberspace that encourages innovation and greater corporate activity; ease or abolish counter-regulations and secure the interoperability between Cross Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); and promote the spread of internationally recognized standards making business activities easier.
- **Healthcare & Retirement** to promote improvement of the financial health of Japan’s social security and healthcare system through

innovative financial strategies, adoption of an appropriate innovation policy and establishment of an efficient healthcare system.

- **Tourism, Sport & Hospitality** for the expansion of tourism infrastructure development to make Japan the world's leading tourist destination as well as an internationally competitive investment destination taking advantage of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and other large-scale events.
- **Workforce Productivity** to enhance labor mobility and work practice reform; and to improve workforce capacity, productivity and innovation by developing new styles of working environments.

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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 over 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 its responsibilities in the community, promoting charitable events and CSR activities.

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