



Press Release
報道資料



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ and EBC Release 2015 Health Policy White Paper,
Outlining Policy Recommendations Essential to
Promoting Long-Term Economic Growth**

- The ACCJ and EBC healthcare joint reform policy recommendations would boost economic competitiveness by reducing worker absenteeism and disability while increasing labor productivity
- Over 190 policy recommendations in line with evidence-based global best practices in areas such as prevention and early detection
- 41 topical sections with examples of the kinds of policies likely to yield significant positive impact

May 29, 2015 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) and The European Business Council in Japan (EBC) today released the 2015 ACCJ-EBC Health Policy White Paper focusing on promoting long-term economic growth in Japan through policy recommendations aimed at lengthening healthy and productive lifespans and lowering the economic burden of disease.

The joint 2015 ACCJ-EBC Health Policy White Paper entitled, “Lengthening Healthy Lifespans to Boost Economic Growth,” is a compilation of the latest evidence-based global best practices from leaders and members of the ACCJ’s Healthcare Committee and the EBC’s Medical Equipment Committee. The 2015 White Paper was developed over the past two years and covers evidence-based policy recommendations across 41 healthcare areas, including prevention, early detection and treatment, women’s health, health IT and home care and the importance of enhanced safety and infection control.

“Healthcare is a strategic investment in the single most vital resource of Japan – its people, helping them live longer, healthier and more productive lives. We believe that these latest policy recommendations, if implemented, would boost economic competitiveness in Japan by increasing labor productivity while at the same time increasing the efficiency of healthcare spending and preventing excessive increases in healthcare costs,” said ACCJ President Jay Ponazecki.

The policy recommendations span a wide variety of areas, including the promotion of healthy lifestyle changes to improve wellness, disease prevention through expanded vaccination programs, early detection of disease through greater screening of high-risk populations, early treatment of chronic disease, and enhanced healthcare worker safety and prevention of healthcare-associated infections.

“The policy recommendations outlined in the joint ACCJ–EBC Health Policy White Paper offer solutions that lead to policy changes reflective of the latest evidence-based global best practices with particular emphasis on the potential benefits of wellness and prevention for improving the quality of life of patients, for increasing workforce productivity, and for achieving cost-efficiency gains. I am pleased that the ACCJ and EBC continue to work together to encourage these changes that are vital to further improving and enhancing Japan’s advanced healthcare technology and services,” said Danny Risberg, EBC Chairman and Medical Equipment Committee Chairman.

Japan’s health policies have traditionally focused on the treatment of disease after it occurs or grows critical, which can result in high overall treatment costs. Many forms of infectious and chronic disease can be prevented or detected early if carefully focused policy measures are implemented appropriately. The 2015 White Paper contains many pragmatic policy recommendations that can help steer the Japanese healthcare system towards a prevention paradigm, which could improve not only health outcomes but also labor productivity, overall economic competitiveness, and the efficient allocation of increasingly scarce budgetary resources.

“While there are a number of measures that can be taken to improve health policy in Japan, the 41 topic sections covered in the 2015 White Paper provide detailed examples of the kinds of policies we believe – based on the experience and expertise of numerous representatives of globally successful healthcare companies from both the United States and Europe – are likely to yield significant positive impact,” said William Bishop, ACCJ Healthcare Committee Chair.

Policy recommendations in the White Paper span the following main topical areas:

Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment

Noncommunicable Disease

Communicable Disease

Mental Health

Women's Health

Health IT · Home Care

Regenerative Medicine

Enhanced Safety and Infection Control

Healthcare Worker Safety

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For inquiries please contact:

ACCJ External Affairs

Tel: 03-3433-6542; Fax: 03-3433-8454

E-mail: external@accj.or.jp

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.

About EBC

The European Business Council in Japan (EBC)/European (EU) Chamber of Commerce in Japan is the trade policy and advocacy arm of 16 European national chambers of commerce and business associations in Japan. Established in 1972, the EBC works to improve the business and investment environment in Japan. It currently represents more than 2,500 local European companies and individuals, some 400 of whom participate directly in the EBC's 29 sector-based committees.