



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ Re-elects Christopher LaFleur
to Lead the Chamber in 2017**

December 2, 2016 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) announced today that Christopher J. LaFleur was re-elected to serve as President of the ACCJ in 2017. LaFleur will commence his second term from January 1, 2017.

“I am deeply honored to be re-elected President of the ACCJ. I offer my congratulations to those who have been elected to serve the Chamber with me, and look forward to working with them and the incumbent members of the Board of Governors on issues that will help further the ACCJ’s mission to pursue stronger commercial ties between the United States and Japan, promote the interests of U.S. companies and our members, and improve the international business environment in Japan. As the value of global trade faces a degree of scrutiny not seen in nearly a century, the responsibility of business organizations, such as the ACCJ, to be the voice of global business has perhaps never been greater,” said LaFleur.

“As president, I will continue building on the success that has brought tangible results and work to improve the Chamber by focusing on member value, dialogue and participation, and advocacy. The ACCJ’s core strength lies within our membership, and providing further value to our members helps ensure proactive member dialogue and participation. Furthermore, the Chamber’s advocacy initiatives have been instrumental in advancing member interests and enabling close cooperation and collaboration with key leaders in government and business. By further strengthening our advocacy efforts, we will also continue to offer solutions-based recommendations in line with global best practices that will help achieve further reform and economic growth in Japan, as well as a stronger bilateral relationship between the United States and Japan as leaders in the Asia-Pacific economy,” LaFleur added.

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Christopher LaFleur is Senior Director for Japan at McLarty Associates, an advisory firm – headquartered in Washington DC and represented in 18 countries – which helps clients assess global challenges and opportunities and execute strategies to achieve their international objectives.

Ambassador LaFleur serves concurrently as Chairman of the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation's Data Repository Japan, as a director of the Tsuneishi Holdings Corporation and as president of LM Associates. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, the Japan Center for International Exchange and the International Student Conference and an advisor to Ashoka, the pioneer in global social entrepreneurship.

During his prior US government career, Ambassador LaFleur became one of the US State Department's leading Japan experts, eventually serving as Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. He also dealt with a wide variety of issues elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region as US Ambassador to Malaysia, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, negotiator on the future of the US alliance with the Republic of Korea, Deputy Director of the American Institute in Taiwan, and Director of the State Department's Office of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. His diplomatic postings also included the US Embassy in Paris and the US Mission to the United Nations in New York.

Ambassador LaFleur, a New Yorker, studied at Oberlin College and Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.

The ACCJ membership also elected five Vice Presidents (one for the ACCJ Chubu Chapter) and seven Governors (one for the ACCJ Chubu Chapter) to serve with the incumbent members on the 2017 ACCJ Board of Governors. The elected leaders are listed below.

Elected as Tokyo Vice Presidents are:

- Amy Jackson, Japan Representative, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)
- Peter M. Jennings, President, Japan & Korea/Associate General Counsel, Dow Chemical Japan Ltd.
- Marie Kissel,* Vice President, Global Government Affairs – Asia, Abbott
- Jonathan Kushner,* Managing Partner Asia, Kream

*Re-elected

They will join incumbent Vice President:

- Andrew J. Conrad, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Aflac Japan; and Senior Vice President, Aflac International, Inc.

Incumbent Treasurer is:

- Nancy Ngou, Partner, Ernst & Young Advisory Co., Ltd.

Elected to serve as Governors in Tokyo are:

- Eriko Asai, Executive Managing Director, Government Affairs and Policy, GE Japan
- Brett C. Gerry, Boeing Japan President, Boeing Japan K.K.
- Arthur M. Mitchell,* Senior Counselor, White & Case LLP
- Sachin N. Shah,* Director, Representative Statutory Executive Officer, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, MetLife Insurance K.K.
- Ryann Thomas, Partner, PwC Tax Japan
- Megumi Tsukamoto, Director, Government & Corporate Affairs, Japan, Caterpillar Japan Ltd.

* Re-elected

They will join incumbent Tokyo Governors:

- Alison Sayre Birch, Managing Director, J.P. Morgan Securities Japan Co., Ltd.
- Tim Brett, President and Representative Director, Coca-Cola (Japan) Co., Ltd.
- Rebecca K. Green, Principal Consultant, ERM Japan Ltd.
- A. Barry Hirschfeld, Jr., President & Chief Executive Officer, AIP Healthcare Japan GK
- Tad Johnson, General Manager and Representative Director, Pratt & Whitney Aftermarket Japan KK
- Junichi Maruyama, Executive Officer, Head of Government Affairs,

Citigroup Japan Holdings G.K.

Elected to serve as Chubu Chapter leaders are:

- Vice President: Ray Proper, IT Manager, H&R Group K.K.
- Governor: Michel Weenick, Senior Director, Capital Projects Asia Pacific, Hilton Worldwide
- Regional Treasurer: Jonathan P. Hobbs,*[†] Director, Hobbs & Associates

Incumbent Kansai Chapter leaders are:

- Vice President: Stephen A. Zurcher, Dean, Asian Studies Program, Kansai Gaidai University
- Governor: Patrik Jonsson, Representative Director and President, Eli Lilly Japan K.K.
- Regional Treasurer: Craig McGovern,[†] Director of Finance, Hilton Osaka

* Re-elected

[†] Regional Treasurers (both Kansai and Chubu) are not Board of Governor positions.

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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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