



***For Immediate Release***

**ACCJ Kansai Women in Business (WIB) Summit  
Stresses the Importance of Driving Diversity  
Through Organizational Culture Change**

**June 30, 2016** – The Kansai Chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) held its second Kansai Women in Business (WIB) Summit yesterday at the Ritz Carlton Osaka. With hundreds in attendance, the half-day event brought together influential leaders in business, government and academia. Featuring more than a dozen prominent speakers and panelists, the discussions focused on bringing about diversity through organizational culture change within domestic and foreign organizations in the public and private sectors.

“We are excited to see such outstanding participation in this year’s Summit – driving momentum for change through forums such as ours helps to create true progress throughout business and society. We know that our efforts to drive diversity and inclusion through organizational culture change will have a positive impact on businesses in the Kansai region, as well as on overall economic growth in Japan,” said ACCJ Vice President – Kansai, Stephen A. Zurcher.

Building on last year’s success, this year’s Summit featured breakout sessions and workshops on global best practices and practical recommendations that encourage the shift in mindset required of public and private entities dedicated to supporting women in the workplace.

“As the first WIB Summit in a series of three to be held across Osaka, Nagoya and Tokyo this year, we hope today’s discussions will assist local governments and businesses in Kansai to develop solutions that encourage more female participation, as well as leadership, in the workplace. Diversity and inclusion, the focus of the Summit, is critical to supporting Kansai, together with the rest

of Japan, in reaching its full potential of economic growth and prosperity going forward,” said ACCJ President Christopher LaFleur.

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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.

PRESS CONTACT: ACCJ External Affairs (phone: 03 3433 6542; email: external@accj.or.jp).