



***For Immediate Release***

**ACCJ "Diet Doorknock" Marks  
Milestone 20<sup>th</sup> Year**

**December 14, 2015** – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) carried out its 20<sup>th</sup> "Diet Doorknock" last week. The Diet Doorknock, led by ACCJ President Jay Ponazecki over the course of the past three days, brought together 65 ACCJ leaders and members who met with approximately 40 Japanese government officials and legislators including Cabinet members.

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> ACCJ Diet Doorknock, the Chamber's largest consolidated advocacy event in Japan. Leaders and members of the ACCJ have met with hundreds of officials and Diet members over 20 years in this valuable channel of communication and information-exchange between the Japanese government and representatives of the ACCJ and U.S. industry.

A key goal of this year's Diet Doorknock was to encourage greater engagement and discussion surrounding Japan's long-term economic growth, and to offer up practical, solutions-based recommendations founded in global best practices as the Japanese government considers additional measures to revitalize the Japanese economy.

The ACCJ identified three principal themes for the Diet Doorknock this year, which, if achieved, will be some of the most effective means of fostering further economic growth in Japan over the long-term. Specifically, these are:

- Ratification and implementation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement;
- Further progress on womenomics and labor mobility reforms; and

- Continued forward movement on the Japanese government's proposed structural reforms.

As part of the commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Diet Doorknock, the ACCJ held a half-day series of panel discussions featuring thought leaders from both the public and private sectors as well as academia to discuss and offer insights in three key areas anticipated to drive future economic growth in Japan: Financial Services, the Internet Economy and Healthcare.

"Over the past 20 years, the ACCJ Diet Doorknock has been instrumental to opening new avenues of communication between the ACCJ and our friends in the Diet and the Ministries, to bridging the distance between the private and public sectors with the aim of fostering further economic growth in Japan and to further cementing a key channel of engagement that brings our two great countries even closer together. We are grateful to all of the officials who have taken time to meet with our members this year and over two decades. Our commitment to Japan has never been stronger," said Ponazecki.

"With the conclusion of the TPP negotiations in October, this year's Diet Doorknock was particularly important because of the historic opportunity to engage with Japanese lawmakers on the significant benefits to the Japanese economy of moving forward with the prompt ratification and implementation of the TPP agreement," she continued.

The Diet Doorknock is organized by the ACCJ's Government Relations Committee, chaired by Arthur Mitchell, who said, "The robust relationship that the ACCJ has forged with the Japanese government over almost seven decades, and especially over the past 20 years of the Diet Doorknock, has facilitated the exchange of ideas on how industry and government can work together to enhance competitiveness and productivity with the ultimate goal of sustained economic growth in Japan. The ACCJ chose to focus much of its engagement in meetings this year to achieve further progress on the key cross-cutting themes of TPP, labor mobility, including womenomics, and the government's robust structural reform agenda. The business leaders who take part in the Diet Doorknock bring with them deep expertise and knowledge in their particular industry sectors as well as an abiding commitment to improving the business environment in 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 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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