



## For Immediate Release

## ACCJ Holds its Inaugural Kansai Women in Business (WIB) Summit in Osaka

**September 8, 2015** – The Kansai Chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) held its inaugural Kansai Women in Business (WIB) Summit in Osaka yesterday at the InterContinental Hotel Osaka. Hundreds of leaders from industry, government and academia attended the summit which focused on empowering women in society. Eighteen prominent speakers and panelists engaged on best practices for foreign and domestic organizations in both the public and the private sectors to promote and drive business through diversity.

"We hope that today's sessions further our efforts to support the economic growth of Japan through utilizing the full potential of the workforce and also provide all of you an opportunity to share best practices and identify those actions that will most significantly help all of us and our organizations to flourish here in Japan," said ACCJ Vice President – Kansai, Kiran Sethi.

The Kansai WIB Summit focused on raising awareness of the importance of diversity in the workplace and on providing practical solutions based on global best practices to challenges faced by women seeking advancement and by organizations trying to foster greater and more senior participation by women.

ACCJ President Jay Ponazecki said, "With panel discussions on women in leadership, male champions of change and best practices in human resources, we hope this Summit will help answer questions by identifying what challenges still need to be addressed in Kansai, and by providing practical, solutions-based recommendations and sharing tested best practices on how to advance the role and engagement of Japanese women in the workplace. This focus on driving business through diversity is key to stimulating further economic growth in Kansai and throughout 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 committee to promoting charitable events and CSR activities.

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