



For Immediate Release

Christopher LaFleur is Elected President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan for 2016

December 4, 2015 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) announced today that Christopher J. LaFleur was elected to serve as President of the ACCJ in 2016. LaFleur will commence his term from January 1st.

"I feel deeply honored and privileged to serve as the next president of the ACCJ. I send my heartfelt congratulations to those who have been elected to serve the Chamber with me next year, and look forward to working with them and the incumbent members of the Board of Governors on issues that are essential to helping further the mission of the Chamber to develop stronger commercial ties between the U.S. and Japan, promote the interests of U.S. companies and our members, and improve the overall international business environment in Japan. I also congratulate Jay Ponazecki on a tremendously successful two years as president. It was an honor to serve on the Board of Governors these past two years with her as chairman," said LaFleur.

"As president of the ACCJ I plan to continue the successful initiatives launched by President Ponazecki while focusing on core programs that will help the Chamber meet the key challenges we will face in 2016 and beyond. First and foremost, as the ACCJ's strength is based on member activism and collaboration, I look forward to making the Chamber even more inclusive and productive for all of its 3,000 plus members. To make this happen, I look to increase our engagement and networking activities and to strengthen the ACCJ brand through enhanced social media presence. In addition, the Chamber has been effective in advancing member interests in large part due to our robust advocacy operations. I plan to further strengthen our advocacy with key government and business stakeholders focusing, most importantly, on the Trans-Pacific Partnership. We will also continue to offer recommendations

based on global best practices to help advance structural reform, achieve greater economic growth in Japan and further expand the dynamic U.S.-Japan economic relationship,” LaFleur added.

---Profile---

Christopher LaFleur is the senior advisor in Japan for 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.

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 Boards of Directors of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation and the International Student Conference and an advisor to Ashoka, the pioneer in global social entrepreneurship.

During his prior US government career, 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 one Vice President, one Treasurer and seven Governors (one for the ACCJ Kansai Chapter) to serve with the incumbent members on the 2016 ACCJ Board of Governors. The elected leaders are listed below.

Elected as Tokyo Vice President is:

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

He will join incumbent Vice Presidents:

- Leanne Cutts, President and Representative Director, Mondelēz Japan Limited
- Marie G. Kissel, Global Government Affairs, Vice President, Japan, China and Asia Pacific, Abbott
- Jonathan Kushner, Managing Partner Japan and Head of Asia, Kream
- Eric W. Sedlak, Gaikokuho Jimu Bengoshi, Projects and Infrastructure Practice Group, Jones Day

Elected to serve as Treasurer is:

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

Elected to serve as Governors in Tokyo are:

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

* Re-elected

They will join incumbent Tokyo Governors:

- John D. Harris, Vice President and General Manager, Cell Therapy Cytos Therapeutics K.K.
- George L. Maffeo, President, Boeing Japan K.K.
- Arthur M. Mitchell, Senior Counselor, White & Case
- Sachin N. Shah, Director, Representative Statutory Executive Officer, Chairman, President and CEO, MetLife Insurance K.K.
- Yoshitaka Sugihara, Head of Public Policy and Government Relations, Japan, Google Inc.
- William J. Swinton, Director, International Business Studies, Temple University, Japan Campus

Elected to serve as Kansai Chapter leaders are:

- Vice President: Stephen A. Zurcher, Professor, College of Foreign

- Studies, Kansai Gaidai University
- Governor: Patrik Jonsson,* 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.

###

1509 E

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).