



Press Release

報道資料

For Immediate Release

**ACCJ 2nd Charity Walkathon Tokyo
360 Participants, Tripled from Last Year**

September 14, 2010– The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) held its 2nd Annual Charity Walkathon in Tokyo on Sunday, September 12. Approximately 360 participants walked the 2km perimeter of Shiba Park – triple the number of participants from last year.

“I think it’s a beautiful park and it’s great to see so many people contribute to a good cause,” said ACCJ President Thomas Whitson. “I think we’re in a lot better shape this year and the charities we support ultimately benefit from the strong community turnout.”

A “walk-a-thon” is a fundraising event in which participants collect donations or pledges for walking a predetermined distance or course. ACCJ members, families and guests contributed ¥ 2,500 to participate. Those under 18 contributed ¥ 1,000. In addition, over 40 companies gave generously.

“I would like to thank all of the contributors, especially our major sponsors of Aflac and Citigroup,” said Special Events Committee Chairman Barry Bergmann.

Net proceeds from the walkathon will be combined with the ACCJ’s fund-raising efforts at the annual ACCJ Charity Ball in December and will be donated to the following organizations: *Tokyo English Life Line (“TELL”)* *₁; *Seishonen Fukushi Center (Youth Welfare Center)* *₂; *ACCJ Mike Makino Fund for the Homeless**₃.

The ACCJ Chubu chapter, in cooperation with the Nagoya International School, has successfully held a walkathon in Nagoya for the past 19 years. The ACCJ Kansai Chapter will hold its 5th Walkathon in Kobe Meriken Park on Saturday, October 16.



Please contact the ACCJ for high-resolution photos of the 2nd Annual Charity Walkathon in Tokyo.

- *1: A multifaceted non-profit organization that has been serving the international and Japanese communities since 1973.
- *2: A "transition home" for children who can no longer stay in government-funded children's homes.
- *3: A fund maintained by the ACCJ for charities that focus on helping the homeless in Japan.

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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 over 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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