



Press Release

報道資料

For Immediate Release

**U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke speaks to ACCJ:
"A New Era of Engagement: Strengthening U.S.-Japan Economic Ties"**

November 10, 2010 – U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke spoke at a luncheon meeting hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, where he discussed the importance of strengthening the economic ties between Japan and the United States. The event was Secretary Locke's first stop during his visit to Japan to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, which is being consecutively chaired by Japan in 2010 and the U.S. in 2011.

"When I took office as Secretary, I was well aware of the strategic importance of Japan as a vital economic partner – and its key role as a force for peace and prosperity in the Asia Pacific," said Secretary Locke.

Secretary Locke stressed the United State's commitment to expand its exports, in which Japan plays an important role as a key trading partner. Bilateral trade between the two countries totaled nearly \$147 billion in 2009, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"Like any complex trading relationship, the United States and Japan don't always agree on everything. But we've got a very solid foundation for the U.S. and Japan to build on -- one that can serve as a model for our relations with other APEC nations."

During his speech, Secretary Locke also called for an open trade and investment environment that "allows business, entrepreneurs and policy makers to bring their respective strengths to the table and spur the type of innovation and economic growth that we could never achieve alone."

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U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke

Secretary Locke with ACCJ President Thomas Whitson



-Please contact ACCJ for high-resolution photos-

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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. Over 60 committees representing various industries play the ACCJ's central role in making policy recommendations through advocacy tools such as the Business White Paper and holding over 500 events and seminars annually on public policy and economic trends. The ACCJ is also committed to promoting charitable events and other CSR activities.

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