



**Press Release**

**報道資料**

***For Immediate Release***

**ACCJ Kansai Chapter Issues Updated Position Paper  
Calling for Renewed Collaboration Under  
“One Kansai” Concept**

*Recommendations for promoting investment, encouraging tourism  
and developing global talent in the Kansai area*

**October 18, 2013** – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) has released a follow up to its 2010 position paper calling for specific actions on the part of businesses, educational institutions and governments in the Kansai Region that will enhance collaboration to leverage vast untapped potential to achieve new levels of economic growth under a “One Kansai” concept.

With the second highest concentration of foreign companies in Japan and a GDP comparable to that of the Netherlands, the Kansai Region accounts for approximately 16% of the Japan’s economy while occupying less than 10% of the country’s total land area. Kansai, however, has lagged in the race to attract global investment and foster domestic companies that compete at a global level. The paper identifies several key factors.

In the paper the ACCJ also urges the governments of Kansai and other affiliated organizations to establish a pragmatic and coordinated strategy to promote the Kansai Region.

The ACCJ’s “One Kansai” initiative was created by the Chamber’s Kansai Chapter, which consists of 26 companies, including international firms, and 57 individual members.

ACCJ President Larry Bates said, “With foreign companies and start-ups contributing to so much of the economic and job growth Japan has witnessed in recent years and the Abe administration so focused now on impactful structural reforms in its growth strategy (the ‘third-arrow’), we hope this paper and its timely policy recommendations can help Kansai emerge as a regional engine for growth and competitiveness in the broader Japanese economy.”



ACCJ Kansai Vice President Kiran Sethi added, "Kansai has vast untapped potential. And as a business person who lives and works in the region, I hope that this renewed 'One Kansai' paper will be a springboard for further discussion between policymakers to foster a stronger, more vibrant and competitive Kansai."

The full text of the position paper, "Promoting Trade, Investment and Tourism in the Kansai Region Under a 'One Kansai' Concept" is available on the following page:

<<http://www.accj.or.jp/en/advocacy/other-documents>>

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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, the ACCJ has members representing over 1,000 companies with offices in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka. Working closely with the governments of the United States and Japan and other business organizations, the ACCJ promotes trade and investment flows between the United States and Japan, promoting the interests of U.S. companies and members, and improving the environment for international business in Japan. Over 60 committees representing various industries play a central role in making ACCJ policy recommendations by issuing Viewpoints, Public Comments and White Papers and holding over 500 events and seminars annually on public policy and economic trends. The ACCJ also undertakes charitable efforts and supports its members' CSR activities.

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