



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ Welcomes the Arrival of Caroline Kennedy,
New U.S. Ambassador to Japan**

November 15, 2013 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) welcomes the arrival of Ms. Caroline Kennedy, the new U.S. Ambassador to Japan.

“Since its founding 65 years ago, the ACCJ has valued its close relationship with the U.S. Embassy. We welcome Ambassador Kennedy to Japan and look forward to working with her to strengthen commercial and other ties between the U.S. and Japan at this critical time, as our countries look for opportunities to lead in this economically vibrant region of the world,” said ACCJ President Laurence W. Bates.

President Bates added, “In recent years, the ACCJ has been advocating for enhanced career opportunities for women in Japan. This focus fits well with the Abe administration’s attention on increasing the participation of women in the workplace including in management positions. As the first woman to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Ambassador Kennedy, an accomplished professional and the mother of three, offers an extremely valuable role model in this context.

“Ambassador Kennedy is coming at a very exciting time in the bilateral relationship with so much focus here on both countries’ participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. Further, with the reinvigoration of growth a key objective for both the ACCJ, in our theme of ‘Achieving Growth Together,’ and the Abe administration in the ‘third arrow’ of Abenomics, we look forward to engaging with Ambassador Kennedy, the Embassy and the Japanese government as we collaboratively seek the most effective means to achieving sustained growth.”

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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.

PRESS CONTACT: ACCJ External Affairs (phone: 03 3433 6542; email: external@accj.or.jp).