



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ Welcomes William F. Hagerty,
U.S. Ambassador to Japan**

September 29, 2017 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) was pleased today to welcome the new U.S. Ambassador to Japan, William F. Hagerty, back to Japan.

“Over its nearly 70-year history, the ACCJ has enjoyed a very close working relationship with the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Today, we had the unique pleasure of welcoming Ambassador Hagerty, a former ACCJ member, back to Japan as the new U.S. Ambassador,” said ACCJ President Christopher J. LaFleur.

LaFleur added, “The appointment of Ambassador Hagerty, a distinguished business leader with experience living and working in Japan, demonstrates the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationship to the current U.S. Administration. Japan is the fourth largest importer of U.S. products, a top market for services and other key sectors of the U.S. economy, and the second largest source of foreign direct investment into the U.S. In the context of ongoing economic and structural reforms, there is optimism that Japan will continue to present not only one of the most important markets for American businesses, but also new opportunities for additional growth for American products and services.

“Ambassador Hagerty’s return to Japan comes as work moves forward on the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue. The initiative’s focus on setting high trade and investment standards and reducing market barriers provides an opportunity for Japan and the U.S. to shape an environment for business growth that is good for trade, jobs, and investment in both countries. We look forward to continued engagement with Ambassador Hagerty and the U.S. and Japanese governments to strengthen the U.S.-Japan economic partnership and further our valued partnerships with companies, clients and customers in Japan.”

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About the 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.

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