



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ Completes 22nd Annual Diet Doorknock,
Urges Further Economic Reform to Achieve
Continued Economic Growth and Sustainability**

December 7, 2017 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) recently completed its annual Diet Doorknock, the Chamber's largest consolidated advocacy initiative. The three-day event was led by ACCJ President Christopher LaFleur and included nearly 60 ACCJ leaders and members who met with over 35 Japanese legislators and government officials, including Cabinet members and party leadership.

This year's Diet Doorknock focused on opportunities to further enhance the U.S.-Japan economic relationship. The ACCJ also urged the government of Japan to continue its efforts to spur economic growth and sustainability through structural reform and support for key engines of economic growth, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Consistent with the ACCJ's commitment and dedication to making a positive contribution to the ongoing economic debate in Japan, the Chamber identified three themes that it believes will do the most to foster economic growth in Japan over the long-term, specifically:

- The U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue;
- Structural reform to achieve sustainable growth; and
- Enhancement of the investment environment for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

"During our 22nd Diet Doorknock, the ACCJ reaffirmed its belief that enhanced U.S.-Japan economic integration is the most effective way for both countries to bolster the global free-trade system, overcome shared challenges, and achieve sustainable growth to the benefit of regional prosperity and stability. The combined potential of the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue and an aggressive focus on structural reform offers Japan its best hope of unlocking new investment, innovation, and demand. Continued progress on corporate governance, work style reform, and enhancement of the SME investment environment are reforms critical to ensuring sustainable growth over the long-term. The ACCJ therefore urges the GOJ to renew its attention to structural reform as the top economic priority," said ACCJ President Christopher LaFleur.

The Diet Doorknock is organized by the ACCJ Government Relations Committee, chaired by Arthur M. Mitchell, who said, "The Diet Doorknock is one of the ACCJ's signature advocacy initiatives. We are grateful to the Diet members and officials who took time to meet with the ACCJ. In the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, the ACCJ looks forward to continue working with Japan's leaders to achieve sustained economic growth over the long-term."

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About ACCJ

The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) was established in 1948 by representatives of 40 American companies. Over its nearly 70-year history, the ACCJ has positioned itself as one of the most influential business organizations in Japan. The ACCJ has approximately 3,500 members who together represent over 1,000 globally minded companies with offices in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka. Working closely with the U.S. and Japanese governments, business organizations and others, the ACCJ engages in activities that advance its mission of further developing commerce between the U.S. 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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