



For Immediate Release

**2017 ACCJ Person of the Year Award Presented to
Atsushi Saito for Leadership of Japan Exchange
Group**

March 20, 2018 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) announced today that it has selected Mr. Atsushi Saito, former CEO and President of the Japan Exchange Group as its 2017 Person of the Year Award recipient.

The 2017 ACCJ Person of the Year Award is being presented to Mr. Saito for his strategic leadership during his tenure as CEO and President of the Japan Exchange Group. Following the 2013 merger of the Tokyo Stock Exchange with the Osaka Stock Exchange, Mr. Saito oversaw the creation of the Japan Exchange Group, which has been instrumental in rebuilding Japan into one of the world's most attractive markets. In addition, Mr. Saito's enormous contributions to corporate governance have made Japanese companies today not only more accountable, but better equipped to face modern business challenges.

"Atsushi Saito's understanding of market demands and the need to be accountable to multiple stakeholders has brought trust back into the Japanese market. By successfully activating an entire industry to pursue meaningful reform, Mr. Saito has fundamentally shifted the way business is done in Japan for the better. The ACCJ is grateful for Mr. Saito's tireless efforts, both past and present, which support a more vibrant business climate and contribute to unlocking Japan's growth potential," stated 2017 ACCJ President and 2018 ACCJ Chairman Christopher J. LaFleur.

Following his tenure as CEO and President of the Japan Exchange Group on August 1, 2015, Mr. Saito was appointed Senior Fellow to the KKR Global Institute, KKR Japan.

About the ACCJ Person of the Year Award

The Person of the Year Award, created in 1996, is awarded by the ACCJ to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to enhancing the economic relationship between the United States and Japan.

Past Recipients

21	2016	Hon. Caroline Kennedy, 29 th U.S. Ambassador to Japan
20	2015	Ms. Wendy Cutler, Acting Deputy United States Trade Representative
19	2014	Ms. Fumiko Hayashi, Mayor, City of Yokohama
18	2013	Mr. Fujio Cho, Honorary Chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation
17	2012	Hon. John V. Roos, 28 th U.S. Ambassador to Japan
17	2012	Ms. Susan H. Roos, Labor Attorney and wife of Ambassador John V. Roos
16	2011	Mr. Hiroshi Mikitani, CEO of Rakuten, Inc.
15	2010	Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, Professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, and Chairman of the Health Policy Institute, Japan
14	2009	Mr. Tadashi Yamamoto, President, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)
13	2008	Hon. J. Thomas Schieffer, 27 th U.S. Ambassador to Japan
12	2007	Professor Heizo Takenaka, Director of Keio University's Global Security Research Institute
11	2006	Mr. Hiroshi Okuda, Senior Advisor and Member of the Board, Toyota Motor Corporation
10	2005	Mr. Taizo Nishimuro, Chairman & CEO, Tokyo Stock Exchange; Advisor to the Board, Toshiba Corporation
9	2004	Hon. Howard H. Baker Jr., 26 th U.S. Ambassador to Japan
8	2003	Mr. Yuzaburo Mogi, President & CEO, Kikkoman
7	2002	Mr. Masamoto Yashiro, Chairman & CEO, Shinsei Bank Ltd.
6	2001	Mr. Yoshihiko Miyauchi, Chairman, Orix Corporation; Vice Chairman, Keizai Doyukai; Chair, Council for Regulatory Reform
5	2000	Hon. Thomas S. Foley, 25 th U.S. Ambassador to Japan
4	1999	Dr. Kazuo Inamori, the Founder and Chairman emeritus of DDI Corporation and Kyocera Corporation
3	1998	Mr. Hideo Ishihara, Chairman, Goldman Sachs Japan
2	1997	Mr. Yotaro Kobayashi, Chairman and CEO, Fuji Xerox Company, Ltd.
1	1996	Hon. Walter Mondale, 24 th U.S. Ambassador to Japan

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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 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 over 500 events and seminars a year, many of which focus on government policy and economic trends. The ACCJ is also committed to promoting charitable and CSR activities.

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