



For Immediate Release

The ACCJ Welcomes the Launch of Bilateral Trade Discussions by the U.S. and Japanese Governments

September 27, 2018 [Tokyo] – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) welcomes the launch of U.S.-Japan bilateral discussions toward a U.S.-Japan trade agreement.

A trade agreement advances opportunities for American companies in Japan. American companies in Japan support nearly 1.5 million high-paying American jobs, and Japan represents one of the largest markets outside of the United States for several key American industries.

Any U.S.-Japan trade agreement should build upon recent economic reform efforts by the Japanese government and address ongoing issues in the auto, pharmaceutical and agricultural sectors. At the same time, a bilateral trade agreement must bolster America's strong position in the services and IT sectors in Japan. Together this will enhance an already strong bilateral trade and investment relationship by fostering innovation and enhancing job creation and economic growth in both countries.

Japan is also an indispensable U.S. security partner. Strengthening the trade and economic partnership will enable both countries to more strategically engage in the region.

"A bilateral trade agreement between the U.S. and Japan, which together represent approximately 30% of global GDP, builds upon an already strong bilateral trade and security partnership and increases opportunities for American companies in Japan," said ACCJ President Sachin N. Shah.

"The ACCJ hopes the U.S. and Japan will develop a comprehensive, forward-looking agreement, incorporating the critical perspectives of the private sector. As the leading voice of U.S. business on the ground in Japan, the ACCJ is ideally positioned to support these discussions," Shah added.

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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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