



Press Release
報道資料



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ and EBC Release the First Women's
Health Policy Primer, Focusing on Japan's
Long-term Economic Growth through
Promoting Women's Health**

- The ACCJ and EBC women's health policy recommendations focus on three key areas – *Health Literacy and Education, Health for Self* and *Reproductive Health*. Adoption of these recommendations can enhance Japan's economic competitiveness by mitigating the loss of labor productivity through implementing effective prophylactic measures and treatment.
- The Primer includes over 70 policy recommendations for government and business in line with evidence-based global best practices and emphasizing the importance of early prevention and treatment.
- The Primer's eight topic sections focus on specific policy recommendations likely to complement and strengthen the Government of Japan's initiatives aimed at boosting women's participation and advancement in business and society.

March 16, 2016 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) and The European Business Council in Japan (EBC) today released the first 2016 ACCJ-EBC Women's Health Policy Primer entitled, "Healthier Women, Healthier Economy." The Primer focuses on policy recommendations aimed at building a stronger economy by empowering women through better health.

The joint 2016 ACCJ-EBC Women's Health Policy Primer builds on the 2015 ACCJ-EBC Health Policy White Paper released in May 2015, and is the first health policy white paper exclusively focusing on women's health issues. The Primer offers policy recommendations specifically tailored for government and business. It encompasses over 70 policy recommendations based on the latest evidence-based global best practices gathered by leaders and members of the ACCJ's Healthcare Committee and the EBC's Medical Equipment Committee, and outlines evidence-based policy recommendations across 8 women's healthcare areas, including *Health Literacy and Education, Health for Self* and *Reproductive Health*.

“The loss of labor productivity due to absent work days especially among female professionals effects economic output in ways detrimental to Japan’s long-term economic growth. Investing in women’s health – helping them live longer and healthier productive lives – is key to achieving further economic reform and growth in Japan. Implementing these women-specific policy recommendations, we believe, would not only strengthen Japan’s economic competitiveness, but would also reduce healthcare spending through early prevention and treatment, making the system more efficient and affordable,” said ACCJ President Christopher LaFleur.

The Primer is also unique in that it focuses on women’s health literacy and education as a means to effectively promote prevention awareness and treatment to enable women to make better-informed decisions. The GOJ can empower women by providing specific and appropriate health education tailored to specific stages of women’s lives. This would allow women to better plan their lives and achieve a more holistic work-life-health balance, thus ultimately contributing to women’s advancement in society.

“I am excited to announce the first jointly developed policy recommendations for government and business, focusing exclusively on women’s health issues. The release of the Primer further demonstrates our continuous commitment to collaboration between the ACCJ and EBC to bring about positive change in Japan’s healthcare industry and government. The Primer is especially notable not only because of its focus on women’s health issues as the primary vehicle to empower women, thus achieving a stronger, healthier economy, but also because of its emphasis on helping women make the right decision at the right time in their life and career by improving women’s health literacy and education,” said Danny Risberg, EBC Chairman and Medical Equipment Committee Chairman.

“Women experience a changing and complex set of health risks throughout their lives, including cervical and breast cancer, as well as later life conditions such as osteoporosis. Japan lags behind other developed countries in the provision of comprehensive measures to prevent and treat female-specific health risks. Ensuring that Japanese women are aware of such risks and have convenient access to screening and treatment is essential to maintaining a healthy working life. The Primer addresses these areas of risk and concern, putting forward evidence-based policy recommendations for both government and business that are most likely to lead to positive health outcomes for women in Japan,” said William Bishop, ACCJ Healthcare Committee Chair.

Policy recommendations in the Women's Health Policy Primer focus on the following areas:

Health Literacy and Education

Health for Self

Reproductive Health

###

For inquiries please contact:

ACCJ External Affairs

Tel: 03-3433-6542; Fax: 03-3433-8454

E-mail: external@accj.or.jp

1604 E

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, 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.

About EBC

The European Business Council in Japan (EBC)/European (EU) Chamber of Commerce in Japan is the trade policy and advocacy arm of 16 European national chambers of commerce and business associations in Japan. Established in 1972, the EBC works to improve the business and investment environment in Japan. It currently represents more than 2,500 local European companies and individuals, some 400 of whom participate directly in the EBC's 26 sector-based committees.