



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ Applauds the Government of Japan's
Concrete Measures for the Employment of
Foreign Domestic Workers in Japan**

February 9, 2017 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) applauds the Government of Japan's (GOJ) continued efforts to reform labor practices by allowing foreign domestic workers to work in National Strategic Special Zones as early as March. This policy complements GOJ initiatives designed to increase female participation in the workforce by addressing labor shortages in the housekeeping and childcare sectors, thereby contributing to growth of the Japanese economy and benefiting both Japanese and U.S. businesses.

"By opening the Japanese market to foreign domestic workers, the GOJ is taking a welcome step that will ultimately contribute to a healthier and more vibrant economy by supporting women to continue their careers after having children, or indeed, anyone who needs help caring for the sick or elderly. In the context of population decline, expanded availability of domestic workers means that families have additional care options and access to support for some of the domestic burdens that can prevent full engagement in the workforce," said ACCJ Growth Strategy Task Force Vice Chair Kumi Sato.

ACCJ Growth Strategy Task Force Chair Nicholas Benes added, "The ACCJ is pleased to see the GOJ make concrete progress on its commitment to creating a society where women can fully participate. It has been a long-standing position of the ACCJ that labor reform, especially by opening more sectors to foreign workers, is critical to the economic future of Japan. We hope that the GOJ will continue to pursue labor practice reform that aligns Japanese policy with the needs of a highly-competitive global marketplace."

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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 and CSR activities.

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