



For Immediate Release

**ACCJ Completes 21st Annual “Diet Doorknock,”
Urges Japanese Lawmakers to Ratify the
Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement**

October 11, 2016 – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) completed its 21st annual “Diet Doorknock” last week, the Chamber’s largest consolidated advocacy initiative. The three-day event was led by ACCJ President Christopher LaFleur and included more than 70 ACCJ leaders and members who met with over 60 Japanese legislators and government officials, including Cabinet members and party leadership.

This year’s Diet Doorknock focused on key aspects of Japan’s long-term economic growth and emphasized the importance of the U.S.-Japan economic relationship. The ACCJ specifically called on Japanese lawmakers to ratify the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement within 2016.

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 the Chamber believes will do the most to foster economic growth in Japan over the long-term, specifically:

- Ratification of the TPP agreement;
- Implementation of structural reform to achieve sustainable growth; and
- Enhancement of the investment environment for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

“During this, our 21st Diet Doorknock, the ACCJ is focused on the structural reforms which we believe are critical to further strengthen Japan’s economy. Foremost among these is the Trans-Pacific Partnership. We are urging both U.S. and Japanese leaders to ratify TPP as soon as possible. Doing so will provide impetus for other TPP member countries to move forward with the agreement and enable Japan to lead in shaping a 21st Century, rules-based trade architecture in the Asia-Pacific Region and lock in the economic benefits necessary to achieve sustainable growth in Japan over the long-term,” said ACCJ President Christopher LaFleur.

The Diet Doorknock is organized by the ACCJ’s 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 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.

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