



**Press Release**

**報道資料**

***For Immediate Release***

**ACCJ Appoints Laura A. Younger as  
the New Executive Director**

**December 24, 2014** – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) announced today the appointment of Laura Younger as its new Executive Director, effective January 1, 2015. Younger will succeed Sam Kidder who will retire at the end of this month after more than eight years of service to the ACCJ.

“Although we are saddened that Sam is retiring, we are very excited to have Laura at the helm to lead the Chamber into a new era of further growth and even greater service to members. Drawing on her intimate knowledge of the ACCJ, her successful management of its financials and operations, her contributions to membership growth and her strong and growing external presence in the wider business community, we believe that Laura will reinforce our pursuit of the Chamber’s mission and will strengthen our already robust relationships with U.S. and Japanese stakeholders,” said ACCJ President Jay Ponazecki.

An intensive five-month search for Kidder’s successor led to the selection of Younger. She was the leading applicant out of fifty-nine candidates, including individuals with US government, trade association, NPO, chamber of commerce and multinational corporate experience.

“I am very honored to be appointed as the new Executive Director of the ACCJ. I look forward to working with so many constituencies within and outside the Chamber to further strengthen the ACCJ’s role and presence in Japan while pursuing its mission to further develop commerce between the United States of America and Japan and improve the international business environment in Japan,” said Younger.

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### **About New ACCJ Executive Director Laura Younger**

New Executive Director Younger has held successively senior roles at the Chamber over the past 10 years, serving as the Deputy Executive Director (DED) for the past five and one-half years and previously as the Membership Services Associate Director and Programs Development Manager. Younger holds an MBA from McGill University and, prior to joining the Chamber, Younger was Head of HR at a Japanese company.

In addition, Younger is a recognized community leader in Japan through her involvement in a variety of professional organizations – her energy, passion and commitment to excellence and enhancing the value of ACCJ membership will add great value to an already outstanding organization.

Younger will directly oversee the Chamber's day-to-day operations and affairs, will supervise Chamber employees and will manage internal operations and external outreach efforts on behalf of the ACCJ Board of Governors. She will also support the Board of Governors in implementing the ACCJ's mission, working closely with the Board of Governors in strategic planning and policy formulation and execution, and will represent the ACCJ to the Japanese public and the foreign-invested and Japanese business communities.

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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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