



For Immediate Release

**In Remembrance of the Victims of
The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami**

Building a better, stronger Tohoku for future generations

March 11, 2016 – With today marking the 5th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami that struck Tohoku in 2011, the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) solemnly remembers the tragedy and all those affected. The ACCJ today renews its pledge of solidarity with the people and communities of Tohoku, offering its continued commitment to supporting programs to aid their long-term recovery.

“Our heart continues to go out to all of those who have been affected by the disaster. While some parts of Tohoku have recovered, we are well aware that much work still lies ahead. The ACCJ will continue encouraging the international business community, and particularly its member companies, to continue assisting Tohoku by volunteering for recovery and rebuilding projects, supporting local businesses, and mentoring especially the young people of Tohoku as they work to create a bright new future for the region” said ACCJ President Christopher LaFleur.

ACCJ President Emeritus Mike Alfant, who led the organization at the time of the disaster, noted, “The road to recovery is long and arduous, but, with the support of our caring members and the international community, we are confident that Tohoku will once again shine and prove to be a beacon of hope.”

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, ACCJ members and member companies donated over 18 billion yen toward recovery efforts. As an organization, the ACCJ has directly raised an additional 60 million yen for disaster relief efforts and Tohoku-related charities since 2011. ACCJ-supported volunteer initiatives such as “Get Your Hands Dirty” and many individual members and

member companies have provided assistance, leveraging their industry expertise, knowledge, hard work and compassion.

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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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