



***For Immediate Release***

**ACCJ Selects Wendy Cutler, Vice President  
and Managing Director, Asia Society Policy Institute  
as 2015 Person of the Year**

**November 30, 2015** – The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) announced today that it has selected Ms. Wendy Cutler, former-Acting Deputy United States Trade Representative and current Vice President and Managing Director of the Asia Society Policy Institute, as its 2015 Person of the Year Award recipient.

The Person of the Year Award, created in 1996, is awarded by the ACCJ to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to enhancing the economic relationship between the United States and Japan. The ACCJ 2015 Person of the Year Award is being awarded to Wendy Cutler for her decades of commitment and dedication to deepening economic ties between the United States and Japan. During her nearly three decades with the Office of the United States Trade Representative, Ms. Cutler played a pivotal role in overcoming barriers to trade and was integral to moving forward the U.S.-Japan trade agenda. In addition, she was responsible for developing the U.S. trade agenda in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and served as the lead negotiator for the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

Ms. Cutler's work ultimately culminated in a close U.S.-Japan partnership which helped pave the way for the successful conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations in October. In addition to her accomplishments in trade, the ACCJ recognizes Ms. Cutler as a role model and inspirational spokesperson in support of professional women.

"Wendy has played a central role in improving the international business environment in Japan, leading to stronger economic relations between the United States and Japan, ultimately contributing to peace and prosperity in the region. Wendy is a consummate leader and negotiator -- able to find a way forward

through some of the most difficult trade issues that have ever been faced, turning seeming adversaries into true partners. The ACCJ came out early as a supporter of the United States and Japan leading the TPP negotiations, and we are grateful for Wendy's efforts to bring together even more closely the United States and Japan on trade and economic issues. Wendy has inspired us in many ways beyond her leadership in trade, including by her devotion to promoting more and higher levels of participation by women in the workplace," said ACCJ President Jay Ponazecki.

### **About the ACCJ Person of the Year Award**

The ACCJ initiated the annual "Person of the Year" award in 1996 to recognize individuals who have made major contributions to enhancing the U.S.-Japan economic relationship.

### **Past Recipients**

19	2014	Ms. Fumiko Hayashi, Mayor, City of Yokohama
18	2013	Mr. Fujio Cho, Honorary Chairman of Toyota Motor Corporation
17	2012	Hon. John V. Roos, 28 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Ambassador to Japan
17	2012	Ms. Susan H. Roos, Labor Attorney and wife of Ambassador John V. Roos
16	2011	Mr. Hiroshi Mikitani, CEO of Rakuten, Inc.
15	2010	Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, Professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, and Chairman of the Health Policy Institute, Japan
14	2009	Mr. Tadashi Yamamoto, President, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)
13	2008	Hon. J. Thomas Schieffer, 27 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Ambassador to Japan
12	2007	Professor Heizo Takenaka, Director of Keio University's Global Security Research Institute
11	2006	Mr. Hiroshi Okuda, Senior Advisor and Member of the Board, Toyota Motor Corporation
10	2005	Mr. Taizo Nishimuro, Chairman & CEO, Tokyo Stock Exchange; Advisor to the Board, Toshiba Corporation
9	2004	Hon. Howard H. Baker Jr., 26 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Ambassador to Japan
8	2003	Mr. Yuzaburo Mogi, President & CEO, Kikkoman
7	2002	Mr. Masamoto Yashiro, Chairman & CEO, Shinsei Bank Ltd.
6	2001	Mr. Yoshihiko Miyauchi, Chairman, Orix Corporation; Vice Chairman, Keizai Doyukai; Chair, Council for Regulatory Reform
5	2000	Hon. Thomas S. Foley, 25 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Ambassador to Japan
4	1999	Dr. Kazuo Inamori, the Founder and Chairman emeritus of DDI Corporation and Kyocera Corporation
3	1998	Mr. Hideo Ishihara, Chairman, Goldman Sachs Japan
2	1997	Mr. Yotaro Kobayashi, Chairman and CEO, Fuji Xerox Company, Ltd.
1	1996	Hon. Walter Mondale, 24 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Ambassador to Japan

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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.

PRESS CONTACT: ACCJ External Affairs (phone: 03 3433 6542; email: [external@accj.or.jp](mailto:external@accj.or.jp)).