

Publication	Kyodo News
Date	September 27 th , 2006
Title	<i>LEAD: ACCJ hopes Abe will further promote structural economic reforms</i>

The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan on Wednesday welcomed the inauguration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet and expressed hope his government “commits to promoting further structural economic reforms.”

Charles Lake, head of the business lobby representing more than 1,400 companies, said in a statement that the ACCJ “looks forward to working with the new Cabinet as a 'Reform Oendan' (support team) and continuing its advocacy activities to achieve its mission of further developing commerce” between the United States and Japan.

He also said that the chamber believes Abe's “pledge to establish an 'open and disciplined economy and society' and achieve 'economic growth led by innovation' amid a globalizing world economy is an aim that is well-received internationally.”

The European Business Council in Japan, which represents some 3,000 European companies and individuals, also welcomed the inauguration of the Abe Cabinet.

“We applaud Prime Minister Abe's promise to accelerate and reinforce the structural reforms that have been initiated over the past five years,” said EBC Chairman Richard Collasse.

“As a firm supporter of Japan's reform policies, the EBC looks forward to working with the new Cabinet on regulatory reform to assist in achieving our shared goals of improving the business environment and increasing the levels of FDI (foreign direct investment) into Japan,” he said.