



## PRESS RELEASE

### **The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan Introduces an Honorary Board of Advisors**

#### ***Advisors build on partnerships and natural synergies to support promotion of bilateral trade and investment***

*Tokyo (27 January 2012)* – The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) today announces the introduction of an Honorary Board of Advisors, appointed to build on existing ties and synergies between Canada and Japan in support of the Chamber's promotion of bilateral trade and investment.

The Honorary Board of Advisors taps the enthusiasm and connectivity of influential Japanese leaders with ties to, and an active interest in, Canada – drawing on their insights based on their broad experiences in Japan and abroad. The Honorary Board of Advisors will support the work of the Chamber in attracting new members and securing access to senior levels of business and government, initially focusing on sectors covering Forestry, other Natural Resources and Energy, Tourism, Hi Tech, Cultural Industries, Automotive, Aviation, Finance, Trade and Government.

Ambassador Sadaaki Numata, formerly Ambassador to Canada and presently Advisor to Kajima Corporation, is appointed Chairman and key advisor. He is backed initially by three prominent personalities from business and government in Japan - Mr. Kanemitsu Anraku, formerly Vice-Chairman of Nissan Motor Co. Ltd., and currently Director, Mizuho Financial Group, Inc., Director, Sony Corporation, and Director, National Policy Research Inc.; Mr. Terukazu Okahashi, until recently President & CEO, Mitsui & Co., (Canada) Ltd., and currently Advisor, Seiko Holdings Corporation; and Mr. Tomofumi Hiraku, formerly Director-General, Manufacturing Industries Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and currently Executive Advisor, IBM Japan, Ltd.

The Honorary Board of Advisors will eventually expand to a maximum of twelve members representing major industrial sectors with relevance to the Canada-Japan trade and investment relationship.

Wilf Wakely, President of the CCCJ, said, "Japan is looking to a new framework for economic growth, and at the same time Canada is working to diversify its trade partners. We see a lot of synergies in this mix. For example, Japan offers capital and technological leadership, while Canada offers resources and unique technologies of its own. Given the existing long-standing relationship between our two countries, the Honorary Board of Advisors is in a good position to make a real difference in promoting trade and bilateral investment."

Ambassador Numata, Chairman of the Honorary Board of Advisors, said, "The CCCJ is the longest-serving Canadian Chamber in Asia, and it is well placed to work from this legacy of success to help guide some of the changes taking place in both of our countries. The membership of the Chamber is diverse and committed, and I look forward to working closely with them to the benefit of both Canada and Japan."



## About the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan

Promoting the development of commerce between Canada and Japan since 1975, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) is a private sector, not-for-profit business organization serving its members through communications, networking and advocacy. Representing some 33 business sectors, the CCCJ is a member-driven, member-focused organization and is the longest serving Canadian Chamber in Asia with over 250 members.

Our members represent a broad cross-section of businesspersons and entrepreneurs from Canada, Japan and other countries. They include Canadian companies operating in Japan, Japanese companies and individuals with ties to Canada, small business owners and Canadians working in Japan.

The Chamber carries out its mandate in a variety of ways, including:

- Holding speaker luncheons, seminars and networking events
- Providing relevant and timely information through our website, quarterly magazine, The Canadian, and annual membership directory, Connections.
- Offering business promotion opportunities and information on how to set up an office in Japan
- Meeting with key Japanese policymakers on issues of importance to the Canadian business community in Japan
- Maintaining close ties with other foreign and domestic chambers of commerce in Japan and other Canadian chambers/business associations in Asia to broaden and deepen our information network

Contact us to find out more about how the Chamber can help you. [www.cccj.or.jp](http://www.cccj.or.jp)

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