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# Grant Thornton LLP launches Japan Business Group

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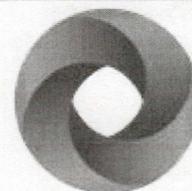
CHICAGO, Nov. 7, 2011 – Grant Thornton LLP, the U.S. member firm of Grant Thornton International, has launched a Japan Business Group that will focus on serving Japanese inbound companies in the United States.

The new group, led by International Client Services Director Kumiko Watanabe, will assist Japanese companies with structuring investments into the United States and provide audit, tax and advisory services to existing Japanese inbound companies. The Japanese Business Group will initially focus on manufacturing and technology business sectors in the middle market.

“I am very excited that we are launching this new group to help Japanese companies interested in entering and growing their business in the United States,” said Jason Ramey, Grant Thornton LLP managing partner of International Client Services. “Our strong relationship with our Japanese member firm will definitely be factor in assisting these dynamic companies.”

Prior to joining Grant Thornton, Watanabe served as a director with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Chicago where she provided tax services to many Japanese inbound clients. She has more than 15 years of experience in tax and is closely connected to the Japanese business community in the Midwest. She is a frequent speaker to the Chicago Japanese business community, and she currently serves as Treasurer of the Japan America Society of Chicago.

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