



ACCREDITING COMMISSION for
COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES



SISTER ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

between

JAPAN ASSOCIATION FOR COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

and

**ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY
AND JUNIOR COLLEGES**

This Sister Association Agreement (hereafter referred to as “Agreement”) is entered into between the Japan Association for College Accreditation (hereafter referred to as “JACA”) and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (hereafter referred to as “ACCJC”) and who agree as follows:

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to formalize the relationship of cooperation and understanding between accrediting commissions in two countries – Japan and the United States of America.

Accreditation is a voluntary system of self-regulation developed to evaluate overall educational quality and institutional effectiveness. The JACA supports and promotes continuous improvement and maintenance of academic quality of member junior colleges through self-study and assessment. The ACCJC accredits associate degree granting institutions in the Western region of the United States including California and Hawai'i, and the Western Pacific islands including the Territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The accreditation process provides assurance to the public that the accredited member colleges meet established standards, the education earned at the institutions is of value to the student who earned it, and the education meets the needs of employers, and trade or profession-related licensing agencies. Moreover, accreditation provides a means for other colleges and universities to recognize a student's credential or academic work as legitimate.

By working together and sharing information and experiences, JACA and ACCJC will improve the quality of higher education in both countries.

II. Basic Provisions

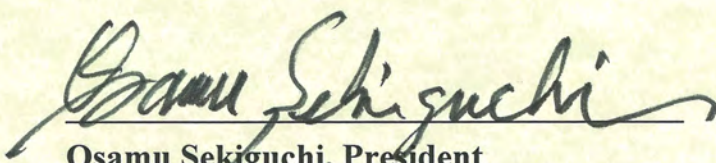
Through this agreement, JACA and ACCJC agree to work cooperatively together to strengthen accreditation processes and guidelines. This cooperative work may include:

- 1) sharing of policies, practices, and experiences of the accreditation process in each country;
- 2) joint participation in workshops, seminars, and other professional development activities related to accreditation;
- 3) cooperative projects on future directions for accreditation and higher education quality improvement;
- 4) professional exchanges;
- 5) other mutually agreed upon activities.

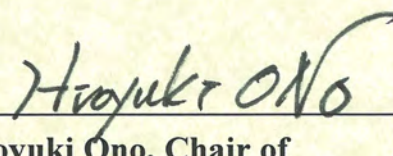
III. Terms of the Agreement

- A. The Agreement shall become effective on March 21st, 2013 when signed below by the authorized officers.
- B. The Agreement may be terminated at any time by either party by giving the other party a written notice of termination. The termination shall be effective on the date in the written notice of termination.

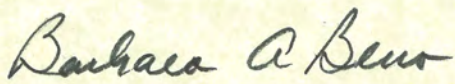
In Witness whereof, the Japan Association for College Accreditation and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges are pleased to establish this Sister Association Agreement.



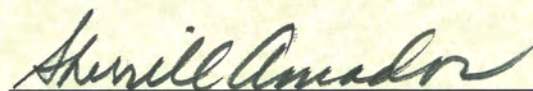
Osamu Sekiguchi, President
Japan Association for College Accreditation



Hiroyuki Ono, Chair of International Relations
Japan Association for College Accreditation



Barbara A. Beno, President
Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges



Sherrill Amador, Chairperson
Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges