



May 15, 2026

Tatsumasa Arita, Secretary  
SME Japan Chapter No.180  
Kyosei Bldg. 2-Goukan 6F  
2-12-3 Shiba-daimon, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0012 Japan

Dear Mr. Arita:

Thank you for your recent emails updating SME regarding Japan Chapter 180's plan to become inactive effective December 31, 2026. We appreciate your communication and continued coordination throughout this process.

To help ensure a smooth transition for the chapter and its members, please note the following:

- Through December 31, 2026, Japan Chapter 180 may continue collecting membership dues in its current manner. SME will honor the full period of the memberships renewed through Japan Chapter 180.
- Beginning January 1, 2027, members in Japan will renew directly with SME, as their memberships expire, at the standard membership rate of **\$138 USD per year**. Members will be able to join or renew online at: [www.sme.org/membership](http://www.sme.org/membership)
- If a corporation is sponsoring an employee membership and requires an invoice, arrangements can be made by contacting: [membership@sme.org](mailto:membership@sme.org)

While we are saddened by the planned closure of Japan Chapter 180, SME remains committed to supporting members in Japan and ensuring continuity of membership services. Our goal is to make this transition as seamless as possible so that current and future members may continue to benefit from SME membership and remain connected to the global manufacturing community.

On behalf of SME, I would also like to express our sincere appreciation for your leadership, dedication, and service to both SME and the members of Japan Chapter 180 over the years.

Should you have any questions or require additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at [hpalermo@sme.org](mailto:hpalermo@sme.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heather Palermo", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heather Palermo  
Chapter Development Manager, SME Membership  
SME