U.S. Department of Commerce
International Trade Administration

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International Trade Update

U.S.–China Trade Talks Achieve "Clear Progress"

This month, a meeting with Chinese trade officials in Washington made significant progress on key trade issues between the United States and China.

APRIL 2006

The resolution of trade issues between China and the United States was the topic of talks held in Washington, D.C., on April 11. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez, U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman, and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns met with Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi for the 17th plenary meeting of the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT).

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez (left) and Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi (right) at the meeting of the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade held in Washington, D.C., on April 11.

At the meeting, China committed to addressing U.S. trade concerns in four areas: (1) enhancing access of U.S. companies, as well as U.S. farmers and ranchers, to the Chinese market; (2) improving protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) in China; (3) improving transparency; and (4) working with the United States on structural and regulatory initiatives that address the concerns of U.S. industry.

Specific commitments made by the Chinese representatives at the talks included the following:

- Opening the Chinese market to U.S. beef exports
- Commencing formal negotiations to join the World Trade Organization's Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) and submit its Appendix I GPA offer of coverage no later than December 2007
- Issuing a notice that requires all computers produced or imported in China to have preloaded operating system software
- Stepping up enforcement of existing IPR laws and agreements to combat piracy of films, music, and software
- Requiring Chinese government offices to publish all trade-related measures, including all draft measures, in a single official journal
- Eliminating costly redundancies in the inspection and testing of imported medical devices
- Agreeing to continue a dialogue on the steel industry that was launched in 2005

Those actions resulted from extensive discussions between U.S. and Chinese officials during the past several months.

While welcoming China's recent commitments and actions, U.S. officials made clear that they look forward to more progress in addressing impediments to U.S. trade. "We've made clear progress in some areas, including intellectual property rights and market access," said Secretary Gutierrez. "We still have work to do, but today's meeting was a positive step forward on a number of key issues."

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INSIDE

The Stop Initiative: Working To Protect Intellectual Property Rights

Pirated and counterfeit products are entering the United States at an alarming rate. Here is information about a program working to stop it.

BY SEBASTIAN WRIGHT

Are you certain that the toothpaste you used this morning was really the brand-name product you thought it was? Did you buy it from a reputable source? Did you carefully inspect the label to make sure you were buying what you thought you were?

Pirated and counterfeit products are entering the U.S. market at an alarming rate. U.S. Customs and Border Protection reports that the number of seizures of counterfeit and fake products at our borders more than doubled from 2000 to 2004. Those fake products can endanger our health and safety, as well as adversely affect U.S. businesses by threatening innovation and workers' livelihoods.

The Challenges of Intellectual Privacy Rights "Theft"

As the United States moves into the 21st century and continues to leverage its knowledge economy, our economic prosperity depends more and more on the benefits derived from our intellectual property. Meanwhile, the counterfeiters are working harder and getting better at making fake goods and moving them around the world to unsuspecting consumers.

Faced with these challenges, the federal government is working hard to help U.S. companies protect their intellectual property. The Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy (STOP) Initiative is the government's plan to combat piracy and counterfeiting in the United States and around the globe.

The STOP Initiative is a comprehensive program designed to confront intellectual property theft and to dismantle the criminal networks that traffic in counterfeit and pirated goods. It seeks to empower U.S. companies to protect their intellectual property rights (IPR), to stop trade in fake products at U.S. borders, to keep such products out of the global supply chain, and to ensure that U.S. companies receive the benefits of the trade agreements signed by the United States.

The STOP Initiative is focused on helping individuals and businesses, including small and medium-sized enterprises, protect their IPR in the United States and abroad. Many individuals and companies faced with a foreign company knocking off their products do not know where to turn for information or how to develop a strategy to resolve their problem. The U.S. government established a hotline and a Web-based complaint form that owners or prospective owners of IPR can use to file a complaint or ask an IPR question. You can reach an experienced Patent and Trademark Office attorney at (866) 999-HALT (866-999-4258) or you can visit **www.stopfakes.gov** to find information on intellectual property basics and available government resources, as well as to file a complaint.

The STOP Initiative has also published IPR toolkits for rights owners doing business in, or considering doing business in, China, Malaysia, Mexico, Taiwan, Russia, and South Korea, with more toolkits on the way. The toolkits contain materials describing the scope of the IPR problems, suggesting ways U.S. companies can protect their rights, and listing steps to consider if someone infringes on these rights.

A Focus on China

China is a source for many of the pirated and fake products entering the United States. U.S. Customs and Border Protection reports that more than 60 percent of the fake and counterfeit goods intercepted at U.S. borders originate in China. Many of those products—from car parts to toys to pharmaceuticals—endanger not only our economic interests, but also our health and safety. In the context of the STOP Initiative and beyond, the federal government is committed to confronting intellectual property theft in China and to protecting the rights of American businesses and innovators, as well as the safety of U.S. citizens.

The U.S. government is working to ensure that China lives up to its commitments to the international trading community. Through the U.S.–China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade, the U.S. Trade Representative's annual "top to bottom" review of China's IPR policies and practices, and the mechanisms available through the World Trade Organization, the U.S. government is actively engaging the Chinese government on intellectual property enforcement issues.

As part of the STOP Initiative, the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), in cooperation with the American Bar Association, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the American Chamber of Commerce in China, established the China Intellectual Property Rights Advisory Program. Through this program, U.S. small and medium-sized businesses can request a free, one-hour consultation with a private attorney experienced in both the Chinese IPR law and the Chinese market to learn how to protect and enforce IPR in China.

Enforcement at Trade Fairs

The STOP Initiative is also working to promote protection of intellectual property at trade fairs. The DOC, through its Office of Intellectual Property Rights, and the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service are working to enhance protection of IPR at their own trade fairs, are conducting IPR outreach and education for trade fair organizers and exhibitors, and are working with industry and foreign governments to address this breeding ground for counterfeiting and piracy worldwide.

Continuing Efforts by Law Enforcement Agencies

U.S. law enforcement agencies are also stepping up their efforts to catch the counterfeiters and pirates. Through the National Intellectual Property Law Enforcement Coordination Council, the U.S. government is working to leverage the experience and assets of law enforcement agencies to combat fake and counterfeit products in the United States and abroad. The STOP Initiative has raised the level of intellectual property–related law enforcement cooperation among U.S. authorities and between the United States and key foreign authorities.

America's intellectual property is critical to our economic strength and, consequently, our national security. It is a necessary component in our continued growth and technological leadership. Through the STOP Initiative, the U.S. government is working to stop the criminals that endanger our health, safety, and prosperity.

Sebastian Wright is an international trade specialist with the Market Access and Compliance unit of the International Trade Administration.

U.S.–China Trade Talks continued from front page

Ambassador Portman agreed. "Our message to China has been consistent and clear. American exporters, workers, farmers, and service providers deserve the same access to Chinese markets as China has to our markets," he said. "At today's meeting, we achieved forward movement in a number of significant areas like government procurement and regulatory transparency."

> "We still have work to do, but today's meeting was a positive step forward on a number of key issues."
> — U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez

Secretary Johanns recognized the significance of the Chinese agreement on imports of U.S. beef, noting "we will work quickly to finalize the terms of this market opening. China is an important market for U.S. beef, accounting for $100 million of our beef exports in 2003."

U.S. and Chinese officials also agreed to establish a U.S.–China High-Technology and Strategic Trade Working Group under the JCCT. The group will review export control cooperation and facilitate high-technology trade. Among the group's first activities will be to plan a bilateral export control seminar in China.

Established in 1983, the JCCT is an annual government-to-government platform designed to develop and to facilitate the U.S.–China commercial relationship. The United States uses the JCCT as a forum to identify and to resolve problems, as well as to expand trade opportunities. The previous JCCT meeting was held in Beijing on July 11, 2005.

USTR Report Offers Details on U.S.–China Trade

More information on U.S.–China trade is available in a recent report issued by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), titled *U.S.–China Trade Relations: Entering a New Phase of Greater Accountability and Enforcement*. The document, published in February 2006, is a top-to-bottom review of trade between the two countries. It is available from the USTR's Web site at **www.ustr.gov**.

India: A Passage To Expanded Trade

In the wake of President George W. Bush's recent visit to India, expanded commercial ties between India and the United States offer big opportunities for U.S. businesses.

The United States and India are logical, natural partners, sharing the same bedrock of democratic values. Although the relationship has not always lived up to its economic promise, India is increasingly enjoying a consensus on the importance of economic growth to create jobs and to elevate the lives of its people. Whether we look at the 2 million Americans of Indian descent or the 85,000 Indian students who come here annually, we can see that there is a good fit between our two countries on a range of issues.

The economic numbers bear this out. Twenty-five years ago, total bilateral trade was only $2.8 billion. By 2005, that number had increased nearly tenfold to $27 billion. U.S. exports to India have nearly doubled in the past three years, from $4.1 billion in 2002 to nearly $8 billion in 2005. With a population of more than 1 billion, a growing middle class, and an economy with an 8 percent growth rate, India is increasingly of interest to U.S. companies as a market for goods and services.

The United States has hoped that India will be a more active partner in opening world markets to free and fair trade. India has already undertaken important moves toward liberalization, such as signing an open skies air services agreement with the United States and raising investment caps in several sectors. Also, import tariffs on most industrial goods have been lowered to 12.5 percent.

And there is evidence of results. The U.S. Commercial Service in India reports unprecedented interest by U.S. companies this year. State delegations from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Rhode Island have visited India in the past few months.

Challenges Remain

Despite the encouraging trade numbers and the progress that India has made in implementing economic reforms in the past 15 years, a lot of ground still needs to be recovered if trade and investment are to reflect India's role in the world economy. India still has to make up for many years of little to no economic growth. As a point of reference, even with a 30 percent growth in U.S. exports last year, India accounts for less than 1 percent of all U.S. exports.

Among the challenges that remain are the following:

- **High trade barriers.** The more India can lower its barriers, the better off its people will be. Although India has significantly lowered tariffs on non-agricultural products, agricultural tariffs remain around 40 percent.
- **Governance.** If a society is hindered by corruption or bureaucracy, removing trade barriers will not help very much.
- **Transparent and efficient legal system.** This system is essential for translating the opportunity of market economics into benefits for India's citizens.
- **Vibrant intellectual property rights (IPR) regime.** Some progress has been made toward creating a more comprehensive framework for IPR protection in India. Still, India does not currently have a data exclusivity regime for pharmaceutical and agricultural products consistent with the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement. Also, many people perceive an uneven enforcement of India's existing trademark and copyright laws.
- **Open retail sector.** Although India has recently opened up a sliver of its retail sector to foreign investment, that sector is still closed to most American retailers. Opening this sector would greatly benefit Indian consumers. It would allow them more convenient access to desired consumer goods at lower prices.

Opening a New Page: The Commercial Dialogue

While visiting India in March, President Bush agreed with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to take several specific actions regarding the commercial dialogue between the two countries. This process began in July 2005, when the two leaders agreed to revitalize the bilateral Economic Dialogue. To fulfill that commitment, the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) and India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry have taken steps with their part of the Economic Dialogue—the Commercial Dialogue.

Both sides have committed to regular contact to discuss nuts-and-bolts issues that affect doing business in each other's markets. Under the Commercial Dialogue, a number of substantive public-private sessions have been held on standards. In general, principles on how standards are established, administered, and enforced by both countries were discussed.

The Indian government recently accepted the DOC's proposal that the U.S.–India Commercial Dialogue be elevated, enhanced, and expanded and that it should demonstrate greater engagement by the two private sectors. The expanded agenda for the Commercial Dialogue covers IPR enforcement, antidumping and countervailing duty procedures, and commercial opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Future Steps

The upgraded Commercial Dialogue reflects the high level of importance that has been placed on improved commercial relations with India. The dialogue with India is one of only four such dialogues currently in progress, joining those with the North American Free Trade Agreement signatories, the European Union, and China.

In May, Under Secretary for International Trade Franklin L. Lavin will travel to India, where he will meet with Indian Secretary of Commerce S. N. Menon and other government officials. They will tackle the challenges that remain in this bilateral relationship. Much work remains, but all of the elements of success are there to ensure long-lasting progress in the U.S.–Indian commercial relationship.

Breaking into the Indian Market

The DOC recently designated India as a "spotlight" market for U.S. businesses. The U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service (USFCS) has identified some of the best prospects for U.S. exports to India. Those sectors include the following:

- **Information and communications technology**
- **Medical equipment and health care**
- **Environmental technologies**
- **Renewable energy**
- **Travel and tourism**

If you are a U.S. company looking to break into the Indian market as an exporter of goods or services, contact your local U.S. Export Assistance Center through the USFCS's Web site at **www.export.gov**. You can also contact the Commercial Service's India team directly by e-mail at **New.Delhi.office.box@mail.doc.gov.**

Cement Agreement with Mexico Resolves Long-Standing Trade Dispute

Effective on April 3, 2006, a 16-year dispute over a U.S. antidumping duty order on imports of gray portland cement from Mexico ended. It was resolved on March 6, when U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez joined U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman and Mexico's Secretary of Economy Sergio Garcia de Alba to sign the U.S.–Mexico Agreement on Cement. "This agreement addresses the concerns of producers and consumers on both sides of the border," said Secretary Gutierrez at the signing. "The agreement contains provisions that will help increase access to the Mexican market for U.S. cement producers, and it also ensures that our Gulf Coast communities will have the resources necessary to rebuild. This agreement demonstrates that we have the will and the means to resolve difficult disputes with our NAFTA partners."

The agreement settles all litigation regarding outstanding claims for duties before U.S. and international courts, and it divides the deposits of estimated antidumping duties between the parties. It also establishes a limit of 3 million metric tons of Mexican cement to enter the United States at an antidumping duty rate of $3 per metric ton, and it allows for an increase in the event of disasters. The agreement also contains elements for mutual trade liberalization, including provisions to help increase access for U.S. producers to the Mexican market. If the terms of the agreement are adhered to during its three-year period, the agreement will be terminated and the antidumping duty order will be revoked.

For more information about the U.S.–Mexico Agreement on Cement, including links to a fact sheet and the full text of the agreement, visit the International Trade Administration's Office of Public Affairs' Web site at **www.trade.gov/press**.

$19 Billion in U.S. Exports Pass through Foreign Trade Zones, Says New Report

Foreign trade zones (FTZs) are the U.S. form of free trade zones. FTZs are licensed by the U. S. Department of Commerce's Foreign-Trade Zones Board and operate under the supervision of the Customs Service. The board has just released its 66th annual report for fiscal year (FY) 2004. The report includes the dollar value of moved merchandise; a list of the 53 formal orders issued during that time; and the locations, addresses, and contact points of all zones under its jurisdiction. According to the board, from October 1, 2003, through September 30, 2004, there were 157 fully active FTZ projects. The value of all shipments into the zones totaled $305 billion, compared with $247 billion in FY 2003. Exports from facilities operating under FTZ procedures amounted to $19 billion. About 330,000 people were employed at some 2,700 firms that operated under FTZ status during the year. Copies of the report are available at **www.trade.gov/media/publications**. For information on the Foreign-Trade Zones Board, visit the board's Web site at **http://ia.ita.doc.gov/ftzpage/**.

Finding Federal Export Assistance Made Easy with New Edition of *Export Programs Guide*

For more than a decade, the *Export Programs Guide* has been the most comprehensive guide to federal programs that assist U.S. exporters. A completely updated 2006 edition has just been published. It continues that tradition with detailed descriptions of more than 100 programs offered by 19 different federal agencies. Those descriptions include export counseling programs, information on trade promotion events, export financing programs, sources of industry- and country-specific information and assis-

U.S. Department of Commerce

Left to Right: U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez, Under Secretary for International Trade Franklin L. Lavin, Mexico's Secretary of Economy Sergio Garcia de Alba, Mexican Ambassador Carlos de Icaza, and U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman at the signing of the U.S.–Mexico cement agreement at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C., on March 6, 2006. The agreement resolved the 16-year dispute over an antidumping duty order on gray portland cement from Mexico.

tance, and information on export controls and licenses. Each entry in the guide includes a brief description, a contact name and telephone number, and a Web site and e-mail address. Among the valuable new information that can be found in this edition are listings of regionally focused programs, such as Asia Now, the China Business Information Center, and the Middle East Business Information Center, that provide exporters with a single point of access for information on regional trade events, business counseling, and market research specific to those regions. The two appendixes include a list of all 109 U.S. Export Assistance Centers located throughout the country, as well as contact information for the 19 federal agencies that are members of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee. Copies of the Export Programs Guide are available on the Web at **www.trade.gov/media/publications**. Printed copies can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents at **http://bookstore.gpo.gov/**.

Higher Sugar Costs Driving Relocation Decisions for U.S. Companies

According to a new report issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce, "Employment Changes in U.S. Food Manufacturing: The Impact of Sugar Prices," between 1997 and 2002, more than 10,000 jobs were lost at sugar-consuming companies, such as confectioneries. The study suggests that high sugar costs are a major factor in U.S. companies' decisions to relocate to other countries. "We are seeing U.S. jobs move to countries that don't have the competitive disadvantage of high sugar prices that we face in the United States," said Under Secretary for International Trade Franklin L. Lavin. "To compete and win in the world economy, we must lift the price burden for U.S. businesses that use sugar as a product ingredient."

According to the report, several problems exist for the sugar industry, including the following:

- For every sugar growing and harvesting job saved through high U.S. sugar prices, approximately three confectionery-manufacturing jobs are lost.
- For the confectionery industry in particular, evidence suggests that high U.S. sugar costs are a major factor in relocation decisions. In 2004, the price of U.S. refined sugar was 23.5 cents per pound compared to the world price of 10.9 cents per pound.
- Many U.S. manufacturers of products containing sugar have closed or relocated to countries where sugar prices are less than half the U.S. price.

The full text of the report is available on the Web at **www.trade.gov/media/Publications**.

An Uptick in Tourism Since 2001

Number of foreign visitors to the United States and the dollars they spent, 2000–2005

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries.

Tourism Numbers Show Continued Growth in 2005

Tourism to the United States continued to grow in 2005, according to new figures released by the International Trade Administration's Office of Travel and Tourism Industries. International travel and tourism exports—that is, travel-related tourism spending in the United States—reached a record level of $104.8 billion in 2005, surpassing the $103.1 billion mark set in 2000, which was the last full year before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. This number represents an increase of $11.5 billion, or 12 percent, in travel exports over 2004. In addition, 2005 saw an increased number of visitors to the United States: from 46.1 million international visitors in 2004 to 49.4 million in 2005, which is an increase of 7 percent. "[The] data show that America remains one of the top destinations for international visitors," said Commerce Secretary Carlos

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Singapore And Chile Free Trade Agreements At The Two-Year Mark

Free trade agreements with Chile and Singapore have been in effect for two years now. Here is an assessment of how successful they have been in opening new markets for U.S. goods and services.

This past January marked the two-year anniversary of implementing of free trade agreements (FTAs) with two key U.S. commercial partners, Chile and Singapore.

Chile: Two Years of Strong Growth

Total bilateral trade between the United States and Chile rose 85 percent since the FTA came into effect. In 2005, U.S. exports of goods to Chile totaled $5.2 billion, a 91 percent increase from the $2.7 billion level reached in 2003, which was the last year before the FTA came into effect. For the second year in a row, U.S. exports gained market share in Chile, rising to 15.8 percent in 2005.

"The free trade agreement between the United States and Chile is quickly producing very positive and measurable results for both the United States and Chile," said U.S. Under Secretary for International Trade Franklin L. Lavin. "After breaking down trade barriers from both nations, U.S. exports to Chile have nearly doubled in just two years, which is good news for our growing economy and U.S. workers."

Under the FTA, U.S. exports continued to win back the market share that had been lost in previous years to other countries that had negotiated FTAs with Chile. Sectors that showed particular increases from pre-FTA levels include the following:

- Automatic data processing machines: up 46 percent to $267.7 million
- Motor vehicles for the transport of goods: up 387 percent to $276.6 million
- Motor cars and vehicles for transporting people: up 120 percent to $116.2 million
- Self-propelled bulldozers, angledozers, graders, levelers, and scrapers: up 132 percent to $117.7 million
- Tractors: up 196 percent to $41.4 million

Singapore: The First Asian FTA Proves Successful

The city-state of Singapore, a center of trade and commerce in Southeast Asia since the early 19th century, has long been an important trading partner for the United States. The FTA with Singapore, the first FTA between the United States and an Asian country, expanded on the thriving relationship by immediately eliminating tariffs on goods and aiming to grant market access to U.S service suppliers equal to that of domestic suppliers.

In 2005, Singapore ranked 11th as an export destination for U.S. goods, buying some 2.3 percent of total U.S. exports. Export of goods to Singapore rose from $16.6 billion in 2003 (the last year before the FTA) to $20.6 in 2005, which was an increase of 24 percent. During this same period, the U.S. trade surplus with Singapore tripled. It rose from $1.4 billion in 2003 to $5.2 billion in 2005.

Important market sectors for U.S. businesses exporting goods to Singapore include machinery, aircraft and parts, optical and medical instruments, pharmaceuticals, plastics, and electronic components.

Along with its FTA commitments, Singapore has developed one of the strongest intellectual property rights regimes in Asia. In 2004 and 2005, the government initiated a series of amendments to its laws governing patents, trademarks, and copyright, plus the laws for manufacturing optical disks, to better protect rights holders. Singapore is a signatory to the major international IPR agreements administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

For more information about these FTAs, as well as links to trade information and market profiles for Chile and Singapore, visit **www.export.gov/fta**.

International Trade Calendar

May 2006

Here is a selected list of international trade events of interest, including ITA-sponsored events and a selection of upcoming international trade fairs. For a comprehensive listing of industry shows, go to **www.export.gov**.

May 6–10

International Pow Wow
Orlando, Florida
www.tia.org/industrymeet/itnl_powwow.html

Some 1,200 exhibitors from more than 70 countries are expected to attend the 38th annual show of the travel industry. For more information, contact Rochelle Williams of the USFCS, tel. (619) 557-5899; e-mail: **rochelle.williams@mail.doc.gov**

May 8–11

Rebuild Iraq 2006
Amman, Jordan
www.rebuild-iraq-expo.com

Last year's show attracted more than 900 exhibitors from 44 countries. For more information, contact William Corfitzen of the USFCS, tel. (202) 482-0584; e-mail: **william.corfitzen@mail.doc.gov**

May 11

Latest on Intellectual Property Rights in China: JCCT and Special 301

This program is the first in a series of "Webinars" concerning the protection of IPR in China. It is sponsored by the ITA's China office, and the online session begins at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time. For more information, or to register, e-mail **chinaipr@mail.doc.gov.**

May 13–21

See America Week

First proclaimed as National Tourism Week by Congress in 1983, this annual event celebrates the U.S. hospitality industry, which has a significant export component. For information on tourism, visit the ITA's Office of Travel and Tourism Industries at **http://tinet.ita.doc.gov/** or contact Julie Heizer, tel. (202) 482-4904; e-mail: **julie.heizer@mail.doc.gov.**

May 16–21

ILA Aerospace
Berlin, Germany

Some 1,000 exhibitors and 105,000 trade visitors are expected at this biennial show. For information, contact Karen Dubin of the USFCS, tel. (202) 482-3786; e-mail: **karen_dubin@ita.doc.gov.**

May 18

China's 2006 IPR Action Plan

This program is the second in a series of "Webinars" concerning the protection of IPR in China. It is sponsored by the ITA's China office, and the online session begins at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time. For more information, or to register, contact via e-mail: **chinaipr@mail.doc.gov.**

May 21–27

World Trade Week

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed the first official observance of our nation's weeklong celebration of international trade. For a list of this year's events, go to **www.worldtradeweek.com**

May 22–27

Healthcare Technologies Trade Mission to Croatia, Greece, and Italy

This trade mission will visit Zagreb, Croatia; Athens, Greece; and Bologna, Italy. For more information, contact William Kutson of the USFCS, tel. (202) 482-2839; e-mail: **william.kutson@mail.doc.gov.**

May 30

India as Your Technology Partner, Austin, Texas

This seminar is cosponsored by the U.S. Export Assistance Center in Austin and the International Center of Austin. For information, contact Karen Parker, tel. (512) 916-5939; e-mail: **karen.parker@mail.doc.gov**.

On The Horizon

June 3–9, 2006
InfoComm International 2006, Orlando, Florida
www.infocommshow.org

Some 19,000 attendees, including 5,000 international visitors from 80 countries, are expected to attend this show devoted to the professional audiovisual communications systems industry. For more information, contact Wake Margo of the USFCS, tel. (202) 482-2026; e-mail: **wake.margo@mail.doc.gov**.

June 11–12, 2006
Cosmetología Tijuana 2006, Tijuana, Mexico
www.opec.com.mx

At least 15 U.S. suppliers of cosmetics and toiletries are expected to exhibit in the U.S. Pavilion at the 11th edition of Tijuana's Congress of Cosmetology. Last year's event brought some 3,500 business visitors. For more information, contact Judith Valdes of the USFCS, tel. +52 (664) 622-7495; e-mail: **judith.valdes@mail.doc.gov**.

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M. Gutierrez. "Collectively, these visitors are spending record levels during their stay, which helps employ more than 8 million Americans." In 2005, travel imports slowed with U.S. travelers spending $95.1 billion on travel-related goods and services abroad, which is a 6 percent increase over 2004. As a result, the U.S. travel and tourism industry finished the year with a $9.7 billion surplus. For more information, visit the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries' Web site at **http://tinet.ita.doc.gov/**.

New Web Site Launched

On April 10, 2006, the International Trade Administration (ITA) unveiled its new Web site, **www.trade.gov**. This site is the first step in remaking the ITA's Web presence. As part of the reorganization, ITA will review and evaluate all of its more than 100,000 documents and Web pages already published. "The goal of this change," says Deputy Under Secretary for International Trade Michelle O'Neil, "is to simplify access to the vast amount of information and tools that the ITA makes available to its constituencies via the Web."

While the transition is in progress, all Web pages will remain accessible at their current locations, and redirects will allow user links and bookmarks to remain valid. Export.gov—the federal government's multi-agency Web portal for export assistance—will remain the primary resource for businesses seeking export assistance and the main location of information published by the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service. To see the new site, go to **www.trade.gov**.

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For more information and news, visit the ITA's Web site at **www.trade.gov** or contact the Office of Public Affairs, International Trade Administration, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; tel. (202) 482-3809.

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