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INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS NEWS – MARCH 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS: **Africa-Arkansas Trade and Business Conference**
March 27–28, 2008, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
The African Diplomatic Business and Finance Center at UALR announces its first Africa–Arkansas Trade and Business Conference to take place on March 27-28, 2008. Several African ambassadors will attend the conference to explore business and trade opportunities with Arkansas' businesses
To register: Please contact Phyllis Dickerson at 501-371-4480
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U.S. Department of Commerce Event:
[Trade Mission to Vietnam, June 16-20, 2008 – \(Registration Deadline April 11, 2008\)](#)

NEW U.S. EXPORT CONTROL DIRECTIVES ANNOUNCED: President Bush recently signed directives that will ensure the United States' dual-use export control policies and practices support the National Security Strategy of 2006, while facilitating the U.S. economic and technological leadership. These new directives will advance a more efficient and transparent export licensing process and enhance dispute resolution mechanisms. They will also help ensure proper levels of control for continued U.S. economic competitiveness and innovation while protecting national security. For more information on the President's dual use export-control initiative, please [click here](#).

EUROPEAN UNION CUSTOMS 2008: Although the European Union is a customs union with a Community Customs Code and a harmonized tariff system for product classification, the EU lacks a single customs administration for the Community. Many important aspects of customs administration in the EU are handled differently by various Member State customs authorities, resulting in some inconsistencies from country to country. For a report that explains the EU's Customs Classification and Tariffs system as well as provides assistance in the area of customs advocacy, [click here](#).

NEW CHINA CUSTOMS RULES REWARD TRADE COMPLIANT COMPANIES: For U.S. companies conducting international trade in China, April 1, 2008, is a date to prepare for. On that date, China's General Administration of Customs will implement regulations that make it faster and cheaper to import goods into and export goods from China, but only for companies able to demonstrate strong trade-compliance programs. To read the April 2008 article from IOMA's "Managing Imports and Exports," [click here](#).

TURKEY – MARKET OF THE MONTH: Geographically, Turkey is strategically positioned at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and the Middle East. This location, the gateway to historical trade routes stretching to the Far East known as the Silk Road, provides U.S. exporters with opportunities to develop trade and investment relationships not just within Turkey but also in surrounding markets. As a result, Turkey is emerging as the commercial hub of Central Asia, and companies can use Turkey as a jumping-off point to business opportunities throughout Central Asia, the Middle East and the Caucasus. Aside from its location, Turkey's increasingly complex mix of modern industry and commerce continues to attract a diverse set of American companies. To learn more about business opportunities in Turkey, go to [Turkey - Market of the Month](#)

COMMERCIAL NEWS USA (CNUSA): The July-August 2008 issue of "Commercial New USA," will feature products and services in the **Consumer Products, Electronics and Environmental Sectors**. Deadlines for the July-August edition are May 9, 2008 for space, and May 16, 2008 for materials. CNUSA, the official export promotion magazine of the U.S. Department of Commerce, reaches 400,000 readers in 176 countries worldwide. For advertising information and to view current and past issues, visit: <http://thinkglobal.us/>

We hope you've enjoyed this edition of our newsletter.

Contact us at: little.rock.office.box@mail.doc.gov

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For a list of our upcoming Webinars and other programs, [click here](#).

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