



中美總商會

China Alert BUSINESS NEWS SUMMARY

January 1, 2004

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

USCCC NEWS

A DINNER RECEPTION IN CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY

On January 27, Tuesday, U.S.-China Chamber of Commerce will host a Dinner Reception in Celebration of the Monkey (\$40 for member and \$55 for non-member). We are grateful that Dr. William Testa, Senior Economist and Vice President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago will comment on the "Outlook of the Global Economy." We will also give a brief review of USCCC activities in 2003 as well as our understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing U.S. companies based on our recent trips to China. A traditional 10 course Chinese dinner will be served. Since spaces are limited, we hope that you will register early.

TRADE MISSION TO CHINA

We are planning our Second Trade Mission to China. The purpose of the mission is to assist U.S. companies interested in the Chinese marketplace in having a first hand understanding of the opportunities and challenges as well as making direct contacts with potential trading partners and government officials. It is anticipated that the Trade Mission will visit Beijing, Hebei, Shandong, Shanghai, Ningbo, Guangzhou, Jiangmen, Xinhui, Fushan over a period of approximately 14 days. The exact dates and itinerary will be determined depending in part on the particular interests of the participating companies.

The China Trade Mission's focus is on plastics, rubber, and metallurgical industries. In order to ensure the mission's effectiveness, participation will be limited to 15 companies, with no more than two representatives per company.

IN ADDITION TO OUR REGULAR TRADE MISSIONS, WE ALSO ORGANIZE *SPECIAL DELEGATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES* TO CHINA TO MEET AND VISIT WITH THEIR POTENTIAL BUSINESS PARTNERS. USCCC WILL IDENTIFY, SCREEN, AND INTERVIEW (POSSIBLY VISIT) POTENTIAL PARTNERS; SET UP MEETINGS; ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION, LODGING, INTERPRETATION AND OTHERS. USCCC WILL ALSO TRANSLATE THEIR BUSINESS CARDS AND COMPANY BROCHURES INTO CHINESE AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH PRE-TRIP CROSS CULTURAL TRAINING.

For further information, please contact our office (Tel: 312-36-9911; fax: 312-368-9922; e-mail: info@usccc.org).

RECENT AND UPCOMING U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION INVESTIGATIONS HEARINGS

A. Hand Trucks from China (Investigation No. 731-TA-1059, Preliminary)

On December 29, 2003, the ITC held a meeting and voted to reach a preliminary determination in this antidumping investigation. It will submit its views to the Commerce Department by January 6, 2004. On November 13, 2003, the ITC received a petition filed by a U.S. manufacturer of hand

trucks, Gleason Industrial Products, Inc., alleging that three Chinese manufacturers were dumping these products on the U.S. market thereby causing material injury to the U.S. industry manufacturing similar products. In addition to the Chinese manufacturers, respondents named in the petition include major importers and retailers of the hand trucks, including: Home Depot, Sears, Lowe's, W.W. Grainger, Wal-mart, and the Stanley Works.

For more information, please visit the U.S. International Trade Commission's website:
<http://www.usitc.gov/>

UPCOMING TRADE FAIRS/EXHIBITIONS (FEBRUARY 2004) IN CHINA

- 10-13 February: HOFEX 2004—the 10th Asian International Exhibition of Hospitality Equipment, Supplies & Technology, Food & Drink, Hong Kong, <http://www.hofex.com>
- 16-18 February: Stadia China 2004—China International Exhibition on Stadia & Arena and Sports & Leisure Infrastructure Supplies and Services, Beijing, <http://www.stadiachina.com>
- 17-20 February: WoodMac China 2004: The 6th International Forestry and Woodworking Machinery and Supplies Exhibition (Incorporating FurniTek China/WoodBuild China), Shanghai, <http://www.woodmacchina.net>
- 17-20 February: FurniTek China 2004—the 6th International Exhibition of Machinery and Accessories for Furniture Production, Upholstery and Furnishings, Shanghai, <http://www.furnitekchina.net>
- 17-20 February: WoodBuild China 2004—the 4th International Exhibition of Timber and Wood Products for Furniture and Building Industries, Shanghai, <http://www.woodbuildchinamontnet.net>
- 18-20 February: APEX 2004—1st International presentation on print production, pre-press, creative design, digital technology and finishing, Hong Kong, <http://www.apexasia.com>
- 25-28 February: Power 2004—the 9th International Electric Power Supply Equipment & Power Network Technology Expo 2004, Guangzhou, <http://www.power-exhibition.com>

* The USCCC offers comprehensive arrangement services to assist those who wish to attend any of these trade fairs/exhibitions. From time to time, USCCC will organize Trade Delegation to visit potential business partners and factories in conjunction to attending the trade shows. For further information, please feel free to contact us by email at info@usccc.org or by telephone on (312) 368-9911.

NEWS

- The U.S. Court of International Trade in New York has ruled that the Department of Commerce should withdraw its dumping charges against Fuyao Glass Industry Group Co Ltd., China's largest automobile glass maker. Last February, The Department of Commerce imposed dumping duties of 11.8 per cent on Fuyao's shipments of automotive replacement windshields to the U.S. Fuyao spent U.S.\$3 million fighting the case.
- China's Ministry of Health will publicize disease and public health emergency information beginning in 2004. It will issue notices on the spread, prevention and control of communicable diseases, including the plague, cholera, AIDS and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The public will be able to access this information on the ministry's website at <http://www.moh.gov.cn/>.

- On December 26, 2003, China's Ministry of Commerce lifted its temporary retaliatory tariffs on five steel products. The move came in response to a U.S. decision earlier in December to drop its tariffs on steel imports, which the WTO ruled were illegal.

NEW REGULATIONS

- In a white paper, the State Council, China's Cabinet, indicated that it plans to revise laws on overseas investment in mining in an effort to make coal, iron ore and other mineral exploration and development more attractive. The revisions will be completed in three to five years. China's industrial production has drawn increasingly on imports, which only 10 percent of China's domestic mineral resources have been assessed. "The Chinese government holds that to have foreign mining companies enter China and Chinese mining enterprises enter other countries to make different countries mutually complementary in resources is of great significance for the common prosperity and healthy development of world mineral resources prospecting and exploitation," the white paper reads.
- Shanghai's state-owned laboratories and scientific platforms will be opened to foreign businesses and institutions beginning next year. Services will be made available to multinational companies and foreign institutions, particularly those already operating in Shanghai.
- On January 1, 2004, the minimum wage in Beijing will rise by 30 yuan (3.6 U.S. dollars) to 495 yuan (59.8 U.S. dollars) per month. The rise will apply to all employees of companies, institutes, government departments and other organizations. The current minimum level is 465 yuan (56 dollars) a month.
- The China's Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) will implement new rules from February 1, 2004, obligating securities brokers to provide timely and accurate information about the companies they sponsor for initial public offerings on stock-markets. A provisional regulation requires companies going public to appoint qualified brokers to sponsor their applications. The sponsorship period has yet to be determined. The new rules aim to protect investors from being misled or deceived by brokers.

For further information, or if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at:

United States of America - China Chamber of Commerce
55 West Monroe Street, Suite 630, Chicago, IL 60603
Tel: (312) 368-9911 Fax: (312) 368-9922
Email: info@uscce.org

Attention: Siva Yam, CPA, CFA or Paul Nash

**** The information provided herein has been obtained from sources deemed to be reliable and is solely for informational purposes.***