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China conducts first suitcase and bag exporter quality training meeting

DATE: 2008/09/19

HANGZHOU, Sept. 19 (Xinhua) - China's suitcase and bag export industry watchdog Friday kicked off the country's first-ever quality and safety training session in eastern Pinghu city, to boost quality awareness among the industry's manufacturers.

Nearly 100 large domestic suitcase and bag manufacturers and exporters took part in training for the newly-compiled "Guide to Quality and Safety Control for Export-oriented Bags and Suitcases".

The guide was jointly compiled by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, China Chamber of Commerce for Imports and Exports and an expert panel, said Huang Daqi, China Chamber of Commerce for Imports and Exports of Suitcases and Bags secretary general.

The guide detailed the differences between the domestic and foreign markets' quality and safety standards, the main technical regulations of targeted markets and how to deal with technical export barriers and so on.

Huang added that although there were not serious export suitcase and bag quality problems up to date, the country's first quality pre-emptive "dictionary" and training were also crucial, as "fire prevention" was even more important than "fire fighting".

As the world's largest suitcase and bag manufacturer, China exported 6.286 billion U.S. dollars of product globally in the first half of this year, up 26.45 percent year on year.

Figures revealed that the country's exported suitcases and bags accounted for more than one third of the global market. The United States and the European Union were the major customers.

Liang Ming, a member of the expert panel, urged domestic companies to regularly check technical, health and environmental protection standards in the main targeted markets, and enhance their equality and brand awareness, as "brand strategy is an important channel for industrial upgrading".

Shi Lili, a Ministry of Commerce research fellow, said pressure on exporters from the appreciation of the yuan, labor and material price increases and the slowing pace of U.S. and European markets

were signs that domestic companies should embark on a "quality and brand-oriented" development road, as only those companies that did so would survive further squeezes on their profits.

Located in eastern Zhejiang Province, Pinghu city sees this sector turning out more than 5 billion yuan sales volume last year, according to Shi Jihong, local industry chamber president.

But most of these companies were doing the labor-intensive Original Equipment Manufacturing business, while their own brands were mostly low-end ones, Shi added.

Source: CNTEX

70% Public Listed Textile Companies Show Weak Performance

DATE: 2008/09/19

Although the authority announced some favorable policy for textile industry recently, such as the increase of export tax refund, this industry is still in the hot water. From the annual reports of 47 public listed textile & apparel companies, most of them had depressed performance. 34 of them see negative growth compared to last year, especially those in cotton textile, chemical fiber industry, clothing export trade sectors. Even the rest 30% companies are not optimistic. Most of their profits come from their non-textile business.

Source: CNTEX

Guanghong Develop Functional Fabrics

DATE: 2008/09/18

To challenge the severe competition in the fabric market, more and more companies focus on the development of functional fabrics. Hongguan (China) Co., Ltd. is one of them. This company launched its new collections as Tencel knitting fabric, PLA fabric, anti-UV fabric and super soft fabric recently and received a positive feedback from the market.

Guanghong established technology partnerships with institutes and enterprises abroad, and a research center with China Popular Color Association. Through the agreement with those institutes, Guanghong could acquire at least two commercialized functional fabric products every year. In addition, it also imports advanced machineries from Europe to keep its leading position in the fabric industry.

Source: CNTEX

Stronger domestic demand slows China makeshift home exports in H1

DATE: 2008/09/18

BEIJING, Sept. 13 (Xinhua) - Growth slowed down in China's foreign sales of prefabricated housing in the first half of this year, due largely to the severe winter weather at the year's beginning and disaster relief upon the major earthquake that claimed more than 87,000 lives on May 12 in southwestern province of Sichuan.

The General Administration of Customs said on Saturday that between January and June, China exported 690 million U.S. dollars worth of makeshift homes, a growth of 43.8 percent on the same period of last year. The growth rate was 33.7 percentage points lower than the year-earlier level.

Halted by the severe winter weather, prefabricated housing exports only increased by 9.8 percent in February. In May and June, the growth rates for the exports were 1.2 percentage points and 7.9 percentage points, respectively, lower than the year-earlier level, according to the customs data.

Source: China Textile Network Company

The European Union, Russia and the United States were the top three target markets of China's makeshift homes.

From January and June, China exported 230 million U.S. dollars worth of prefabricated housing to the European Union, up 30.2 percent, 67.43 million dollars worth to Russia, up 60.5 percent, and 45.96 million dollars worth to the United States, down 7.5 percent.

Source: Xinhua

China, U.S. reach agreements on boosting trade ties

DATE: 2008/09/18

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 16 (Xinhua) -- Chinese and U.S. delegations at the 19th meeting of China-U.S. Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) Tuesday reached several agreements on boosting trade ties at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library near Los Angeles.

The signing of these agreements, on food security, loan for medical equipment trade, promotion of digital TV, agricultural cooperation and trade statistics respectively, marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the JCCT.

At the one-day JCCT meeting co-chaired by Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez and U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab, the two sides also agreed to boost the cooperation between their working groups in such fields as intellectual property rights and information industry within the JCCT framework.

The JCCT is a high-level government-to-government dialogue mechanism for seeking open market opportunities and resolving trade disputes between the two countries.

Wang, heading the Chinese delegation, said the JCCT mechanism has served as a significant platform for Sino-U.S. consultation in such fields as trade and investment and has played an important role in solving their trade problems and extending economic and trade cooperation.

Noting the two countries are mutually complementary in economy and enjoy a solid foundation for cooperation, Wang said their economic and trade ties are important to each other and even to the whole world.

The two sides should take full advantage of the JCCT and resort to communication to boost mutual understanding, extend economic and trade cooperation as well as creating favorable legal, systematic and mechanism condition for the development of enterprises and markets of the two countries, Wang said.

Gutierrez, for his part, said the U.S. side has attached great importance to the JCCT mechanism and is willing to promote the U.S.-China dialogue, cooperation and partnership within the JCCT framework for a brilliant prospect for bilateral economic and trade ties.

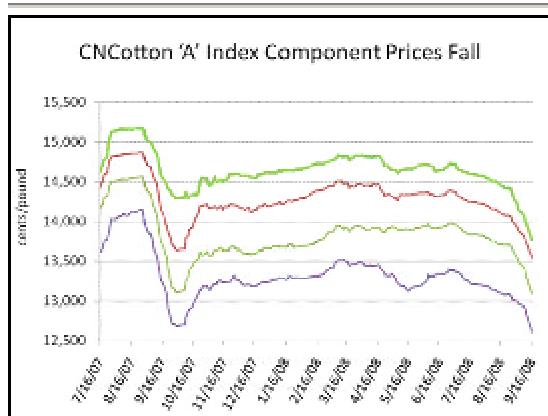
Meanwhile, Schwab expressed Washington's willingness to solve the problems that have emerged in the development of bilateral economic and trade cooperation within the JCCT framework.

Noting China now ranks as the 2nd biggest trade partner for the United States, Schwab said the U.S. side favors a long-term and stable development in the economic and trade relations with China to benefit both peoples.

Source: Xinhua

Domestic Cotton Prices Sharply Decline After Holiday

DATE: 2008/09/18



China's average spot market price sharply declined on Tuesday, September 16 as the market opened after the holiday. Pressure on holders of long positions and the major drop in ICE futures on Monday influenced prices. The average spot market price of cotton fell 75 to 146 yuan per ton on Tuesday or the equivalent of .50 to .78 U.S. cents per pound. Interior prices of Xinjiang cotton also declined, dropping from 25 to 125 yuan per ton. The nationwide price of T328 plunged 137 yuan to 13,101 yuan per ton or approximately 86.83 U.S. cents per pound. A major reduction in imported cotton has made it much more competitive with local cotton. Prices continued weaker on Tuesday.

| Grade | September 16, 2008 Average Price | Change from September 12 | September 17, 2008 Average Price | Change from September 16 |
|-------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| T129 | 13,767 | -146 | 13,662 | -105 |
| T229 | 13,552 | -129 | 13,413 | -139 |
| T328 | 13,101 | -137 | 13,932 | -169 |
| T428 | 12,619 | -147 | 12,445 | -174 |
| T527 | 12,063 | -75 | 11,935 | -125 |

Source: Globecotnews

China cuts import taxes on large equipment spare parts to support domestic manufacturing

DATE: 2008/09/16

The government has cut back on import taxes on spare parts of large equipment and canceled the import tariff exemption on some complete sets.

The adjustments were made to support the domestic manufacturing of large equipment, said the Ministry of Finance.

Taxes levied on domestic enterprises for importing key spare parts of large equipment, including ultra- and extra-high voltage transmission equipment and transformers, large petro-chemical equipment and large coal-chemical equipment, would be refunded and injected into the enterprises as investment from the nation, it said.

The policy applied to imports after Jan. 1, 2008, depending on the date of declaration of imports.

In the meantime, the import of some complete sets of equipment by enterprises approved after Sept. 1, 2008 would no longer enjoy the tax exemption. Both domestic and foreign-funded projects are subject to the new policy, the ministry said.

Imports of such equipment by enterprises approved before Sept. 1 would continue to enjoy the previous tax policies until March 1, 2009.

Source: Xinhua

Source: China Textile Network Company