



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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USTDA ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVES DURING THE 18TH U.S.-CHINA JOINT COMMISSION ON COMMERCE AND TRADE

BEIJING, CHINA – USTDA Acting Director Leocadia I. Zak participated in consultations under the 18th U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT), which took place today in Beijing. During the plenary session, three new USTDA initiatives were announced to strengthen U.S.-China cooperation on healthcare technology, government procurement practices, and competition policies that are transparent and fair. The programs will promote U.S. commercial interests while enhancing bilateral dialogue on market-based principles and practices for China's economic development.

The JCCT is a high-level policy dialogue on trade and economic relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China. The dialogue is chaired by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Susan C. Schwab and China State Council's Vice Premier Wu Yi, on behalf of the U.S. and Chinese governments, respectively. USTDA's participation in the U.S. delegation at the JCCT represents the agency's support for greater commercial cooperation to facilitate mutually beneficial outcomes.

During today's consultation, the USTR Schwab announced USTDA's support for a program on topics related to China's implementation of its Anti-Monopoly Law (AML). The program will focus on the implementation of a transparent, market-driven and non-discriminatory anti-monopoly regime. In particular, the program will support China's efforts to create a due process-based competition and antitrust system through the pairing of key Chinese government stakeholders with their counterparts in the U.S. government and U.S. private sector in substantive policy discussions.

In addition, Acting Director Zak announced USTDA funding for a program focused on greater transparency in China's government procurement systems, policies and practices. The program will include a visit to the United States by senior Chinese government officials responsible for government procurement policies and regulations. By facilitating meetings between Chinese policy makers and government procurement specialists in the U.S. government, academia and industry, the visit will support ongoing U.S.-China cooperation on China's accession to the Government Procurement Agreement under the World Trade Organization.

Finally, USTDA also announced funding for a program to assist China in its efforts to improve its healthcare system. The program will include a reverse-trade mission for Chinese hospital executives and representatives from the Ministry of Health to visit various U.S. hospitals. The visit is intended to highlight U.S. technical capabilities as China further develops its healthcare information technology infrastructure.

Since 2001, USTDA has funded over 90 activities supporting important development objectives in China. The agency's China program targets development projects that represent opportunities for U.S. commercial involvement in the areas of transportation, energy, the environment, and other priorities.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.