

# United States Department of Commerce

## *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

**The Protocol on Cooperation in the Field of Atmospheric Science and Technology** is administered by the National Weather Service (NWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the United States, and the Chinese Meteorological Administration (CMA) for China. The purpose of the Protocol on Atmospheric Sciences is to promote the advancement of meteorological science for the benefit of the public. The principal goal of the Protocol is to improve weather forecasting. Activities under the Protocol involve public domain information. There are no activities or personnel exchanges that involve sensitive or security issues.

## *International Trade Administration*

In addition to activities coordinated by NOAA, NIST, and TA under the U.S. – China S&T Agreement, the Department of Commerce's The International Trade Administration's (ITA's) Market Access and Compliance, Office of the China Economic Area (OCEA) provides technical assistance through its Capacity Building Programs which are designed to enhance cooperation between the U.S. Government, U.S. industry and Chinese regulatory and operation groups. OCEA's Capacity Building Programs help decision makers and officials resolve the increasingly complex issues they face when addressing governance in the areas of healthcare, distribution rights and services, intellectual property, logistics, software government procurement, standards & conformity assessment, and transparency in rule making. The programs are a collaborative effort of the Department of Commerce, other U.S. government agencies and U.S. industry.

Following is a list of some OCEA co-hosted programs that are helpful in bringing China and U.S. industry representatives together to discuss their international trade issues:

### **Current Programs**

**U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT):** The JCCT was established in 1983 as a forum for high-level dialogue on bilateral trade issues.

**China Oil and Gas Industry Forum (OGIF):** OGIF meetings are a cooperative government-industry effort that encourage dialogue with our Chinese counterparts designed to address existing challenges facing U.S. businesses in China.

**U.S.-China Standards and Conformity Assessment Workshop:** A two-day workshop to highlight the two countries' approach to standards development and provide technical exchanges on standards.

**IT/Telecom Equipment Standards Seminar:** An Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) seminar on standards and conformity assessment issues with China's Ministry of Information Industry.

**The U.S.-China Healthcare Forum:** A joint forum with DOC, MOFCOM and MOH to enhance cooperation in the area of healthcare policy; to improve each country's ability to efficiently provide effective, sustainable, high quality healthcare services to its people.

**U.S.-China Roundtable on the Restrictions of the Use of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) in Electrical and Electronic Products:** This event sought to enhance the understanding of China's proposed regulation and future requirements concerning RoHS, and the potential impact of these requirements on U.S. suppliers and manufacturers.

### **Upcoming Programs**

**U.S.-China IPR Enforcement Symposium:** OCEA is working with various offices to present issues and options to Chinese officials and entrepreneurs on intellectual property rights enforcement.

**Seminar on Postal Reform:** A two-day discussion with the Legislative Reform Commission of National Peoples Congress of China regarding China's Postal Reform.

**Anti-Monopoly Law Follow-up Program:** A discussion with Chinese government officials on China's recent draft anti monopoly law.

**USTDA China Natural Gas Training Institute:** The program aims to promote U.S.-China collaboration in the natural gas industry and will complement the goals, objectives and results of the annual U.S.-China Oil and Gas Industry Forum.

**Safety equipment seminar:** A workshop co-sponsored by DOC and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of P.R. China focusing on China's standards and conformity assessment of safety equipment.

### ***United States Patent & Trademark Office***

In addition to activities under the U.S. – China S&T Agreement, the Department of Commerce's Patent and Trademark office continues to engage China on IPR. These efforts have helped to create an environment conducive to U.S. business activities in China.

Since China joined the WTO, The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has remained engaged in enhancing intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and enforcement in China by contributing to U.S. government's bilateral and multilateral discussions with China and providing technical assistance programs to Chinese IPR officials. The USPTO's China efforts are focused on the following four areas: (1) implementing the goals of the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) IPR Working Group to improve China's IPR protection and enforcement; (2) enhancing dialogue and cooperation with China IP agencies through office-to-office meetings with China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), the National Copyright Administration (NCA) and China's Trademark Office (CTO); (3) identifying, implementing, and

supporting concrete measures to educate and assist U.S. industry; and (4) improving public awareness on the importance of IP protection through outreach efforts in China.

The USPTO and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, as U.S. co-chairs of the JCCT IPR Working Group (WG), works closely with other U.S. government agencies to engage China in regular bilateral IPR discussions. Since its inception in 2003, the IPR Working Group has met two times. As a result of each of these meetings, the Chinese made concrete commitments to improve IPR enforcement. The USPTO has also initiated office-to-office meetings with China's IP agencies. In February 2006, the USPTO organized heads of offices meeting with SIPO, China's patent office, which resulted in a work plan for further cooperative exchanges. The USPTO hopes to arrange a similar mechanism for cooperation with CTO. In addition to working with the Chinese government, USPTO has taken steps to educate U.S. businesses on IPR challenges in China. The USPTO will organize four "China Road Shows" in 2006, providing U.S. companies with practical information on IP protection in China. A number of seminars are planned to take place in China. The USPTO has proposed technical assistance programs, such as trademark examination training with CTO and examination of biotechnology, pharmaceutical, software and business method patent applications for SIPO examiners. Lastly, the USPTO will station three IP attorneys (including the IPR Attaché already in Beijing) on the ground in China to better observe China's IPR conditions and to provide U.S. industry on-the-ground support.