

Americas Textiles and Apparel Competitiveness Forum
Realizing the Benefits of Western Hemisphere Trade
April 7, 2008

In the Western Hemisphere, the United States has Free Trade Agreements with Mexico, Canada, Chile, Central America and the Dominican Republic and has negotiated agreements with Peru, Colombia, and Panama. Preferential trade programs exist with various other countries in the region. The United States imports and exports more than \$35 billion worth of textile and apparel goods in the region annually.

In an effort to enhance textile and apparel trade in the region and to take advantage of the agreements, the U.S. Department of Commerce will host a forum on realizing the benefits and addressing the challenges of textile and apparel trade within the hemisphere. Speakers will provide valuable insight on doing business in the region and how to take advantage of the multitude of opportunities available. This forum will be held in connection with Material World in Miami. Details of the forum are found below:

Date: Monday, April 7, 2008

Time: 3:00 – 3:30 pm: Registration
3:30 – 6:30 pm: Discussions

Location: Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami Beach, FL
(Room TBA)

Presented by: U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA)

Moderator: Matt Priest, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce and Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA)

Brief Description: A discussion focused on utilizing the benefits of trade opportunities for the textile and apparel industries within the hemisphere

Program Highlights:

- Speakers from leading manufacturers, industry associations, and governmental entities in the region
- Textile trade policy initiatives and direction, including preferential programs and free trade agreements
- Supply chain and logistics strategies and challenges

There is no charge to attend the forum, but registration is required. Confirm your attendance through the following [website](#).

For more information, please contact Richard Stetson at 202-482-2582 (Richard_Stetson@ita.doc.gov) or Laurie Mease at 202-482-2043(Laurie_Mease@ita.doc.gov).