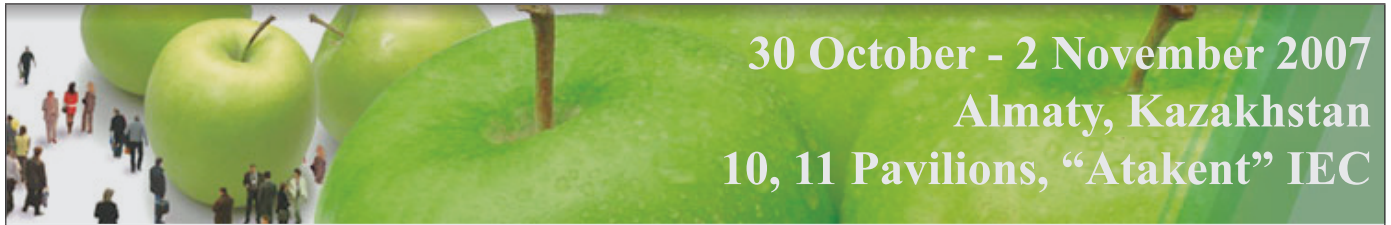




USAPEEC

CENTRAL ASIA NEWS

September 30, 2007



USAPEEC will participate in the 10th Central Asia International Exhibition World Food Kazakhstan 2007 on Oct. 30 - Nov. 2 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.



World Food Kazakhstan is the largest food show in Central Asia and is expected to attract more than 20,000 visitors from the surrounding regions. USAPEEC will have a separate pavilion for members, equipped with a lounge area.

Members that are interested in participating or attending should contact Bella Ablaeva at bella_usapeec@yahoo.com

You can also visit the trade show's website at http://www.worldfood.kz/en/2007/world_food

In the first half of September 2007, a serious trade issue has been successfully resolved in Kazakhstan due to well coordinated efforts of USAPEEC, USDA, USDOC and FAS Almaty.

Back in August 2007, a new regulation of Kazakh government has come into force. This new rule required importers of U.S. poultry to hand over copies of the Shipper's Export Declaration (SED).

USAPEEC Central Asia Consultant has been contacted by several major importers of U.S. poultry to Kazakhstan regarding this new requirement. Due to this regulation several USAPEEC member companies were forced to pay daily demurrage. The total volume of U.S. poultry that was detained at Kazakh Customs was 5,000 MT (including 3,000 MT U.S. poultry imported by the USAPEEC member company). It was obvious that this new regulation effectively blocked the trade between U.S. and Kazakhstan. Several shipments of U.S. poultry had been stopped because of the new rule.

USAPEEC Consultant has obtained and translated into English the text of the new decree together with the note sent by the Customs Control Committee Department of Kazakhstan and forwarded it to the USAPEEC Headquarters, USDA and FAS Almaty drawing their attention to this issue.

Joined efforts of USAPEEC, USDA and USDOC have turned into an official letter to the Head of Customs Control Department of Almaty City. In this letter William Bostic, chief of the Foreign Trade Division in the U.S. Census Bureau, explained that SEDs cannot by law be released unless the Secretary of Commerce determines that doing so is in the national interest.

Further to USAPEEC's request and based on the info gathered and submitted by USAPEEC Central Asia Consultant, one more letter on this issue from U.S. Ambassador John Ordway to the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Korzhova N.A had been prepared and sent. In addition, the Ambassador raised the issue directly with

Prime Minister Masimov who said that the government was aware of the situation and working to resolve it.

The letter is in Russian:

The letter states that the U.S. law prohibits submission of U.S. export declarations. In view of this, it requests immediate release of goods that have arrived from the United States and are currently being held by Kazakhstani customs authorities in connection with amendments recently enacted to the Kazakhstani customs code. Finally, the letter requests confirmation that no goods originating in the U.S. will in the future be delayed due to a lack of an export declaration form.

The Embassy is keeping on top of this issue and also the acting Senior Commercial Officer in Almaty is planning to talk with Almaty Customs and to meet with Embassy in Astana to discuss this issue.

As of September 18, 2007, 2,000 MT of the detained U.S. poultry product imported by USAPEEC member companies has been successfully cleared through customs. Also this letter helped other U.S. poultry importers to release about 2,500 MT of U.S. poultry meat.

Kazakhstan



Price for food grew by 10.3 %

As of August, 2007 prices for food stuffs in Kazakhstan grew by 10.3 % in comparison with August, 2006. According to the State Kazakh Statistics Agency, the prices for fresh vegetables grew by 23.4 %, fruit - by 14.2 %. Prices for meat and meat products increased by 14.8 % in general: prices for poultry, mutton, beef and horsemeat grew by 17 - 21 %, sausage products - by 7.4 %, pork - by 6.3 %. The prices for eggs increased by 18.9 %, dairy products - by 11.5 %, animal oil - by 6.3 %. - *Source: Kazakhstan Today; Edited by: usapec.kz*

Kazakhstan's foreign trade surplus narrows 11.8% Jan-July 2007

Kazakhstan's foreign trade surplus reduced by 11.8% to \$7.5 billion in January-July 2007, from \$8.6 billion in the first seven months of 2006. Foreign trade, excluding unorganized or shuttle trade, grew 32.7% year-on-year to \$43.4 billion in January-June 2007, including growth of 23.5% to \$25.5 billion for exports and growth of 48.6% to \$17.9 billion for imports, including transport and insurance costs.

Most Kazakh imports came from Russia (34.9% of total imports), China (10.6%), Germany (7.8%), the United States (5.4%) and Ukraine (4.8%). - *Source: Interfax*

Kyrgyzstan



Symposium on bird flu was held in Bishkek

A symposium devoted to fight against bird flu was held in Bishkek on September 25-27. Representatives of Kyrgyz and Tajik governments learnt methods of public awareness campaigns in cases of virus outbreak. This event was organized by the officers of the UNICEF in Kyrgyzstan.

According to UNICEF information, the outbreak of AI caused death of children in Azerbaijan and Turkey. The virus continues to pose a threat to human life. The role of the press, civil sector, the government and international organizations is invaluable in awareness raising campaign which started in Kyrgyzstan in 2007. Kyrgyzstan is one out of six countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States which conducts similar trainings. - *Source: Kyrgyz National News Agency; Edited by: usapec.kz*

Be in the swim!
Visit our web site:
www.usapec.kz

One more anthrax case registered in Kyrgyzstan

The case of anthrax infection has been registered in Osh oblast of Kyrgyzstan, the press service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has reported.

The press service said that a resident of Arek village turned to the regional hospital. The police found out that he participated in cutting meat. A part of meat was sold to villagers; remaining meat was sold at a market in Osh city. - *Source: "24" Inform*

Tajikistan



Tajikistan's foreign trade expanded by 23.4% in 8 months

Tajikistan's foreign trade deficit was \$481.5 million in January-August 2007, the State Statistics Committee reported. The country's foreign trade expanded by \$465 million or 23.4% year-on-year in the eight months, reaching \$2.454 billion.

Imports grew 35.5%, or by \$384.2 million, to \$1.467 billion in the eight months. The CIS accounted for 63.8% of all imports, or \$936.8 million. - *Source: Intefax*