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Obama Administration officials head to China to talk trade

By Stewart Doan

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Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will travel to China October 28-29 to participate in bilateral meetings on agricultural trade. Vilsack will take part in the 20th U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) meeting in Hangzhou, along with U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk and Commerce Secretary Gary Locke. The annual JCCT conference serves as an important forum for Cabinet-level officials from both countries to resolve trade concerns and enhance economic opportunities and cooperation, USDA said in a statement.

"The United States and China are two of the largest agricultural exporters and the world looks to our two countries for leadership in the trade arena," said Vilsack. "The United States looks forward to our continued friendship and cooperation in our efforts to facilitate trade, which will bring tremendous rewards for both of our nations." In addition to attending the JCCT, Vilsack will hold private meetings with Chinese government officials.

Washington has a "significant" agricultural trade issues to resolve with Beijing, including restrictions on U.S. shipments of chicken, pork and beef, observed Jim Miller, USDA Under Secretary of Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, who will accompany Vilsack on the trip. Next week's meetings will "hopefully provide us some market-opening opportunities for a number of commodities and maintain the export numbers that we have in China currently," Miller said on *Agri-Pulse* Open Mic.

China is the fourth largest market for U.S. farm exports, with 2008 shipments worth \$13.2 billion, and the largest for soybeans, cotton, hides and skins, USDA said.

Several business and industry leaders will be traveling with Vilsack. The list includes:

#	Name	Title	Organization
1	Nic Richards	Chief of Party	SUCCESS Alliance Phase II (ACDI/VOCA)
2	Gilda Villalba	Associate	ACDI/VOCA
3	Mark Miller	Vice President	Agri-Ima GIS Technology

4	Alex Procopio	Chief Executive Officer	American Trading Svc, LLC
5	Maria Malvezzi	Senior Proteins Trader	Bassett & Walker, Inc.
6	Nicholas Walker	Senior Proteins Trader	Bassett & Walker, Inc.
7	Philip Soliven	Country Representative	Cargill Incorporated
8	Bruce Blakeman	VP, Corporate Affairs	Cargill Incorporated
9	Bram Klaijisen	President/CEO	Cargill Incorporated
10	C.C. Alfarero	President	C.C. Alfarero & Associates
11	Jenny Wiegleb	Vice President - Dole Asia	Dole Food Co. Inc.
12	Alex Mann	Owner	Eco Energy Biodiesel Inc.
13	Froilan Aquino	Associate	Eco Energy Biodiesel Inc.
14	Megan Sun	President	Eco Vative Resources
15	Vel Vengco	President	EDV International Group Garuda International, Inc
16	Bassam Faress	President	
17	William Sammon	President	Hima Corporation
18	Jerome Del Prado	Associate	Hima Corporation
19	Darek Musierowicz	Managing Director/Partner	Intervision Foods
20	Ken Roberts	Director of International Business Relations	Kraft Foods
21	Yawar Naeem	Vice President, International Affairs	Land O'Lakes
22	Luyi Ogbebor	President	Novick Industries LTD
23	Bev Postma	Heade of Corporate Affairs, ASEAN	Syngenta
24	John Dotson		The Alan Group, Inc.
25	Alex St. James	Overseas Market Development, Vice President	U.S. Fed Group
26	William Westbrook	Chief of Trade Finance	U.S. Fed Group
27	Lou Rocha	General Partner	U.S. Fed Group
28	Phillip Meager	Regional Representative	Valmont Irrigation, Inc
29	Mr. Denzil Nicholson	President	Verdant Ocean, Inc