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Member Opportunities

NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams

With NAFTA negotiations underway and the evolving U.S.-China trade relationship we expect many more fast paced and dramatic developments that could greatly change the terms of trade for NAEGA members. Your involvement is needed!

NAEGA ad hoc policy teams of member personnel working largely through conference calls are helping to guide our multifaceted effort to address the evolving trade environment. Teams focused on the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Asia-Pacific Market are already established. The **NAFTA Policy Team** will be heavily engaged over the next three months to support NAEGA work with the U.S. Food and Ag. Dialogue for Trade, The Pacific Northwest Economic Region, the Canada U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group and the NAEGA committees and Board of Directors to address NAFTA. A similar effort will soon start with an **Asia-Pacific Policy Team** that will be focused on U.S. trade relations with China, Japan, Korea and the Trans Pacific environment more generally.

Please contact [Ryan](#) if you have any questions or are interested in participating in NAEGA's ad hoc policy teams.

U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade – Washington, D.C. – August 25

NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend the latest U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade on August 25 at 9:30am at Arent Fox, LLP on 1717 K Street, NW Washington, D.C. A preliminary agenda include:

9:30-10:30am

Perspectives and Analysis on the first NAFTA Round:

Gary Clyde Hufbauer, Reginald Jones Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics (*Confirmed*)

10:30-11:30am

Administration briefing on NAFTA Round:

John Melle, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Western Hemisphere, U.S. Chief Negotiator - NAFTA (*confirmed*)

Sharon Bommer-Lauritsen, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs and Commodity Policy (*confirmed*)

To RSVP, click [here](#).

Taiwan Goodwill Mission Reception – Washington, D.C. – September 12

NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend a reception at the Marriott Metro Center for a Taiwan Goodwill Mission on September 12 from 4-6pm. The reception will honor the Taiwan Goodwill Mission travelling throughout the United States on September 10-21 and the U.S.-Taiwanese relationship.

A formal invitation will be available soon. Please contact Ryan for more information.

WITA Agriculture's Perspectives on NAFTA Modernization panel - Arlington, VA – September 13

NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend a Washington International Trade Association (WITA) panel on *Agriculture's Perspectives on the NAFTA Modernization* on the morning of September 13. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue has been invited. In addition, NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin will be presenting on behalf of NAEGA, and the Board of Directors will attend as special guests. To register, [click here](#).

Board of Directors Meeting – Arlington, VA – September 13

The next meeting of the NAEGA Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, September 13 in Arlington, VA. A comprehensive agenda will be available soon. Among other things, the NAEGA Board has been invited as special guests to a Washington International Trade Association event on *Agriculture's Perspectives on the NAFTA Modernization* during which Gary will present. The event will take place during the morning of September 13.

NAEGA member representatives are invited to attend and submit topics for discussion during the Board meeting. Please contact Gary or Ryan if you need travel assistance or have any questions.

China CIQ Cochran Fellows visit – Arlington, VA – September 14

NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend a meeting with nine U.S. Department of Agriculture Cochran Fellows from China Inspection and Quarantine (CIQ) on Thursday, September 14 at 10:30am. The Cochran Fellowship provides education on how U.S. inspection and food safety laws and regulations are created, monitored and enforced on a national and port level. The goal of the fellowship opportunity is to demonstrate the effectiveness of U.S. port inspections and U.S. food safety regulations along with the safety of U.S. food products in order to reduce interruption of U.S. Shipment of Agricultural products at China ports.

If you are interested in attending please [register here](#).

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars

Proposed open seminars are under consideration in Tokyo, Japan in the last half 2017.

NAEGA also conducts company specific private seminars. Please let us know if you are interested attending or hosting a NAEGA seminar. Click [here](#) for more information the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!

Internships

We have an open intern position starting January 2017 to work at the NAEGA office at 1400 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. Information on working for NAEGA as an intern can be found [here](#).

Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the [NAEGA Member's Only Page](#).

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Action Reports

Recent Actions:

Vietnam Fumigation Proposal

Over the past few month NAEGA has been working closely with industry and the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to develop a phytosanitary protocol for exports of DDGs, wheat and corn in bulk and containers to Vietnam. APHIS has now released draft fumigation plans for containers and bulk cargoes that were shared with Vietnam's Plant Protection Department (PPD) last week. APHIS is optimistic that PPD will soon be deferring to APHIS phyto-sanitary certifications for imports of the U.S. origin products based on these protocols. When PPD approves these documents, APHIS is confident that an APHIS phyto will be sufficient for import into Vietnam.

The draft documents include:

- [Fumigation requirements for bulk DDGs, corn and wheat;](#)
- [Fumigation requirements for containerized DDGs, corn and wheat;](#)
- [Industry requirements for containerized fumigation;](#)
- [FGIS checklist for official inspection of corn, wheat and DDGs to Vietnam](#)

Please let Gary or Ryan know if you have any comments on these documents.

Decree 177

NAEGA continues to stand-by to support industry and answer any questions regarding continued U.S. government and industry efforts to ensure compliance with China's Decree 177. As part of this support, please refer to the following document containing a detailed background on NAEGA efforts to date. The background is drawn from NAEGA Outreach reporting over the last 18 months.

- [China Decree 177 background](#)

Risk Based Sampling Symposium

[A trip report is now available](#) for NAEGA Senior Advisor Arvid Hawk's travel to Baltimore and Arlington, VA to attend the Risk Based Sampling Symposium on June 25-30. In Baltimore, Arvid attended and reported back on the RBS symposium, which sought to educate industry and regulators on risk-based sampling methods that provide a consistent and reliable measure of action rates for commodities, approach rates for pests, and infestation rates for shipments. Arvid is NAEGA Senior Advisor specializing in sampling and meeting product specifications. He attended and gathered information in order to advance understanding of RBS applications to GRNOS.

Following his attendance at the RBS Symposium, Mr. Hawk traveled on to Arlington, VA to brief NAEGA staff and discuss his work plan for the remainder of 2017.

IPPC IAG Meeting

[A trip report is now available](#) for IGTC Secretariat Katy Lee's travel to Arlington, VA to advance NAEGA and IGTC efforts regarding the utilization of information technology to improve security, predictability and efficiency in the international movement of grain. Between June 26 and 28 Katy traveled to Arlington participate in:

- International Plant Protection Convention's (IPPC) ePhyto Hub Industry Advisory Group: On June 27, NAEGA-hosted a meeting at NAEGA's Arlington, VA headquarters of the IPPC's EPhyto Hub Industry Advisory Group (IAG). The advisory group met at the request of IPPC Secretary Jingyuan Xia and was attended by six global trade flows and five national government representatives. Ms. Lee organized and attended as a representative of the IGTC.
- Meeting of the ePhyto Pproject Industry Advisory Group with representatives of Embassies and Consulates in Washington, D.C.: On June 28 Ms. Lee coordinated with IPPC and the Canadian Embassy meetings on the progress of the project, the impact on GRNOS and NAEGA UES accomplishments related to trading documentation technologies.

Geneva IGTC Meetings

A [trip report is now available](#) for travel to Geneva on June 20-24 for Gary Martin, President and CEO of NAEGA and President of the IGTC. In Geneva, Gary joined Katy, Secretariat of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), for a series of meetings to support NAEGA 2017 and 2018 UES objectives largely executed via the IGTC. In particular, Gary held meetings to report on and receive recommendations for IGTC actions to address facilitation of trade with China, to consider parameters for the establishment of new commercial and official practices related to information management and implementation of regulations and to explore options for modification of the IGTC business plan. During his time in Geneva, Gary and Katy met with IGTC members and corporate stakeholders to update them on the implementation of the IGTC Business Plan and recent developments in IGTC policy filed.

Upcoming Actions:

IGC MCC Meeting – London, UK – September 8

On Friday, September 8 Katy Lee, Secretariat of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) will travel to London to attend and participate in the International Grain's Council's (IGC) Market Conditions Committee (MCC) meeting. During the meeting Katy will be presenting before the MCC on *Current Developments in Policy and Practice* as part of the IGTC's continued and regular engagement with the IGC.

A copy of the IGC MCC agenda can be found [here](#).

U.S.-China AQSIQ Survey Team – Mid-West – September 10-20

On September 10-20 NAEGA Senior Advisor Kirk Miller will join a group of China AQSIQ officials for a survey tour of grain supply chain facilities in the Mid-West. The trip, supported by the USDA FAS, NAEGA, U.S. Soybean Export Council, U.S. Grains Council, American Soybean Association and the United Soybean Board, is meant to educate AQSIQ officials on the U.S. export supply chain and the fungible, comingled nature of U.S. grain and oilseed exports as part of U.S. government and industry efforts to comply with Decree 177 facility registration requirements. During their travel, the team will be visiting facilities along the Mid-West, Mississippi River and Gulf Coast in Kansas City, St. Louis, Memphis and Galveston. The trip will conclude with a briefing in Washington, D.C.

IMO CCC – London, UK – September 11-15

On September 11-15 Katy Lee, Secretariat of the IGTC, will travel to London, UK to participate in the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Subcommittee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC). In London, Katy will be working closely with the International Dry Bulk Terminals Association, to monitor and respond to developments impacting the global grain and oilseed trade. A notice to post for this travel will be available shortly.

A copy of the IMO CCC agenda can be found [here](#).

Pending Actions:

APHIS Consultations on IPPC Activities

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is accepting consultations on three draft specifications and 13 draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) from the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Draft Specifications:

- [Revision of ISPM 12](#)
- [Audit of phytosanitary context](#)
- [Supplement to ISPM 11](#)

Draft ISMPs:

- [2017 Amendments to ISPM 5: Glossary of phytosanitary terms](#)
- [International movement of cut flowers and foliage](#)
- [Requirements for the use of fumigation as a phytosanitary measure](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Bactrocera dorsalis complex](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Conotrachelus nenuphar](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Ips spp](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Xylella fastidiosa](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Puccinia psidii](#)
- [Revision of Diagnostic Protocol: Plus pox virus](#)
- [Revision of ISPM 6: Surveillance](#)
- [Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as a phytosanitary measure](#)
- [Draft revision of Annexes 1 & 2 to ISPM15](#)
- [Draft 2015 and 2016 amendments to ISPM 5 Glossary of phytosanitary terms](#)

Please contact Gary or Ryan if you are interested in contributing to any of these comments.

CFIA Consultations for Canada-U.S. RCC

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is seeking input from stakeholders for the development of new cooperation opportunities and prioritization of existing initiatives under the Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC). The purpose of this consultation is to provide an additional mechanism to seek stakeholder feedback on the prioritization of work plan initiatives currently being pursued between the CFIA and its U.S. regulatory counterparts, and to solicit input on potential opportunities for the future. There is no firm deadline for completion of this consultation. However, CFIA's tentative timeframe for collecting input is by fall of this year. Input [can be submitted at this link](#).

USTR Comments on Russia, China and the NTE

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is seeking public comments on China and Russia's obligations and implementation efforts in connection to their accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and requesting assistance with identifying significant trade barriers for preparation of the annual National Trade Estimate report.

Russia's Implementation of its WTO Commitments

The USTR will convene a public hearing and seeks comments to assist the in the preparation of its annual report to Congress on Russia's implementation of its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The deadline for filing written testimony is September 22, 2017. The hearing will take place on September 28, 2017.

China's Compliance with WTO Commitments

The USTR is seeking comments and will convene a public hearing to assist in preparing its annual report to Congress on China's compliance with the commitments made in connection with its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The deadline for filing written testimony is September 20, 2017. The hearing will take place on October 4, 2017.

National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers

The USTR is seeking comments to help identify significant barriers to U.S. exports of goods, services, and U.S. foreign direct investment for inclusion in the National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (NTE). All written comments must be received by 11:59pm on October 25, 2017.

If you are interested in contributing to any of these comments please contact Gary or Ryan.

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In the News

NAFTA negotiations begin

On Wednesday, August 16 the first round of negotiations for the North American Free Trade Agreement begin at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. Negotiations opened with briefs statements by [Robert Lighthizer, U.S. Trade Representative](#), Crystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Canadian Chief Negotiator, and Ildefonso Guajardo, Mexican Secretary of Economy and Chief Negotiator. The first negotiating round is expected to conclude on August 16 and negotiations are expected to continue through at least the early part of 2018.

If you would like more information, or wish to provide comments on any of these news topics monitored by NAEGA, please contact us.

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Calendar & Member Notices

Click [here](#) for a Copy of the IGTC Calendar

2017

August

- 16-20** – First Round of NAFTA Negotiations – Washington, D.C.
- 17** – APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology – Vietnam
- 30** – Ohio Soybean Council Event – Columbus, OH

September

- 1-5** – Second Round of NAFTA Negotiations - Mexico
- 8** – IGC Market Conditions Committee, London, UK
- 10-20** – U.S.-China AQSIQ Survey Team visit – Mid-West
- 11-15**- IMO CCCC – London, UK
- 12** – Taiwan Goodwill Mission Reception – Washington, D.C.
- 13** – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting. Arlington, VA
- 14** – China CIQ Cochran Fellows Meeting – Arlington, VA
- 14** – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual
- 20** – China Compliance with WTO Commitments Comments Due
- 22** – USTR Comments on Russia WTO Implementation Due
- 28** – USTR Hearing on Russia WTO Implementation
- 28** – European Commission high-level conference on modern biotechnology in agriculture – Brussels, Belgium

October

- 4** – Hearing on China Compliance with WTO Commitments
- 16-19** – 41st Annual NAPPO Meeting - Merida, Mexico
- 25** – National Trade Estimate Report Comments Due

November

- 13-17** – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

14-16 – Global Grain Geneva

16 – IGTC General Assembly – Arlington, VA

TBD – USDA FGIS Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

27 – IGTC General Assembly – Beijing, China

December

TBD –NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – Tokyo, Japan

3 – NGFA Country Elevator Conference

5 – 46th IGC Council Session – London, UK

6-8 – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

2018

March

18-20 – NGFA Annual Convention – Scottsdale, Arizona

18-20 – NAEGA Annual Meetings – Scottsdale, Arizona

26-28 – Canadian Global Crops Symposium – Toronto, Canada

December

TBD – COP 14 – Egypt

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