March 11, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the Golden State for the Trilateral Working Group on Harmonization for the Tri-National Agricultural Accord to be held April 17-18, 2008 in Sacramento, California. The California Department of Food and Agriculture invites you to continue the longstanding cooperation between Canada, Mexico and the United States in tri-lateral trade for agriculture.

Located in California’s Capital City, conference attendees can visit Sacramento’s historic old town center, taste some of the our state’s finest agricultural products and tour local farming operations. California is known for its diversity and innovation – we welcome you to experience these qualities while in Sacramento.

We have a block of 30 rooms saved under “Tri-Accord” at the Inn Off Capitol Park, being held until Tuesday, April 1, 2008 on a first-come, first-serve basis. You must make your own hotel reservations. The hotel is within a short walking distance to the meetings at the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Please send in the attached registration form and secure hotel reservations by April 1, 2008. A draft agenda is also attached.

Please join us as we work to foster closer cooperation in the areas of trade and food safety harmonization.

Sincerely,

A.G. Kawamura
Secretary
Sacramento, California
April 17-18, 2008
Meeting Registration Form
Please fax to (916) 653-4723

Registration Form and Hotel Reservation Deadline: April 1, 2008

Contact Information

First Name:___________________________ Last Name:___________________________

Title:______________________________

Agency:______________________________

Address:______________________________

City:_________________________ State/Province:_____________ Zip:_____________

Phone:_________________ Mobile:_____________ Email:_______________________

Guest:

First Name:___________________________ Last Name:___________________________

Hotel Reservations

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Inn Off Capitol Park
1530 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 447-8100
(916) 341-0798 (fax)
www.innoffcapitolpark.com
Draft Agenda
Harmonization Working Group Meeting

Wednesday, April 16

3:00-7:00 pm  Border Governor’s Agricultural Worktable  
*For representatives of US and Mexico border states*

7:00 pm  Joint Border Governor’s/Tri-Accord Dinner  
*Location to be determined*

Thursday, April 17

7:00 am  Breakfast provided at hotel

8:00 am– 12:00 pm  Trilateral Working Group on Harmonization

  Opening Remarks by national representatives

  Potential speakers from the following groups/agencies or on specific topics:

  Guest speaker Dr. Dan Sheesley, Deputy Administrator Int’l Services, APHIS
  • Review current mechanisms to harmonize animal, plant and food safety standards among the NAFTA countries

  Guest speaker Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, California State Veterinarian
  • Animal Health issues –harmonization issues
  • Veterinary biologics (per Canada’s priority)

  Potential speakers on the following suggested topics
  • North American Plant Protection Organization
  • FDA or other appropriate food safety agency
  • Leafy Green Marketing Agreement
  • Organic agriculture

Noon to 1:00 pm  Lunch

1:00-6:30  Agricultural tours

6:30  Trilateral Working Group Dinner
Draft Agenda
Harmonization Working Group Meeting

FRIDAY, April 18

7:00 am  Breakfast provided at hotel

8:00 am – 11:30 pm  Trilateral Working Group on Harmonization Meeting

  Continuation of speakers and topics

  Review Current Federal Actions and Plans on Harmonization among the NAFTA Countries

11:30 am to 12:00 pm  Conclusion and outcome document signing

12:00 pm-1:00 pm  Lunch