



TIMBER & WOOD PROCESSING PROGRAM

JUNE 19 - JULY 17, 2004

FOR THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

SCOPE AND MISSION

The Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT) Timber and Wood Processing Program is designed to train 18 mid- to senior-level executives from timber and wood processing companies from the Russian Far East. These delegates, screened and selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce, represent a handful of entrepreneurial timber and wood processing companies from reform-minded regions of the Russian Far East. This program will introduce participants to the status and trends of the U.S. timber and wood processing industry. A list of participants and their biographies and other program information is available at www.mac.doc.gov/sabit/timber.htm.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The program's goal is to provide the management and technical skills necessary for the delegates to increase efficiency and implement reforms in their companies. Such reforms may include increased transparency, strengthened corporate responsibility and sound economic policies which will promote a stable environment for investment and business development.

To accomplish this, the SABIT program looks to American-held timber and wood processing companies to share their expertise pertaining to the latest logging and wood processing technologies, strategic planning, and market development. These meetings and contacts will promote the development of the timber and wood processing sector in the Russian Far East, while simultaneously providing export opportunities for U.S. timber and wood processing products and services.

HOST THIS DELEGATION

SABIT is currently looking for U.S. hosts to provide training for a few hours or for an entire day at their facilities in topics such as forest and timber management, forest management and economics, harvesting and logging equipment and above all wood processing technologies and equipment.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

This is a unique opportunity for U.S. companies to provide industry insight and training while creating business opportunities with their Russian counterparts by learning about potential opportunities in Russia and establishing valuable industry contacts.

Currently, vast amounts of Russian timber are exported to Northeast Asia and in the next ten years exports are expected to climb substantially. Thus, the delegates are seeking to expand their wood processing divisions to create additional value for their exports. These market trends result in potential business opportunities for American timber and wood processing companies

SABIT is searching for companies eager to share their unique processing capabilities, new product design innovations and solutions which are in high demand in the Russian Far East. Key industry leaders as well as small-scale operations are equally welcome to participate in this program. American-held corporations that manufacture wood processing equipment are particularly encouraged to participate.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

This program will begin in mid-June in Washington, DC with an orientation and visits to relevant government agencies and associations in the National Capital Area. In addition, the delegation will be trained in business planning and business negotiation techniques. During the remaining three weeks the delegation will travel westward to key timber industry locations to meet with timber and wood processing organizations, ultimately finishing on the West Coast in mid-July.

COSTS OF PARTICIPATION

SABIT will cover the majority of program costs for all delegates, including round-trip airfare to the United States, all U.S. domestic air travel, housing, insurance, per diem for meals and incidentals, and interpreters to travel with the group. In turn, U.S. host companies and organizations are asked to provide industry expertise in any topics pertaining to this particular program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about this program, please contact SABIT Program Recruiter Benjamin Chapman.

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