

**8 January, 2007**

**GLOBAL APPAREL INDUSTRY LEADERS SET TO MEET AGAIN IN HONG KONG**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The organisers of the next edition of **Prime Source Forum** have released details of the Outline Programme for the 2007 edition of this annual meeting of the “Movers and Shakers” of the global apparel industry.

The programme opens on the morning of 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre with a Keynote address by Paul Charron, the Chairman Emeritus of Liz Claiborne who will set the stage for in-depth discussions on the many challenges and opportunities facing this multi-billion-dollar industry.

Details of the confirmed speakers and moderators are attached (*Appendix A*) and the following subjects will be discussed over the two-day meeting where some 500 apparel industry related executives from all over the world are expected to meet with their peers and discuss issues of mutual interest both during and outside the following formal sessions:

**DAY 1 29 MARCH 2007**

**Keynote address:** Mr Paul Charron, Chairman Emeritus, Liz Claiborne Inc

**The Sourcing Environment**

A distinguished panel of executives from U.S. and E.U. based brands and retailers will set forth the manufacturing requirements dictated by market trends, interacting with factory spokespeople who will address current and emerging capabilities to deal with those needs.

**Trade Matters**

Although quota concerns are, for the most part, behind us, other threats remain. The panel will discuss global and area issues related to trade.

## **Compliance & Social Responsibility**

Buyers and sellers alike must ensure that the apparel industry embraces all compliance requirements. Workers rights, environmental concerns, social responsibility and related topics will be the subject of this panel.

## **DAY 2 30 MARCH 2007**

### **A Unique perspective**

"Lessons learned from our Footwear Friends"

Kevin Burke, President/CEO, American Apparel and Footwear Association

### **The Changing Role of the Retailer**

An assessment of how the retail landscape has changed and what it portends for the future.

### **Training and Education**

The prospect of global work shifts dictates that factories develop new skills, in new locations, so that customers can be serviced properly. This will require extensive education and training. A panel of distinguished educators will address this daunting challenge.

### **Technical Issues and Logistics**

Given our rapidly changing world, technical and logistical capabilities must evolve to ensure the highest level of information flow and planning. The panel will discuss new developments and the tasks that lie ahead.

### **Market Issues**

Representatives of China, India and Vietnam will brief the Forum on latest developments and future prospects in their respective countries.

### **The Forum will close with a summary by Mr Bob Zane, Chairman, USA ITA.**

Prime Source Forum is endorsed and supported by major trade associations servicing the apparel industry.

*(See Appendix B)*

*Speakers currently awaiting confirmation include senior representatives from China, India, Vietnam and the World Trade Organization.*

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## **APPENDIX A**

The following industry specialists have to-date confirmed their participation as moderators / panelists at Prime Source Forum 2007:

- **Mr Kevin Burke**, President/CEO, American Apparel and Footwear Associatio
- **Mr Peter Liu**, Chairman, Textile & Apparel Committee, American Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong
- **Mr Barry Shapiro**, SVP Operations, Chico FAS, Inc
- **Prof Philip K.W. Yeung**, Executive Director, Clothing Industry Training Authority, Hong Kong
- **Mr Michael Flanagan**, Publishing Director, Clothesource
- **Mr Doug Cahn**, - recently the head of the Human Rights Programmes with a major brand owner and retailer-currently independent consultant
- **Dr John Cheh**, Vice Chairman, Esquel Group
- **Ms Tammy Rodrigues**, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, Esquel Enterprises Ltd
- **Mr Andrew Kahn**, Chairman, Kahn Lucas Lancaster Inc
- **Mr Sean Cady**, Senior Manager of Environment, Health and Safety, Global Code of Conduct Department, Levi Strauss & Co
- **Mr Paul Charron**, Chairman Emeritus, Liz Claiborne Inc
- **Mr Gary Ross**, Corporate VP, Global Manufacturing and Sourcing, Liz Claiborne Inc
- **Mr Glen Tinton**, Head of Sourcing, Marks & Spencer Ltd
- **Mr Simon Shephard-Walwyn**, Director of Strategic Planning, Mexx
- **Mr Allan Wong**, CEO, OOCL Logistics
- **Ms Emma Ormond**, International Trade Consultant, Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP
- **Ms Brenda Jacobs**, Attorney, Sidley Austin LLP

- **Mr Mike Fralix**, President, [TC] 2
- **Ms Mary E. Kissel**, Editor, The Wall Street Journal Asia
- **Mr Bob Zane**, Chairman, United States Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel
- **Ms Julie Hughes**, Senior Vice President, United States Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel
- **Dr Marsha Ann Dickson**, Professor and Chairperson, Department of Fashion & Apparel Studies, University of Delaware
- **Mr Thomas Glaser**, President, Supply Chain Europe/Asia, VF International SAGL

*Speakers currently awaiting confirmation include senior representatives from China, India, Vietnam and the World Trade Organization.*

## **APPENDIX B – ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS**

### **AAFA**

The American Apparel & Footwear Association is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear and other sewn products companies and their suppliers, which compete in the global market and whose combined industries account for more than \$225 billion in yearly retail sales. AAFA members also produce more than 85 percent of apparel and footwear sold at wholesale each year in the United States. AAFA members manufacture and market all types of apparel and footwear and are located in virtually every state, as well as internationally. AAFA's mission is to promote and enhance its members' competitiveness, productivity and profitability in the global market.

### **FTA**

The Foreign Trade Association is the only European trade association that represents the foreign trade interests of European commerce. It advocates free world trade and the liberal development and strengthening of the multilateral trading system within the framework of the World Trade Organisation. Headquartered in Brussels, its members are national retail trade associations and individual firms from nearly all European countries.

### **USA ITA**

The United States Association of Importers of Textiles & Apparel (USA-ITA) is a non-profit making industry association representing the interests of the textile/apparel importing community before Congress, the Administration, U.S. Customs, other regulatory agencies, the business community and the public. Its members include manufacturers, distributors, retailers,

and related service providers, such as shipping lines and customs brokers. USA-ITA members account for over \$61 billion in U.S. sales annually and source from around the world.

### **HKTC**

The Textile Council of Hong Kong, as a body representing all major textile associations, acts as a voice for the textile industry on matters that affect the industry. Such matters mainly concern with commercial policies affecting Hong Kong's textiles exports such as quotas and anti-dumping actions, Hong Kong's textile export controls system, the employment ordinance, environmental rules and regulations, taxation and tariff etc. It also undertakes by itself or jointly with other organizations study missions, projects, seminars and other activities.

*Reference: [www.primesourceforum.com](http://www.primesourceforum.com)*