



For Immediate Release
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CAFTA: More Fabrics, More Flexibility, More Duty-Free Fashions!

(Guatemala and New York Cities) In advance of the 17th annual Apparel Sourcing Show, the Guatemala Trade Office and the United States Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel (USA-ITA) are hosting a breakfast seminar in New York on March 6, 2008, to highlight the advantages and opportunities stemming from the U.S.-Central America and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) for the region.

The program, "CAFTA: More Fabrics, More Flexibility, More Duty-Free Fashions!" will feature remarks from a panel of experts on how CAFTA benefits are enhancing the ability of Guatemala's textile and apparel industry to respond with speed and flexibility to the ever-changing demands of the U.S. retail market. The program includes:

- **Carlos Arias, President of Koramsa**, who will share his perspective of CAFTA's impact on garment production in Guatemala. Additionally, Mr. Arias will be joined by one of his U.S. customers, and one of his regional fabric suppliers to better illustrate the complete CAFTA-qualifying supply chain;
- **Richard Stetson, Department of Commerce's Office of Textiles and Apparel** who will outline tips to understanding and using the Agreement's short supply provisions, highlighting CAFTA's flexible range of fabric options; and
- **Julia K. Hughes, USA-ITA Senior Vice President** who will provide an overview of current trade patterns and benefits, as well as the soon-to-be implemented cumulation benefits (which will further expand CAFTA's duty-free fabric options) and "pocketing" changes.

For additional information or to register to attend the New York program, please contact the Guatemala Trade Office at (212) 689-1014 or guatrade@aol.com.

The 2008 Apparel Sourcing Show, "DR-CAFTA apparel marketplace...closer than ever," is scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 13-15, 2008 in Guatemala City. Additional information is available at the Apparel Sourcing Show website: <http://www.apparelexpo.com>

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Endorsed by the United States Association of Importers of Textiles & Apparel (USA-ITA)

