

**Tuesday, September 24, 2002:**

**COUNTY INVITES BUSINESS OWNERS TO JOIN TRADE MISSION TO CHINA**

November 7th - 17th trip will seek small business export opportunities in an improving trade environment

**EVENT:**

Los Angeles County officials invite local small business owners to join a trade mission to the People's Republic of China (PRC), scheduled for November 7th through 17th, which will seek export opportunities with prescreened business partners in that country. Participants will visit a variety of cities, including Beijing (the nation's capital), Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong. There will be meetings with government officials, banquets, and one-on-one business meetings in each city.

This trade mission is being organized by the County's Small Business Commission and the County's Office of Small Business (OSB) - which is a unit of the County Community Development Commission ([www.lacdc.org](http://www.lacdc.org)) -- and is designed to place local small businesses in a competitive trade position. Various signs point to an improving trade environment; for example: there appears to be greater political stability in mainland China, economic projections are upbeat, and the PRC's recent acceptance into the World Trade Organization (WTO) is expected to lower trade barriers. Officials believe that excellent export potential exists in many areas, including medical technology, airport equipment, pollution control, agro-processing, computer hardware and software, telecommunications, and consumer goods.

Business owners interested in learning more about this exciting trade mission may contact the County OSB at 323-260-2311 or go online at [www.laosb.org/ChinaTradeMission2002.htm](http://www.laosb.org/ChinaTradeMission2002.htm).

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