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**ANSI/CNCA MOU Signing Ceremony**  
April 18, 2008

word count: 604 (approximately 4.8 minutes)

Thank you.

On behalf of the American National Standards Institute's Board of Directors, members and staff, it is my pleasure to join with Administrator Sun Dawei in signing this Memorandum of Understanding.

ANSI and CNCA are taking the next steps toward strengthening the cross border trade of goods and services between the United States and China.

Our cooperation in the area of conformity assessment will help to strengthen the global economy while also helping to assure the safety and health of consumers and the protection of our environment.

We are extremely honored to build this MOU on a solid foundation.

ANSI has enjoyed a very positive history with our counterparts in the People's Republic of China . . . .

- The Institute's bilateral relationships with AQSIQ<sup>1</sup> . . . . SAC<sup>2</sup> . . . . and CNCA<sup>3</sup> span more than 20 years.
- Our partnership in global standardization activities dates back to 1947 when our respective nations joined together as founding members of the International Organization for Standardization.
- And our relationship in conformity assessment continues today through shared memberships in many bodies – including the International Accreditation Forum<sup>4</sup>.

*(pause)*

Over the last several years, U.S.-China trade figures have told a story of growth and transformation:

- In 2000, U.S. imports from China surpassed 100 billion dollars for the first time.

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<sup>1</sup> General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China

<sup>2</sup> Standardization Administration of China

<sup>3</sup> Certification and Accreditation Administration of the P.R. China

<sup>4</sup>The CNCA membership in IAF is via its China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS)

- It took only three more years for the trade volume to surpass 150 billion dollars.
- Just four years later – in 2007 – U.S. imports from China had more than doubled to more than 321.5 billion dollars.
- From the U.S. perspective, China has become the third largest . . . and fastest growing . . . export market.

But last year's product quality and safety incidents have called into question the stability of the global supply chain.

Renewing confidence in the minds of buyers that products comply with all the standards, rules and regulations that exist for the receiving market is a real and significant challenge.

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There could be no better time for this new partnership to be formalized.

ANSI and CNCA must work together to verify that the products headed for local markets comply with the standards and technical regulations that are already in place.

We must capture the standards and compliance solutions that are already working, build upon them, and make them better.

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By focusing this MOU on the exchange of information, we are making a commitment to empower business leaders, policy makers and consumers with the conformity assessment information resources they need.

One of the tools that is available to us is the U.S.-China Standards Portal, a unique bilingual website that was launched in September 2006 as a partnership between ANSI and SAC with support from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The Standards Portal already provides instant access to information from the U.S. and China on voluntary standards, mandatory requirements . . . but there is only basic information available about the related compliance programs.

The site was designed with the functionality and flexibility to expand with new information and to accommodate the needs of new stakeholders.

We look forward to partnering with you to enhance the Standards Portal with conformity assessment information that will support the stakeholders in our respective nations.

*(pause)*

We look forward to partnering with you to assure the safety and health of consumers and the protection of our environment.

*(pause)*

And we look forward to partnering with you to renew confidence in the strength of the global supply chain.

We are all poised to benefit from the fertile partnerships we will grow together.

Thank you.

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