U.S. – China HPA Health Products Association 美中健康产品协会

CHINA UPDATES

July 18, 2017 – Issue 255

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US-China HPA to Host its Annual Sports Nutrition Summit

China's Sports Nutrition Industry is on the rise growing at approximately 20 percent per year. A good measure of the industry's growth is to take a look at expo attendance. FIBO China is China's premier expo for fitness and sports nutrition. ReedSinopharm, organizers of FIBO China, said they have seen almost a three-fold increase of international sports nutrition brands attending this year's event compared with last years.

Due to the rapid growth and great potential for this segment of the health product industry, US-China Health Products Association established its annual "China International Sports Nutrition Industry Summit" in 2016. This year the summit will be held on September 6, 2017 in Shanghai the day before FIBO China, which is also held in Shanghai.

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The summit is an all day event and covers regulatory, cross border e-commerce, China's fitness industry overview, expert industry insights, consumer trends, cutting edge ingredients and much more.

Who should attend, finished product companies, ingredient suppliers, distributors and anyone interested in this quickly expanding segment. The agenda should be available in the coming weeks. To get an understanding of the type of event this will be, you can review last year's (2016) event information HERE.

The association and its members look forward to seeing you in Shanghai. If you have questions or would like to reserve a spot, send the association an email at: summit@uschinahpa.org (Source: USCHPA)

Kunming Set Up Food Safety Monitoring System

The local health authority of Kunming recently launched a campaign to educate more consumers on the food safety issues,

The authority invited over 40 citizens to visit the food safety lab of disease control and was taught about how to safeguard their food safety.

Kunming so far has set up a comprehensive food safety risk management network. The network has covered the food supply chain from farm to fork. The monitor samples include meat product, dairy product, wheat product, eggs, vegetable, fruit and other food.

The network aims to spot illegal food additives, pesticide, bacteria and pathogenic bacteria etc. (Source: cnfood.com)

China Establishes National Center for Children's Health

A National Center for Children's Health was opened in both Beijing and Shanghai on Thursday.

The center is based at three of the country's best children's hospitals in Beijing and Shanghai.

In Beijing, the center is based at the Beijing Children's Hospital under Capital Medical University. In Shanghai, it is based at the Children's Hospital of Fudan University and the Shanghai Children's Medical Center under Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

The center will focus on treatment of complicated illnesses and training of pediatricians to meet rising demand. It will also function as a data collection center on major illnesses affecting children in China and an epidemic monitoring and research body.

"One of the urgent priorities is to deepen research on birth defects and improve diagnosis of illness such as congenital heart diseases," said Ni Xin, director of the Beijing Children's Hospital.

Statistics show that by the end 2015, China had 227 million children under the age of 14, accounting for about 16.52 percent of the national population.

The center will help balance medical resources by raising standards of children's hospitals in neighboring cities, Ni said. (Source: Xinhua)

Campbell Soup to buy Pacific Foods to boost health food offerings

Campbell Soup Co (CPB.N) said on Thursday it would buy Pacific Foods, which makes organic

soups and broths, for $700 million in cash to boost its health food options amid changing consumer tastes.

The world's largest soupmaker has been reporting weak sales as demand for packaged foods in the United States has taken a hit as consumers increasingly prefer healthier foods, pushing companies to invest in organic and fresh-food businesses.

Campbell, which also sells Pepperidge Farm snacks and Prego pasta sauce, created its own fresh-food unit in 2015 to sell carrots, carrot ingredients, refrigerated beverages and salad dressings, but the business has been struggling.

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The soupmaker said in May it would partner with Chef'd and invest $10 million in the meal-kit company, stepping up its efforts to provide healthier foods.

Pacific Foods, which would be part of Campbell's Americas simple meals and beverages business, had generated about $218 million in net sales in the 12 months ended May 31, Campbell said.

Sales in this unit, Campbell's largest by revenue, dipped 2 percent in the third quarter ended April 30, partly hurt by weak demand for condensed soups and broths as well as V8 vegetable juices. (Source: Reuters)

Vendor Fined for Selling Health Food Without Chinese Logo

Meng Yuan, an online import health food vendor on Taobao.com, was fined for selling a kind of Q10 product without putting on Chinese logo.

Xie Ke, a customer sued Mr. Meng for selling this kind of products, after he bought 30 bottles of Q10 products imported from Australia from Mr. Meng's online store. In the verdict by the local court of Chengdu, Mr. Meng was fined for nearly 60,000 yuan for not putting on Chinese logo on his products.

Mr. Xie said that these products were sold without Chinese logo, which violated the country's food safety law. He cited relevant regulations in the law in the law suit.

"The involved products were sold without Chinese logo so it was difficult for ordinary consumers to know what kind of nutritional elements were in the products," said Mr. Xie. "It was also difficult to get to know all the other information related to food

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safety, which made it risky for us to take the health food." (Source: Chengdu Business News)

Chinese Shoppers Are Flush With Hidden Income and Ready to Spend

Chinese consumers may have a lot more cash at their disposal than previously thought -- and they're ready to flash it.

That's the upshot of two items throwing fresh light on the outlook for consumer spending, a key metric in China's much-vaunted shift from an investment- and export-led economy to one more based on people buying things like holidays, clothing and cell-phones.

Official survey-based disposable income data could have underestimated citizens' true spending power by as much as 20 percent, according to research by the government-backed Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, That's because the official sampling isn't good enough to reflect the affluence households have gained through investment returns, CASS says.

And households are the most optimistic they've been in more than two years, a private consumer confidence report released Tuesday showed.

"We're richer than the data suggests, and the potential for spending is bigger than it looks," said Zhao Wen, a labor economics analyst leading the research. "Consumption will continue to be an important driver for economic expansion in the future."

The shift is reflected by the new champions of the nation's economy: not industrial giants but retail and services innovators. Tencent Holdings Ltd and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd have become China's largest corporations in the past year.

Consumption spending, including government outlays, accounted for more than three quarters of economic expansion in the first three months of 2017, as growth accelerated for the second straight quarter. The challenge for policy makers led by President Xi Jinping now is to keep disposable income rising -- as they've pledged to do -- even while they're trying to deflate property-market bubbles and crimp the amount of leverage during the longer-term slowdown of the world's second-largest economy.

Success isn't automatic. As China faces stiffer wage competition from its neighbors, wage growth is moderating. Growth of median per-capita disposable income decelerated to 6.7 percent in the first quarter, down from 8.3 percent last year and slower than GDP expansion for the first time since the National Bureau of Statistics began releasing a gauge covering both rural and urban households in March 2014.

The NBS pays a rotating sample of around 160,000 households across the nation to report their daily income and spending habits, generating quarterly data on how much they can spend. Yet persuading people to be honest about their wealth is no easy task, and it's almost impossible to track how much people earn through investment of stocks and properties.

"Poorer people, such as those depending on a living allowance, need to let others know they're short of money, while those in possession of properties, savings and securities are reluctant to reveal the size of their wealth," Zhao said.

At CASS, Zhao creates an estimate of disposable income using not survey data, but accounts that follow the flow of money within the sectors of the economy, such as salary data, or the interest and investment returns offered to retail investors. That creates a significantly different picture to what the surveyed households say about their own finances.

And households already report a bullish outlook. Based on their view of their own finances, job prospects and their willingness to spend, Nielsen Holdings Plc's Consumer Confidence Index rose to 110 in the first quarter of 2017, up from 108 in the fourth quarter last year, and the highest reading since the third quarter of 2014. The willingness to spend component is at its highest level since at least 2009.

For now, positive growth data, rising property prices and expanding credit volumes are fueling the urge to part with cash.

"People are aiming at purchasing high-end goods and services, and this trend will further stimulate spending intentions," said Vishal Bali, managing director of Nielsen China in Shanghai. Even though the economy is slowing down, the growth of the consumer as a powerful force on the world stage "shows little sign of abating," he said. (Source: Bloomberg)

China Updates is published weekly by the U.S. – China Health Products Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of dietary supplements and nutritional ingredients. The association's major focus is the continued development of China's overall natural health product industry and to offer its global members a wide variety of business services to assist in their China endeavors.

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