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American Hardwood Export Council - Southeast Asia & Greater China

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Chinese New Year Exchange Forum in Shanghai

John Chan and Valarie Brown, Director of ATO in Shanghai were invited to join the Chinese New Year Exchange Forum which organized by Shanghai Timber Trade Association in early Feb. They discussed the new opportunity of American hardwood market in China, future challenges, trend and environmental issues and AHEC program promoting American hardwoods. The group of 10 importers has imported nearly US\$150 million of American hardwood lumber in 2016 and accounted 13% of the total import of American lumber in China market. The group told that 2017 export of American lumber to China will slow down but still shows slightly growth from 2016 due to the logging ban of temperate hardwood in Northeastern China. But china's domestic demand is still strong. They said log demand for lumber apart from producing veneer would be a new trend because their cutting in Metric system would give higher yield. The depreciation of the Yuan could be a factor to affect the growth rate but the stable property market still make the interior decoration industry to continue to grow. Certain species such as tulipwood and maple and Hickory could be slowing down but demand of red oak, white oak, ash, cherry and walnut could maintain strong momentum.

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