

transfer programs on this distribution. They also need improved and expanded data on the income and general economic and financial situation of the U.S. population. The SIPP has provided these kinds of data on a continuing basis since 1983, permitting levels of economic well-being and changes in these levels to be measured over time.

The survey is molded around a central "core" of labor force and income questions that remain fixed throughout the life of a panel. The core is supplemented with questions designed to answer specific needs, such as estimating eligibility for government programs, examining pension and health care coverage, and analyzing individual net worth. These supplemental questions are included with the core and are referred to as "topical modules."

The topical modules for the 2008 Panel Wave 2 are Work History, Education and Training History, Marital History, Fertility History, Migration History, Household Relationships, and Tax Rebate. These topical modules were previously conducted in the SIPP 2004 Panel Wave 2 instrument, with the exception of the Tax Rebate topical module, which was previously conducted in the SIPP 2008 Wave 1 instrument. Wave 2 interviews will be conducted from January through April 2009.

The SIPP is designed as a continuing series of national panels of interviewed households that are introduced every few years, with each panel having durations of approximately 3 to 4 years. The 2008 Panel is scheduled for four years and four months and will include thirteen waves, which will begin September 1, 2008. All household members 15 years old or over are interviewed using regular proxy-respondent rules. They are interviewed a total of thirteen times (thirteen waves), at 4-month intervals, making the SIPP a longitudinal survey. Sample people (all household members present at the time of the first interview) who move within the country and reasonably close to a SIPP primary sampling unit (PSU) will be followed and interviewed at their new address. Individuals 15 years old or over who enter the household after Wave 1 will be interviewed; however, if these people move, they are not followed unless they happen to move along with a Wave 1 sample individual.

The OMB has established an Interagency Advisory Committee to provide guidance for the content and procedures for the SIPP. Interagency subcommittees were set up to recommend specific areas of inquiries for supplemental questions. The Census

Bureau developed the 2008 Panel Wave 2 topical modules through consultation with the SIPP OMB Interagency Subcommittee. The questions for the topical modules address major policy and program concerns as stated by this subcommittee and the SIPP Interagency Advisory Committee.

Data provided by the SIPP are being used by economic policymakers, the Congress, state and local governments, and federal agencies that administer social welfare or transfer payment programs, such as the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture.

The knowledge gained from these "core" items will be of limited value without information about how the respondents reached their status at the time of the Wave 1 interview. The core, therefore, is also supplemented with questions designed to answer specific needs, such as estimating eligibility for government programs, examining pension and health care coverage, and analyzing financing of post-secondary education. These supplemental questions are included with the core and are referred to as "topical modules." The questions in these topical modules will help us reduce, if not eliminate, the "left-censoring" analysis problem that occurs in nearly all longitudinal surveys and cited as a serious concern by our data users. Left-censoring refers to the experiences of individuals (or other units of longitudinal analysis) prior to the start of the longitudinal study period.

The questions for these topical modules address major policy and program concerns. Each component is intended to provide explanatory data describing likely relationships between earlier life-course experiences and current socioeconomic status. Personal history data, when linked with data derived from the panel interviews, yield a powerful set of explanatory indicators, which help analysts more fully understand associations between social, demographic, and economic events.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: Every 4 months.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Section 182.

OMB Desk Officer: Brian Harris-Kojetin, (202) 395-7314.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington,

DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Brian Harris-Kojetin, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202-395-7245) or e-mail (bharrisk@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: September 3, 2008.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-20782 Filed 9-8-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

Emerging Technology and Research Advisory Committee; Notice of Open Meeting

The Emerging Technology and Research Advisory Committee (ETRAC) will meet on September 23, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 4830, 14th Street between Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues, NW., Washington, DC. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration on technical questions that affect controls on research and emerging technology activities, including those related to deemed exports.

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Remarks from Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) management.
3. Current deemed export control policy issues and initiatives, including BIS's notice of inquiry published on May 19, 2008 (73 FR 28795) and extended on August 22, 2008 (73 FR 49645) requesting comments on two Deemed Export Advisory Committee recommendations.
4. Emerging technology and research and development issues.
5. U.S. competitiveness.
6. Public comments.
7. Priorities and workplan.

The open session will be accessible via teleconference to 20 participants on a first come, first serve basis. To join the conference, submit inquiries to Ms. Yvette Springer at Yspringer@bis.doc.gov, no later than September 16, 2008.

The meeting will be open to the public and a limited number of seats will be available. To the extent that time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the

Committee. Written statements may be submitted at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate distribution of public presentation materials to the Committee members, presenters should forward the public presentation materials one week prior to the meeting date to Yvette Springer at Yspringer@bis.doc.gov.

For more information contact Yvette Springer on (202) 482-2813.

Dated: September 4, 2008.

Yvette Springer,

Committee Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. E8-20904 Filed 9-8-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JT-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Notice of 2nd Afghanistan International Carpet Fair

AGENCY: Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

Mission Statement

2nd Afghanistan International Carpet Fair, October 26-30, 2008

I. Mission Description

The International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce is organizing the second U.S. carpet trade mission to Kabul, Afghanistan for the Afghanistan International Carpet Fair on October 26-30, 2008. The mission will be open to U.S. rug businesses that have demonstrated experience in the carpet sector and are interested in exploring trade and investment opportunities in Afghanistan's carpet sector. Afghanistan Investment and Reconstruction Task Force Director, Susan Hamrock Mann, will lead a delegation of U.S.-based executives of U.S. firms interested in pursuing business in Afghanistan's carpet sector. The mission will include participation in the Carpet Fair, matchmaking, and networking with Afghan rug vendors and manufacturers. The mission will reaffirm the U.S. Government's support of bilateral relations, address the Department's commitment to helping Afghanistan develop sectors in which it has a comparative advantage, and seek to expand opportunities for U.S. companies in Afghanistan.

II. Commercial Setting

The mission will take place during a crucial time in Afghanistan's economic reemergence. Approximately 6 million Afghans are employed in the carpet

sector directly or indirectly. Afghanistan has a comparative advantage in producing hand woven carpets, putting this sector on the cutting edge of Afghanistan's reintegration into the global economy. Afghanistan's carpets have a rich legacy of artistry and craftsmanship, which has been handed down through many generations. Each type of carpet is unique to the location in which it was produced and inspired. Afghanistan produces various types of carpets woven out of wool, silk, and cotton.

Due to the current lack of finishing facilities, Afghanistan sends more than eighty percent of its carpets to Pakistan, where they are finished and labeled "made in Pakistan." This Trade Mission will enable delegates to explore opportunities for investing in carpet producing facilities and exporting textile equipment to Afghanistan. As such, the Mission could play a valuable role in preserving the brand identity of Afghan carpets, by helping producers to finish and export their own production.

The Afghan Government is helping Afghan carpet producers connect their craftsmanship to the world. In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Government of Afghanistan organized three previous delegations of Afghan carpet producers to visit the United States. In July 2006, a delegation visited major retailers and importers in New York, Atlanta, and Washington, DC. In January 2007, a second delegation attended the AmericasMart International Area Rug Market in Atlanta, where Afghanistan's carpets were part of a major cultural showcase. In January 2008, a third delegation participated in the Las Vegas Market at the World Market Center, where Afghan carpets and cultural items were prominently displayed at the show.

This 2nd Afghanistan International Carpet Fair will provide an opportunity for Afghan carpet producers and U.S. buyers to network, create business relationships, and allow U.S. buyers to explore investment opportunities in the sector. The Trade Mission presents a unique opportunity for seasoned U.S. professionals to partner with Afghan carpet producers as Afghanistan strives to re-establish its leadership position in the global carpet business.

III. Mission Goals

The mission aims to further U.S. commercial policy objectives and to advance specific U.S. business interests in the U.S. and Afghan carpet sectors. The mission will:

- Create an opportunity for U.S. companies to meet and network with Afghan carpet producers;
- Assist Afghan carpet producers in creating long-term relationships with U.S. companies;
- Assist Afghan carpet producers with finding distributors for their carpets in the U.S.;
- Assess the commercial climate of Afghanistan's carpet sector as well as export and investment opportunities in Afghanistan; and
- Encourage continued progress in economic development in Afghanistan.

IV. Mission Scenario

This mission will enable participants to gain access to the Afghan carpet market on a large scale. The mission will include VIP participation in the carpet fair. Participants will be part of the carpet fair's opening night-VIP reception with high-level Afghan government officials. The event will provide opportunities to network with at least 70 different Afghan carpet vendors at the show. The show will feature a broad range of carpets from across Afghanistan's diverse landscape. Networking will also include one-on-one meetings between the U.S. business delegates and Afghan companies.

V. Tentative Timetable

The precise schedule will depend on the availability of local government and business officials and the specific goals of the mission participants. The tentative trip itinerary will be as follows:

Tuesday, October 26

Arrive in Kabul;
Attend opening reception for the Afghanistan International Carpet Fair, Serena Hotel;
Meet with high-level U.S. and Afghan Government officials.

Wednesday, October 27

Attend Afghanistan International Carpet Fair;
Networking between buyers and sellers;
One-on-one meetings between buyers and sellers.

Thursday, October 28-Friday, October 29

Attend Afghanistan International Carpet Fair;
Networking between buyers and sellers;
One-on-one meetings between buyers and sellers.

Saturday, October 30

Depart Kabul (TBC).