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International Tiger Coalition

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Tiger Experts to Tour China Tiger Farms, Participate in Review of Trade Ban

Beijing – Top tiger scientists and wildlife trade experts arrive in China this week to attend a government workshop on what impact a resumption of China’s trade in tiger products would have on endangered wild tigers. They join wildlife officials from India, Nepal, the United States and other countries concerned about the threat renewed trade would pose to wild tigers.

Experts attending on behalf of the International Tiger Coalition said they welcomed the opportunity to offer input into the State Forestry Administration’s review of China’s ban on tiger trade. They urged SFA to ensure that the review process is “open and transparent,” as the Chinese delegation promised the 171 member nations attending last month’s meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The workshop will run from 2-7 July and includes tours of China’s two largest privately run tiger farms, in Harbin and Guilin, which hold nearly 2,000 tigers in captivity. CITES last month directed China to investigate the Guilin farm for selling tiger meat, a violation of Chinese law, in its on-site restaurant to British journalists in February. CITES members also passed a formal decision that “tigers should not be bred for trade in their parts and derivatives.”

The coalition expects the review to be conducted with:

- **Scientific rigor**, so that the potential effects of renewed trade on wild tigers are fully understood and considered by the international community, especially tiger range countries.
- **Transparency**, so that the international community can consider the methods and conclusions of China’s research.
- **Conservation as a priority**, as the world’s last tigers are at stake, and the international community, especially tiger range countries, has a vested interest in any policy changes that would interfere with implementation of the current international tiger trade ban.

Coalition members participating in the tour are available for interviews during their trip to China. All input and materials provided by the International Tiger Coalition during the workshop will be made public.

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