Chinese Exports - a selection of quotes from the news

China will this year (2007) replace Germany as the world's second largest trader with US$2.1 trillion in foreign trade and may overtake the world's largest trader, the United States, by 2010, says a senior Chinese researcher.

China's output of 70,000 buses last year accounted for 22.6 percent of the world's annual production and this indicated that the country was on the way to become a major bus manufacturing centre of the world.

"We have seen the Chinese pulp and paper industry grow from being really quite small, relatively insignificant in world terms, to being the second largest in the world, second only to the United States," he said. "So it is now an enormously significant user of forest resources.

Beijing, China - In an attempt to rival global companies in the car manufacturing industry, two of China's biggest carmakers, Shanghai Automotive Industries Corp. and Nanjing Automobile Corp. have agreed to form an alliance. The two firms have agreed to a "comprehensive cooperation" on design, production and sales of new cars, said Nanjing Auto in a statement.

China, which produced 123 million tons of steel in 1999, is already the world's largest producer of steel by a rapidly growing margin. By the end of 2000, this margin was roughly 20-30 million tons per year.

China has the world's largest textile and clothing industry, with the export volume rising by an annual average of 16.8 percent from 1970 to 1999.

Jinjiang, on the south-eastern coast of Fujian has become a primary production base for shoes for the world markets. Its 3,000-plus shoe production enterprises employ 350,000 people and produce over 700 million pairs of shoes a year. Companies export US$1.2 billion worth of shoes to over 80 countries around the world.

Since the 1990s, China has substantially raised its profile in the global market for fruits and vegetables. Total export value of China's fruits and vegetables (fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, processed fruit and vegetables, fruit and vegetable juices, pulses, and tree nuts) more than doubled between 1992-94 and 2002-04, from $2.3 billion to $5.1 billion.

Chinese factories are flooding the world with cheap goods, everything from televisions and DVD players to bicycles and children's pyjamas. At a time when most of the global economy is on its knees, Chinese exports have rocketed by 20% so far this year, while its economy is expanding by nearly 8%.
Low wages and weak enforcement of environmental rules have attracted overseas manufacturers looking to produce leather goods, electronics, metal products, toys and other goods for export.

With about 8,000 toy factories, China now stands as the world's largest toy manufacturer, producing 75% of world toys. It exports toys to more than 100 countries and regions. In 2002, China's toy exports were worth US$9.9 billion.

In 1996, China sold $600 million worth of weapons to a variety of developing countries which made it the 5th largest exporter after the USA, the UK, France and Russia.