



**Activity Title and Number:** Standards, Management and Traceability of Alcoholic Beverages ; A114-C3

**Beneficiary:** General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ).

**Location and Date:** Beijing 25 April, 2012

**Stakeholders:** Ministry of Health (MOH), wine processing and retailer industries, Universities

## Brief Activity Report

### Relevance and Impact

Following the adoption of the **new Chinese Food Safety Law** in June 2009, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has been tasked with revising all food safety standards and developing new ones where necessary. Responding to the State Council's request for swift progress, many new food safety standards have been prepared by MOH and notified to the WTO SPS committee.

Wine exporters in the EU, as well as other major wine exporters, want to ensure that the adoption of these new standards concerning alcoholic beverage management are harmonised in respect to internationally recognised management and standard practices.

This seminar, which was a follow-up from previous activities (A013-C3, A053-C3, A060-C3, and A108-C3), was held to clarify what effects the Chinese government notification to WTO G/SPS/N/CHN/472\* might have on the trade of alcoholic beverages. Additionally, this seminar served to create better awareness of the current trends and regulatory framework related to traceability systems used by the wine and spirits industry in China and the EU.

*\* G/SPS/N/CHN/472 was submitted in 2011 and governs the Administration of the Registration of Foreign Manufacturers of Imported Food, which also oversees alcoholic beverages.*

### Activity Description

This two-day seminar featured 10 presentations given by several Chinese and European experts from the private and public sectors. Over 80 attendees representing MOA, AQSIQ, and MOH central offices involved with wine traceability development and implementation, Chinese and EU private sector stakeholders, and MS Embassy representatives attended the seminar. The topics presented and discussed mainly related to:

- Current respective Chinese and European traceability regulatory frameworks for wine and spirits
- Regulations on Registration Administration of overseas manufacturers of imported food
- Inspection and Regulation of Import and Export Alcoholic Products of China



*Experts from the EU and China discuss wine traceability and management trends*

### Results

- ✓ The seminar created consensus about the need to improve the interface of Chinese and European regulatory agencies. More specifically, both parties agreed on the need to develop specific actions that enable better transfer of information to trace wine and spirit products in the EU-China trade.
- ✓ The activity also clarified the position of the Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China (CNCA) in relation to notification to WTO G/SPS/N/CHN/472 and its impact on the alcoholic beverages trade.