
U.S.-China commercial ties profoundly important: expert

by Zhao Jing

CHICAGO, Jan. 20 (Xinhua) -- It is profoundly important that the United States and China maintain and encourage strong commercial ties and that the two countries need to avoid protectionism and embrace free trade, a U.S. trade expert said on Wednesday.

"Protectionism and trade barriers are completely against the interests of people in China and the United States," Daniel Griswold, director of the Center for Trade Policy Studies at the Cato Institute in Washington D.C., told Xinhua during an exclusive interview.

"China is becoming a very important trade partner to the U.S., especially among the emerging economies. It is only natural that the world's largest economy U.S. and the largest country in terms of population to have a strong commercial relationship," he said.

Griswold is a nationally-recognized authority on international trade and immigration. His new book *Mad About Trade*, on why ordinary Americans should embrace globalization, was published in November 2009.

The book is to help Americans better understand the benefits of free trade, such as offering lower prices, better jobs and deepen relationships with countries like China and Mexico.

Griswold delivered a well received presentation titled *Global Trade Outlook 2010: Focus on Free Trade and Globalization* on Wednesday in Chicago. The event was sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago.

Griswold said during his presentation: "Free trade is American families' best friend. If you look around your closet, you will see that nearly all your clothing, shoes, and other things are imported from China or other emerging economies. Import competition provides lower prices, greater variety and better quality, especially for poor and middle class families."

When some Americans blame import as the reason for their losing jobs, Griswold recognized that driven in part by trade most new jobs are well-paying service jobs that form the backbone of today's middle class.

In addition, Griswold details in his new book that over the past three decades trade and an open global economy have created a more prosperous, democratic and peaceful world.

When commenting on the U.S.-China trade relations, Griswold remarked, "The Chinese-American trade relationship is becoming one of the most important relationships in the world and it is very beneficial to both countries," he said.

"It not only helps create jobs in China and fuel its economy, but also provides Americans with

lower prices and growing export market," he added.

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