

Sommaire / Summary

🌿 Africa : cotton in Africa is getting more and more sustainable	1
🌿 Algérie : Volkswagen et Sovac inaugurent une usine automobile	4
🌿 Asia : women should not have to choose between employment and safety	6
🌿 Cambodia : Belt and Road Initiative, opportunities for Cambodia's development ?	17
🌿 Cambodia : what's behind the mass faintings in Cambodia's garment factories ?	23
🌿 China : automated sewbot to make 800,000 Adidas T-shirts daily	26
🌿 China : textile companies go high tech in Arkansas	28
🌿 Chine : « Made in China » est souvent « Made in North Korea »	30
🌿 Coton : les prix plombés par l'anticipation d'une récolte abondante aux USA	33
🌿 Egypt : Indian Classic Fashion considers producing garments in Egypt	34
🌿 Egypt : textile workers go on strike in Egypt's Mahalla over salary raise	36
🌿 Ethiopie : ce pays veut devenir le hub textile d'Afrique	39
🌿 Ethiopie : faire son or avec le textile	44
🌿 Ethiopie : Trybus Group installera une usine textile dans le parc de Kombolcha	46
🌿 France : Orchestra renonce à fusionner avec Destination Maternity	47
🌿 France : les étudiants, variable d'ajustement chez Uniqlo ?	50
🌿 India : export organisation FIEO seeks new textile policy to boost trade	53
🌿 India : Govt take steps to tap full potential of textile sector	54
🌿 India : mega textile park in Warangal will be coming up soon	55
🌿 Iran : Irantex 2017 to see strong participation from Germany	56
🌿 Italian textile machinery records significant growth in sales	57
🌿 Madagascar : un fonds pour soutenir le secteur textile	58
🌿 Maroc : Marrakech accueillera Maroc in Mode et Maroc Sourcing en octobre	59
🌿 Maroc : le textile, un champion à l'export qui ne fait pas dans la dentelle !	61
🌿 Maroc : les prémices d'un mieux qui se fait attendre	65
🌿 Maroc : la Casablanca Design Week s'interroge sur le passé et le futur	67
🌿 Mexique : IndustriALL et 14 enseignes sont pour une réforme du droit du travail	69
🌿 Myanmar : quality cotton seeds running out even as demand rises	72
🌿 Pakistan : FPCCI calls for cut in production cost of textile industry	74
🌿 Pakistan : Minister for long term strategies for textile sector	76
🌿 Sri Lanka invites more Chinese investors	78
🌿 Taiwan : a bold step forward for Taiwan's textile industry	79
🌿 Tunisie : 763 entreprises tunisiennes actives en Algérie	84
🌿 UE : une veste intégralement imprimée en 3D et personnalisable	86
🌿 UE : 6 maillots de bain sur 10 importés par l'UE viennent de Chine	89
🌿 USA : filling the automation gap in garment manufacturing	91
🌿 Vietnam : mega polyester fibre plant may resume production	96
🌿 Vietnamese textile sector overcomes TPP fall-back in style	98
🌿 Vietnam : local textile, garment firms yet to reap FTA benefits	100
🌿 Vietnamese textile sector attracts \$750 mn FDI in H1	102

Cotton in Africa is Getting More and More Sustainable

by Arthur Friedman

Posted on August 18, 2017 in Raw Materials, Report



Cotton made in Africa made strides in 2016 in its mission to make cotton growing in sub-Saharan Africa more sustainable year after year, while improving the lives of smallholder farmers and their families.

As the largest program for sustainable cotton from Africa, the organization certified 30 percent of **cotton production** in sub-Saharan Africa last year. Growing demand for Cotton made in Africa cotton in the textile industry meant that roughly 50 million units of CmiA textile products were put into the market in 2016.

This allowed the sustainable cotton initiative to increase its license revenues by 47 percent in comparison to 2015, reaching 1.48 million euros (\$1.74 million). In addition, revenues of 342,000 euros (\$402,000) were generated through the sale of CmiA-certified cotton in the Better Cotton Initiative channels.

In addition, revenues from the sale of CmiA cotton accounted for almost 50 percent of total revenue in 2016, which rose to 3.76 million euros (\$4.42 million) from 2.56 million euros (\$3.01 million) in the financial year.

About 30 textile companies, including Bonprix, Otto, the Rewe Group and Tchibo now use CmiA cotton. Since 2016, Jack & Jones from Denmark, Asos from Great Britain, Kid Interior from Norway and Aldi Süd have joined the initiative. Fifty million textiles were marked with the CmiA label in 2016.

Michael Otto, the founder of Cotton made in Africa, said, “Every T-shirt and every pair of jeans with the CmiA seal contributes towards combating poverty and thereby counteracting the causes of migration.”

The group noted in its annual report that the share of public financial aid in 2016 reached its lowest level ever of just 1 percent. The result substantiates the motto of the sponsoring organization Aid by Trade. Based on its goals, the foundation was able to increase the effectiveness of its contributed funds by a further percentage point in comparison to the previous year, reaching 72 percent.

A total of 20 verification operations in 2016 ensured compliance with the CmiA standards and offered helpful guidelines for improvements, alongside continual training. The report said that the aggregated data from verification operations in 2016 proves that the implementation of CmiA standards was significantly improved in subsequent verifications. The reviews were carried out by the three independent audit companies, EcoCert, AfriCert and Control Union.

As part of the AbTF family of standards, roughly 780,000 smallholder farmers, of which 18 percent are female smallholder farmers, took part in 2016 and produced 320,000 tons of fiber cotton, meaning that CmiA certifies 30 percent of cotton production in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2016, CmiA covered a cultivation area of more than 1.1 million hectares and has become the largest standard for sustainable cotton from Africa.

“CmiA has now achieved immense importance in the producing countries. Including family members, CmiA reached more than 6.7 million people,” Bob Akede, lead auditor from AfriCert in Kenya, said.

Above its standard implementation, Cotton made in Africa supports projects by village communities and provides financing. Among the projects are solar power projects for **farmer training centers, water or women’s projects.**

The total volume invested in cooperation projects in 2016 came to 950,000 euros (\$1.11 million). The projects are implemented in close alliance with local cotton companies, partners such as CARE, Welthungerhilfe, Otto, C&A, Otto Austria and the German Investment and Development Corporation, with funds by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

Also during the year, the Aid by Trade Foundation launched a “Wear a Smile” campaign for CmiA with business philosopher Dominic Veken. The aim is to help the brand achieve maximum attention among consumers without a large budget for communication measures. The tonality in the communication of CmiA was intended to be more easily **accessible, with a change from “compassion” to “passion” as the goal.** CmiA launched a roadshow in 2016 to introduce the movement to the various retailer and NGO partners and at the same time to get them actively involved. The main time frame for the promotions will take place in 2017.

Volkswagen et Sovac inaugurent une usine automobile en Algérie



L'usine de Relizane pourra produire 200 véhicules par jour (photo : Volkswagen)

ALGÉRIE. Le groupe Volkswagen a inauguré, jeudi 27 juillet 2017, une usine d'assemblage multi-marques dans la zone industrielle de Sidi Khatab à Relizane (280 km au sud-ouest d'Alger). Le constructeur allemand a créé une co-entreprise (Sovac Production S.P.A.) avec son partenaire local depuis 2001 Sovac S.P.A. (majoritaire) pour exploiter ce complexe industriel.

Construit en seulement 200 jours après 200 M€ d'investissement, ce nouvel outil dispose d'une capacité de production de 200 véhicules par jour et assemblera la Golf Volkswagen, la Seat Ibiza, la Skoda Octavia et l'utilitaire Caddy de Volkswagen. En 2018, la Volkswagen Polo et la Skoda Fabia sortiront également des chaînes. Le taux d'intégration (pièces produites localement, textiles) de 15% actuellement pourrait atteindre les 40% d'ici 2022, date à laquelle la production serait portée à 100 000 voitures par an contre 17 000 aujourd'hui.

1 800 salariés à terme

C'est la première fois qu'une Seat est fabriquée hors d'Europe comme le soulignait, dans un communiqué, Luca de Meo, pdg du Conseil d'administration de Seat : *"Il n'y a pas de meilleur marché que l'Algérie, pas de meilleur partenaire que Sovac et pas de meilleur*

véhicule que l'Ibiza pour débiter nos efforts. L'Ibiza est un best-seller en Algérie et l'assembler dans cette nouvelle usine nous aidera à augmenter considérablement nos chiffres de ventes."

Sovac (1 600 salariés) dispose de quatre-vingt dix revendeurs en Algérie pour le groupe Volkswagen. L'entreprise a vendu plus de 30 000 véhicules dans ce pays en 2015.

L'usine Volkswagen de Relizane emploie actuellement 550 salariés, un chiffre qui pourrait être porté à 1 800 dans les prochaines années.

Volkswagen est le troisième constructeur à venir s'implanter dans ce pays poussé par la nouvelle législation algérienne restreignant fortement les importations de véhicules et obligeant les grandes marques à, sinon produire, du moins assembler sur place pour écouler leurs voitures. Renault avait ouvert le bal en 2014 à Oued Tlelat (près d'Oran) suivi par le Sud-Coréen Hyundai à Tiaret (ouest du pays) en 2016. Peugeot et Citroën devraient suivre le mouvement.

Le quota d'importation de véhicules neufs pour l'année 2017 a été fixé à moins de 30 000 unités contre 150 000 en 2016 et... 400 000 en 2014.

THE FASHION LAW

A LEADING SOURCE FOR FASHION LAW AND THE BUSINESS OF FASHION

ABOUT DAILY LINKS REFERENCE PRESS PARTNERSHIPS SEARCH

Women Should Not Have to Choose Between Employment and Safety: In Garment Factories They Do

August 15, 2017 [TFL](#)



The garment manufacturing industry is shifting geographically, from China to Southeast Asia and ever-increasingly into South America. While this is an industry that is changing in locale and magnitude (the number of registered manufacturing enterprises [is on the rise](#), as is the value of total garment exports in most of these regions), garment manufacturing, as a whole, is still rife with sexual abuse, physical dangers, and slavery for those working within it - and increasingly growing profits for Western retailers tied to it.

The garment and textile manufacturing sector similarly continues to fall short in terms of ethical, sustainable manufacturing and many of the publicly-facing initiatives and consumer-friendly narratives are doing little to help solve these problems. On the sixth birthday of The

Fashion Law, we take an in-depth look at two of the site's most highly-covered topics: The state of manufacturing that supports not only fast fashion retailers but many brands that occupy higher positions/higher price points within the fashion industry, and the impact that this industry has on female laborers.

Overview

The garment manufacturing and textile industries in much of Southeast Asia – the site of many of the world's manufacturing capitals – lacks well-established legal protections and standards that weigh in favor of fairness and transparency both for laborers and the environment, alike. The existence of such informal labor sectors, coupled with the gender-specific vulnerabilities that garment factory owners and operators prey upon, make it so that women are provided with employment opportunities, but not without falling victim to an array of abuses.

Historically, apparel manufacturing has been one of the most female-dominated industries in the world. As a result, it has provided unskilled women with jobs and incomes that they otherwise might not have been able to achieve.

However, apparel manufacturing in Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Pakistan, is consistently plagued with harsh conditions that include long hours; low and inconsistent pay; verbal, physical and sexual harassment and abuse; and violations of health, safety and labor standards. This reality demands discussion about how women manufacturers are not only entitled to employment, but that such employment should not come at the expense of the observation of legal labor practices (at least in terms of Western law) and ethics concerns, safety standards, and an absence of gender discrimination.

Moving Into and Out of China

For decades, China enjoyed a position at the top of the garment manufacturing totem pole. In the mid-1970's – not long after the U.S. and China began to develop unofficial trade, educational, and cultural exchanges – Americans began to consume billions of dollars in cheap Chinese goods, including garments made from Chinese textiles and manufactured in Chinese factories.

Outsourced operations in China, as well as in other developing countries in Asia, and in Central and South America, allowed for markedly cheap labor and raw materials. Such manufacturers also boasted the capacity to quickly produce sizable orders for a fraction of the cost of domestically-made goods.

In the 1980's, when about 70 percent of American-sold clothing was still being manufactured domestically, a number of the nation's biggest retail chains, such as Gap and J.C. Penney, stopped producing garments of their own. Instead, they began transferring production to third-parties in the Far East and in Central and South America.

The retailers acted, in large part, in response to preferential trade pacts like the North American Free Trade Agreement ("NAFTA"), which came into force on January 1, 1994. NAFTA eliminated trade barriers among the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. Since then, the percentage of American-purchased garments that are made in the U.S. has dropped to roughly 2 percent.

While scholars and policy makers often disagree about the impact that NAFTA has had on economic growth and job generation in the U.S. (it has proven difficult to separate the deal's direct effects on trade and investment from other factors), eliminating trade barriers with Mexico and Canada motivated big retailers to source more garments and accessories from Central and South America, where labor costs are lower.

Now the location of manufacturing is shifting once again. Mainstream retailers are not expanding upon their existing Chinese manufacturing ties. Rather, retailers have taken to shunning the nation in favor of even lower-cost apparel manufacturing; Chinese-made goods have simply become "too expensive" to source.



“Everybody believed that China would always be cheaper,” Harold L. Sirkin, a senior partner at Boston Consulting, [told the New York Times in August 2015](#). “But things are changing even faster than anyone imagined.”

While China does not release data on factory closings or relocations, an overwhelming number of retailers are shifting their manufacturing to factories in Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Pakistan, in response to rising labor costs in China.

Chinese manufacturers have begun to relocate their own factories out of the country. In many cases, “the exodus has been led by the Chinese themselves, who have aggressively moved to set up manufacturing bases elsewhere” in order to hold on to their major clients, [according to the Times](#).

“The change is significant in the past two years, the cost of labor in China has become very high, growing at least 10 percent every year,” [said Peter Hopper](#), Partner at Strategic Decisions Group, a management consulting firm specializing in strategic decision-making, in 2015.

Moreover, the landscape has changed. China is simply attracting different companies than it used to. “With decades of experience, the Chinese labor force has stepped up on productivity

and skill level ... Therefore, garment manufacturing, which is a low-skilled, labor-intensive industry, seems more suitable for Bangladesh today,” [according to research from CEIC](#), a consultancy charged with compiling economic, sector, and financial data for economic research on emerging and developed markets.

As such, lower cost manufacturing centers have emerged in place of China to meet the needs of many of the most mainstream Western brands – from traditional fast fashion retailers like [H&M](#), [Joe Fresh](#), [Uniqlo](#), and [Zara](#), for example, to those producing licensed brand name goods, such as [Tommy Hilfiger](#) and [Calvin Klein](#).

The Development of the Modern Day Supply Chain

Bangladesh has become a capital for textile and garment manufacturing largely because it boasts wages that are among the lowest in the world. Labor in Bangladesh – which is responsible for nearly 90 percent of all garment exports in the world – is cheaper thanks to lower salaries, longer hours, vastly reduced safety and environmental standards, and a workforce that largely consists of marginalized women, who sorely lack any meaningful amount of bargaining power.

Such conditions make garment manufacturing Bangladesh’s “main and most important industry,” according to the European Parliament’s 2014 “[Workers' conditions in the textile and clothing sector](#)” briefing.

In Thailand, the rising demand for cheap, labor-intensive goods from multi-national apparel chains has spurred regional competition. Thailand’s manufacturers, pressured to offer low production costs (and implicitly low labor costs) to land profitable supply contracts, have circumvented labor laws and cut labor costs by relying on subcontractors, rather than employees.

Contractors and Subcontractors

True employees are often subject to regulation, financial benefits, and oversight. In contrast, the use of contractors and subcontractors enables manufacturers to avoid paying for regulation, benefits, or oversight. The majority of Thai garment manufacturing contractors

are informally employed and work from their homes, per [Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing](#). Most contracted homeworkers are forced “to cover many of the costs of production, including workplace, equipment, and utilities.”

Thailand’s factory owners further cut costs by paying garment and textile industry contractors or subcontractors per garment produced. Workers do not receive overtime pay. Most receive no sick leave or vacation time, let alone paid vacations. Holy days are more often than not disregarded by factory owners and operators. This disregard triggered [a large-scale protest last March](#) in Yangon Region’s Hlaing Tharyar township in Myanmar, in which factory workers demanded time off for the Myanmar New Year holidays.

Such cost-cutting measures are attractive to retailers, as “manufacturers underbid each other for orders from the large retailers, who can demand low-cost production and just-in-time delivery.” ([McCormick & Schmitz 2001](#)). By relying on suppliers and contractors, manufacturers can successfully beat out others to get work orders, “then contract out to their subcontractors when they need them – and so on down the global production chain.”

Also attractive to factory owners is the ability to “restrict worker organization and collective bargaining” activities, particularly by contractors, thereby allowing owners to easily employ young women and subsequently force them out when they get married or pregnant, and to skirt paying laborers on time, sometimes forcing them to wait months for a paycheck without any oversight or ramifications.



Unionizing is a luxury for most garment workers. Women laborers have spoken out – often to no avail – about being harassed by employers for attempting to organize other laborers and inform them of their rights. Rukmini, president of the women-led Garment Labour Union, which is based in Karnataka, India, [has had to negotiate with some factories](#) to provide “even the most basic facilities like drinking water and ceiling fans, a necessity in a city where temperatures reach as much as [98.6 F] degrees.”

Factories in these relatively new low cost garment manufacturing havens thrive, almost entirely, due to the presence of “a large reserve of unskilled female laborers in the countryside willing to work for low wages in the garment factories (one of the few modern employment opportunities open to them) and in the absence of collective bargaining or other mechanisms for enforcing the national minimum wage and other labor and safety protections,” [according to a report from United Kingdom-based labor alliance](#), *Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing*.

Women working in the garment manufacturing sector suffer from “mental health problems, such as depression and anxiety, and reproductive health issues,” according to [a November 2016 report from Equal Times](#) on the state of garment manufacturing in India. This is an unsurprising finding, considering women garment workers regularly endure sexual

harassment and workspaces which lack proper ventilation. The latter has given rise in respiratory illnesses among factory-workers.

Apoorva Kaiwar, the South Asia regional secretary for IndustriALL, a global union representing workers across several sectors, who spoke to Equal Times, said she has worked in the garment sector for over two decades, since her husband's alcohol abuse forced her to provide for their family. "I had two children to bring up. I didn't know a thing about making clothes. All I knew was there was this opportunity to make some money," she said.

Her job at an Indian garment factory, which produces garment for brands like H&M, JC Penny, Tommy Hilfiger and Zara's parent company Inditex, is one of immense pressure. "If you're late by ten minutes, they will send you home. You don't drink enough water, because the production targets are so high, you don't want to waste time in the toilet," she says.

Trafficking

Issues surrounding labor conditions are compounded by the frequency with which trafficking is specifically associated with garment and textile production. "Labor trafficking is a huge problem globally. There really is not any industry that is immune to this problem," Agatha Tan, a senior adviser on labor trafficking at the Polaris Project [told The Atlantic](#). And garment manufacturing is certainly not without rampant abuses of this kind.

As noted by both the U.S. Department of Labor and [the Global Freedom Center](#), a U.S.-based non-profit organization dedicated to combatting human trafficking, forced labor in garment manufacturing persists globally. In some instances, women laborers are particularly susceptible to forced labor and labor trafficking as they often live far from the factory in which they work, meaning that they are dependent upon their employers for housing (usually dormitory-style living, complete with bunk beds and concrete flooring), food, and transportation.

An estimated 46 million people are living as slaves, according [the 2016 Global Slavery Index by the Walk Free Foundation](#). Uzbekistan – the world's fifth-largest cotton exporter, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan are forcing people to work in the annual cotton harvest. [Modern](#)

[slavery has become a catch-all term](#) to describe "human trafficking, forced labor, debt bondage, sex trafficking, forced marriage and other slave-like exploitation."

According to [the Global Freedom Center](#), "Trafficking is not only found in settings with thousands of workers in large warehouses, but also in small and isolated manufacturing sites that are less likely to be noticed, let alone inspected. These controlled and isolated environments have led to many cases of labor trafficking of women."

Employment Without the Abuses

With all of this information readily available, why don't suppliers act? In light of the need to remain competitive with a host of other developing countries in a brutally cut-throat industry where an overabundance of factories exist, "suppliers simply fail to invest in proper systems and pay practices which would price them out of the market," [according to Michael Lavergne](#), a supply chain risk management professional with over 15 years of multinational apparel industry experience.

"Many brands and retailers know this," Lavergne says, "and are fully aware of the deficiencies at factory level because the vast majority of them audit on an ongoing basis. They then put in place corrective action plans which allow for ongoing cycle of audit and re-audit."

The result: "Financial benefits because of these gaps in health, safety, labor, environmental and business practices," according to Lavergne, as well as abuse of the laborers.

In addition to safety concerns, "jobs at garment factories across Asia are full of pressure and stress," [says IndustriALL's Apoorva Kaiwar](#). "In many developing countries, people often take up whatever jobs are available. It is not as if they choose this kind of work."



Oftentimes, this is not necessarily helped by many of the widely-publicized reports being peddled by Rank a Brand (which releases [a ranking on companies' levels of cotton sustainability](#)) and Know The Chain (which looks at [human trafficking and forced labor in companies' supply chains](#)) – just to name two. These rankings often favor mass-market fast fashion brands over high fashion ones, from which it seems appropriate to conclude that one group is working more sustainably and with less labor abuses in their supply chains than the other.

In actuality, though, what is often left out of conversations surrounding these rankings is *how* the information compiled to gauge their findings is actually collected.

Rank a Brand stated in connection with its 2016 study – which ranked H&M, C&A, Adidas, Nike, and Marks & Spencer quite highly – that most companies using cotton do nearly nothing to improve environmental sustainability in their supply, according to a consortium of environmental groups. Bottom of the barrel scores went to Richemont, Hermes, Coach, LVMH, and Burberry, among others.

What it failed to drive home in connection with these rankings is that they were based entirely on publicly available information, which fast fashion brands tend to do a lot more of in comparison to luxury brands, which tightly guard their supply chain information as trade secrets. The same methodology holds true for Know The Chain's report.

Sarah Labowitz, the former co-director of the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights and policy advisor at the U.S. Department of State, echoes the problem of reports that rely entirely – or almost entirely – on this type of methodology. Speaking of such reports, [she recently told Kind Craft](#):

It was so striking how deferential we all are to the companies themselves in terms of how they're evaluated. They get to decide what are the salient aspects of their evaluation, as opposed to setting a common standard that all companies in the same sector abide by. If all you're doing is looking at a company's self-report on sustainability, then that paradigm rewards companies that are good at communications, right?

Labowitz further noted that “as consumers have demanded more sustainability, companies have gotten savvier about how to deliver the appearance of sustainability,” or what she calls, [“cosmetic compliance,” or greenwashing](#). This is especially true of fashion and apparel companies. “Companies have gotten very good at telling stories that seem appealing—but that aren't supported by any rigorous standards. And so I think, in some ways, it's become harder to be an ethical consumer.”

** Edits courtesy of Hana Anderson.*



5 Ampoules Gratuites

Grâce à la loi de transition énergétique, récupérez gratuitement 5 Ampoules LED !



Photo Credit: The Cambodia Herald

BY VEASNA VAR

Belt and Road Initiative: Opportunities for Cambodia's Development?

Aug. 02, 2017 | |

As China becomes richer and more powerful, the giant is taking further steps toward expanding its interests and influence, as well as a pursuing a greater global status.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) — comprising the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road — was proposed by China's President Xi Jinping in late 2013. BRI has drawn much attention in Asia and beyond. The BRI is a core element of President Xi's "China Dream" which has the overarching aim of building a trade, investment, and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along ancient trade routes. At the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing in May 14-15, 2017, President Xi pledged **USD 124 billion** to expand transportation infrastructure links between Asia, Africa, and Europe, echoing his commitment to the large project.

As one of BRI's aims is to create new markets for China, countries along the BRI routes stand to gain immense economic benefits as Beijing establishes new routes to neighboring states and beyond. The BRI is President Xi's most ambitious foreign policy and development strategy, involving more than 60 countries. It promises more than USD 1 trillion in massive infrastructure development, accounting for around 65 percent of the world population and one-third of its gross domestic product (GDP). If it goes as planned, the initiative will generate around **USD 2.5 trillion** in trade, significantly boosting economic growth for China and for countries along the routes.

From the **Chinese perspective**, the BRI is aimed at achieving a community of shared destiny sharing mutual benefits and coexisting peacefully along the trade routes among countries involved. According to an official Chinese government statement, the vision of the BRI symbolizes a modern reinvention of the ancient Silk Road that stresses "mutual trust, equity, inclusiveness and mutual learning, and win-win cooperation." The initiative is inherently underpinned by the **Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence**, a key principle of China's post- 1949 foreign policy.

While Cambodia does not share a border with China, the small kingdom holds significant strategic relevance for the giant. In recent years, relations between China and Cambodia have grown to a new peak. While China sees Cambodia in an important strategic location to advance its national interests, Cambodia sees China's rise and influence as an opportunity for its badly needed economic development. Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen has urged his ASEAN counterparts to view China's rapid economic growth as an opportunity rather than a threat. Hun Sen seems to have convinced the other Southeast Asian states, as can be seen at the Belt and Road Forum where delegations from nine out of ten Southeast Asia countries, including seven heads of state or government, were in attendance.

While some countries in Southeast Asia have concerns over China's strategic motives in the region, Cambodia was one of the first countries to take a strong stance **supporting** the BRI and the Chinese-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) after their establishment in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Prime Minister Hun Sen has been a vocal supporter of the BRI with the high expectation that access to Chinese investment through the BRI will be crucial for infrastructure development, especially since funding through international financial institutions remains limited and usually attached to complicated conditions and standards. This was evident during a press conference at the World Economic Forum on ASEAN in Phnom Penh on May 11, when Hun Sen stated that the "China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative gives hope to developing countries in their infrastructure development."

Similarly, during the launch of the Khmer version of President Xi's book *The Governance of China* on April 12 at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, Prime Minister Hun Sen praised the good relations between China and Cambodia. He told his audience that under the BRI, "Cambodia and China will continue expanding cooperation for the economic development of both countries, such as strengthening economic productivity, increasing bilateral trade, promoting tourism and investment as well as developing the agricultural sector."

A Cambodian government official was quoted by local media as saying: “Cambodia highly values the bilateral cooperation between the two countries under the Belt and Road Initiative,” pointing out that “the cooperation would provide great benefits to Cambodia in socio-economic development for medium and long.” The BRI is seen as aligning with Cambodia’s [development strategy](#), including the Rectangular Strategy and the Industrial Development Strategy (2015-2025).

Similarly, some of Cambodia’s scholars and political analysts have welcomed the Chinese development approach. Chheang Vannarith, chairman of the Cambodian Institute for Strategic Studies and visiting fellow at Singapore’s Iseas-Yusof Ishak Institute, has stated that: “Cambodia stands to benefit from more Chinese investment in infrastructure such as roads, rail, ports and hydropower plants which will increase significantly in the coming years.” He also pointed out that “The Belt and Road Initiative will also contribute to the realisation of the vision of becoming a middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050.”

Cambodia and China have traditionally enjoyed and maintained close relations and recently the relationship has reached the highest point. China and Cambodia reached an agreement on a Comprehensive Partnership for Cooperation in April 2006, and they raised this to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation in 2010, both of which are milestones of their deep and comprehensive cooperation.

The state visit of President Xi to the kingdom in mid-2016 was a turning point of bilateral cooperation between the two countries under the BRI framework. During his visit, [President Xi](#) told Prime Minister Hun Sen that: “China attaches great importance to ties with Cambodia and stands ready to enhance the comprehensive strategic cooperation and contribute to regional peace and prosperity.”

The bilateral cooperation between China and Cambodia under the BRI focuses on [seven key sectors](#): (1) infrastructure; (2) agriculture; (3) capacity building; (4) special economic zone development; (5) culture and tourism; (6) finance; and (7) eco-environmental protection. If these crucial development areas stay on track and achieve the goals set by President Xi and Prime Minister Hun Sen, they will no doubt contribute immensely to the economic growth of Cambodia.

President Xi’s visit shows the considerable economic interests for Cambodia under the BRI. President Xi pledged increasing Chinese investment in various physical infrastructure projects including a [high-speed railway](#), a new airport in the tourist destination city of Siem Reap, as well as 500 additional scholarships. President Xi also pledged to attract more Chinese tourists to visit Cambodia, increasing the current annual number of 700,000 to 2 million by 2020. Both sides also expect their bilateral trade to increase from USD 5 billion to USD 6 billion by 2020.

Last year, the Chinese government pledged around **USD 600 million** to Cambodia for a three-year project aiming at improving infrastructure, education, the health sector, and elections. **31 agreements**, including soft loan deals of around USD 237 million, were signed. President Xi also cancelled USD 90 million of Cambodia's debt. (Cambodia's bilateral **public debt** with China is around USD 2.7 billion.) In addition to these economic benefits, military ties have also been strengthened, and China will provide USD 15 million to improve Cambodia's defense sector.

In recent years, **China** has maintained its position as the most reliable development partner for Cambodia. It is exemplified by Prime Minister Hun Sen's recent speech by describing China as a "most trustworthy friend." The giant is not only providing massive development assistance but also promoting foreign direct investment in critical development fields such as energy, transportation, textiles, agriculture as well as tourism. China is the biggest foreign investor in Cambodia and is also the leading aid donor. Since 1992, China has provided Cambodia with a considerable amount of development aid. As of February 2017, China has disbursed to Cambodia around **USD 4.2 billion** of aid in both grants and soft loans to fund physical infrastructure, agriculture, education, and social development. This echoed the Prime Minister remarks in 2006: "China talks less but does a lot."

The key problem facing China's soft power in Cambodia is that Beijing has not paid much attention to the interests of ordinary Cambodians.

Bilateral trade between the two countries has increased dramatically from year to year. While bilateral trade in 2014 was about USD 3.75 billion, **in 2016 trade** increased to around USD 4.8 billion, with exports from Cambodia accounting for USD 830 million and imports from China USD 3.9 billion. According to the **Ministry of Commerce**, bilateral trade between the two countries is expected to reach at USD 5.01 billion this year.

In terms of investment, China has become the largest investor in Cambodia with more than **USD 14 billion** in cumulative investments in Cambodia from 1994 to March 2016. The main fields of China's investment in Cambodia include agriculture, oceanic, energy, telecommunication, infrastructure, garments, and mining.

Chinese aid and investment have provided important benefits for Cambodia's economic development. The legacy of more than three decades of civil war, especially during the Pol Pot era, has created significant challenges for Cambodia's development, and in particular its physical infrastructure. According to a **recent report** from the Henan Provincial Communications Planning and Design Institute of China (HPCPSDI), Cambodia needs to develop some 2,230 km of national highways by 2040. The report estimates that USD 26 billion in investment will be needed to attain this major infrastructure development. The

study also finds that by 2020, Cambodia will need to build 850 km in roads and will need USD 9 billion in investment. Li Qiang, a Chinese chief engineer, and a member of the report team, pointed out that the construction of highways in the near- and long-term will be crucial for Cambodia's rapid economic growth.

It is clear that Chinese development aid in infrastructure has played an important role in Cambodia's national rehabilitation. To date, [China has assisted Cambodia](#) with the construction of 7 major bridges (some of them named "Cambodia-China friendship bridges"), and 2,600 km of roads, including the ASEAN highway and the trans-ASEAN rail line. These projects have significantly improved access to markets, especially for farmers. Both the Cambodian and Chinese governments recognize the importance of Chinese aid for infrastructure development, with the Chinese government claiming that "its aid to Cambodia is an effort to boost progress in a nation that ranks among the world's least developed, where gross domestic product per capita stands at about 830 USD — one of Asia's lowest — and some 30% of its 15 million people live below the poverty line."

China's involvement in Cambodia has also contributed to the development of the garment and textile sectors. This industry accounts for 80 percent of all exports, and is constituted of over 3,000 companies and employs close to a million workers. It has made up 2 percent of Cambodia's GDP since 1995. About one-fourth of the population relies on the garment and textile sectors for their economic prosperity.

As labor wages remain low (the average monthly wage in Cambodia is USD 121, compared to USD 613 in China), [Cambodia](#) has a particular appeal for Chinese manufacturers as they search for cheaper labor. It aligns with China's strategy to export industrial capacity through the BRI.

China's investment in hydropower plants has also helped the Cambodian government achieve its economic development goals by providing cheap and reliable electricity for industrial zones and rural areas. For example, the Chinese backed [Kamchay Dam](#) at Elephant Mountain, which has been in operation since early 2016, has generated 1.68 billion kilowatt-hours. This power has been transmitted to Kompot and Takeo provinces as well as to Phnom Penh. According to [Sok Siphana](#), a lawyer and long-time advisor to the government, "Without achieving development in energy efficiencies, international business flows into Cambodia will remain limited." Under the BRI, China is financing all [hydropower projects](#), with the exception of the Lower Sesan 2 project in Northern Cambodia. Currently there are six operational plants in Cambodia with total estimated cost of approximately USD 2.4 billion.

Among the projects under the BRI, China plans to develop a rail network that links it to Southeast Asia, extending through Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. In Cambodia, China is constructing a 400-km high speed railway line costing some USD 7 billion. This railway line will run from Cambodia to Laos, and will connect the Sihanoukville seaport and the Preah Vihear where a large Chinese steel mill is located. This project will offer a considerable boost to the Cambodian economy and provide extensive job opportunities for the Cambodian people.

In short, it is undeniable that China is Cambodia's most important strategic and development partner. Chinese overall engagement in general and through the framework of the BRI has generated significant benefits for Cambodia now and in the future.

However, China's involvement in Cambodia is not without controversy. Besides [concerns](#) about standards and transparency, some critics see China's growing influence in Cambodia as solely for its own wider strategic interests. Chinese development aid and investment have considerable social, political, and environmental impacts on Cambodia. For example, some critics predict a road that is being constructed between Cambodia and Vietnam that will pass Virakchey National Park will have significant [negative impact](#) on wildlife and the environment. Chinese aid and investment, the critics also argue, have made corruption worse, have led to a failure to achieve good governance and human rights, and have resulted in the over-exploitation of Cambodia's natural resources. In addition, although China is one of the key development players in Cambodia, its involvement has not been appreciated by Cambodia's general public because China's strategic interests focus on the government, political parties, and political elites, and neglect to focus on benefits for the average Cambodian.

With that said, these challenges are not insurmountable and can be resolved in due course. It is in Cambodia's interest to sort out its domestic priorities such as eliminating corruption, evictions, human rights, land concessions, and good governance. Strengthening these important issues will ensure Cambodia genuinely achieve its national development goals as well as stay competitive regionally and globally. As Chheang Vannarith suggests in his recent piece "[Cambodia and the diplomacy of small states:](#)" "Cambodia's destiny is defined and determined by the Cambodian people themselves, who must work together to strengthen national unity, social harmony, collective leadership and its institutional capacity to realise its independent and forward-looking foreign policy."

In order to achieve mutual development from the BRI, as persuasively claimed by President Xi, any development project should realistically aim at poverty reduction, sustainable development, and inclusive growth, as spelt out in Cambodia's Rectangular Strategy. Concerned stakeholders including grassroots, civil society, scholars, social and political analysts, local and international non-governmental organizations and the media should get involved in the projects.

There is no doubt that China has been doing a lot for Cambodia, but the giant has earned little credit in return, and Beijing's soft power in Cambodia remains limited. The key problem facing China's soft power in Cambodia is that Beijing has not paid much attention to the interests of ordinary Cambodians. It sees the government elites, military as well as influential politicians/political parties as the key successes for its businesses. Until transparency and the effectiveness of its development assistance improves, and attention is paid to the wellbeing of people affected by Chinese investment, ordinary people in general, and the environment, it will be difficult if not impossible for China to win the Cambodian people's hearts and minds.

What's behind the mass faintings in Cambodia's garment factories?

NEWS



By [Cristina Maza](#)
3 August 2017

Chhim Saaim, 24, remembers the frightening week when she fainted three times at work.

The young woman had moved to Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh nearly four years prior to work in a factory sewing clothes for sportswear brands such as Puma and New Balance. Saaim says the factory is usually very hot, with temperatures hovering close to 40°C, and she often skips breaks in order to meet the quotas – 170 pieces of clothing per hour – set by her managers. But she had never felt weak or dizzy at work before, and she certainly never expected to faint.

Then one day in March there was a power outage in the factory. In order to keep the **seamstresses working, the managers switched on a power generator. But the generator wasn't** strong enough to provide electricity for the entire factory and it soon exploded. As the factory filled with smoke from the generator, the workers began to panic and started running for the exit. In the confusion, over 70 women passed out.

"Some of the women were just very weak and couldn't walk," Saaim explains. "But I collapsed completely."

Saaim was taken to a local hospital with some other garment workers but she was sent home without any noticeable health problems. She returned to work a day later only to faint again.

"With the heat and the leftover smell from the smoke, I just didn't feel good and I fainted," she says.

Saaim and her colleagues fainted three times over the course of the week, with 50 workers fainting on the second day and 70

*fainting a day later. On the third day, the company allowed a health inspector to review the building, but the workers were **never informed about the inspector's discoveries.***

"I think it was the smoke, the heat and the chemicals from the factory that made us faint," Saaim says, adding that she had to pay for her own medical treatment.

Saaim's story isn't uncommon in Cambodia, a country where the garment, textile and sports apparel industry makes up roughly [80 per cent of its export revenue](#). The industry generates over US\$5 billion annually and employs up to 700,000 people, most of which are women.

Mass fainting in factories producing popular brands such as Nike, Puma, H&M and New Balance has plagued the industry for years. According to [a 2013 report published by the University of Amsterdam](#), around 4,000 workers fainted in Cambodian garment factories in the two years prior to the study's release. More recently, a report by [Cambodia's National Social Security Fund](#) determined that 1,806 workers in 32 factories fainted in 2015.

Complex reasons for mass faintings

But the cause of these incidents isn't always as simple as an exploding generator filling the factory with smoke. In fact, many experts and officials are unable to agree on the cause of mass fainting or how to address it. Some people blame factory conditions, such as faulty cooling and ventilation systems, for a lack of oxygen in the buildings. They say smoke, pesticides from nearby farms and chemicals used to treat garments combine with Cambodia's soaring temperatures to create the perfect conditions for spontaneous swooning.

Others, however, argue that it's the workers themselves who are in bad shape, often exhausted, overworked and underfed. Many of the women working in Cambodia's garment factories live in cramped barracks next to the factories. They usually work 10-hour days with few breaks and they are not able to eat or drink enough during working hours. Those who don't live near the factories take long and dangerous rides to work crammed into the back of trucks like cattle. The stress of this lifestyle can take a toll on the workers and make them prone to fainting, experts say.

Meanwhile, some factory workers blame ghosts and possession by spirits for the incidents. A study released in April in the peer-reviewed journal [Transcult Psychiatry](#) noted that around 26 per cent of the incidents of mass fainting surveyed were believed to be triggered by spirit possession. Monks are sometimes called into factories to perform ritual ceremonies to appease the ghosts, and the study notes that fainting spells sometimes stop after such rituals.

The study's authors blame the fainting episodes on the psychological fear and trauma caused by Cambodia's bloody past, alleging that mass fainting tends to break out in factories "built on sites that were said to be blighted as killing fields."

In March last year, officials even blamed mass fainting on the over-indulgence of partygoers during Cambodia's wedding season.

Still, according to Ath Thorn, president of the Cambodian Labor Confederation, the most common reasons for mass fainting are the poor health of workers and the presence of pesticides and pollutants in the factories.

“[Garment workers] are working long and hard in bad conditions. They are working overtime and they eat less than they should,” Thorn says. “They are also working amidst many chemicals and lots of dust, so if the workers aren’t healthy it can cause problems. The factories sometimes don’t open the door so they can get enough oxygen.”

Thorn argues that Cambodia’s government should enforce stricter regulations to ensure that factories are safe for workers. He also says garment workers should receive higher salaries so **they aren’t tempted to exhaust themselves by working overtime.** The minimum wage for garment workers is currently set at \$153 a month, which forces many women to work extra hours to make ends meet.

Mass hysteria?

But Ken Loo, Secretary General of Cambodia’s Garment Manufacturer’s Association, argues that garment factory workers black out simultaneously in part due to the psychological phenomenon of mass hysteria.

In June this year, 27 garment workers fainted in a Taiwanese-owned factory in Phnom Penh after they heard the distressing news that one of their colleagues had died from inhaling toxic fumes. Mass fainting is usually sparked when one worker faints and many others follow suit, and often it is caused by stress or panic.

“When you read that 126 workers were affected, that doesn’t mean 126 workers fainted,” Loo says. “If anywhere near that number of workers actually fainted, I think all of the doctors in the world would be here in Cambodia studying this phenomenon. But usually it’s just a handful who actually lose consciousness and the others who say they don’t feel well.”

This explanation matches the experience of Phal Nen, a 28-year-old seamstress who works in **the same factory as Saaim. Nen says she didn’t faint on the day the generator exploded because she was close enough to the door to escape from the smoke.** But on the third day the stress from seeing her colleagues faint was too much for her.

“I saw some of the other workers collapse and I felt panicked. I became weak and suddenly I fainted,” she explains. “I fell down and I heard people calling my name, but I couldn’t respond, I couldn’t open my eyes.”

Nen says she regularly feels weak and dizzy at work. The factory’s cooling system does little to reduce the temperatures in the sweltering building, she says, and she is perpetually hungry, thirsty and stressed on the job.

“Everyday is more and more difficult. The managers say they are losing profits and they have given us higher quotas,” she says. “Sometimes I can’t sleep at night because I’m so frustrated about work.”

3rd August 2017, Beijing

Automated Sewbot to make 800,000 adidas T-shirts daily

Technology developed in the USA will be used by a Chinese company to supply European sports brand adidas with T-shirts made in the US by robots. This is a major breakthrough in the automation of garment assembly by the global partnership.

Leading sportswear brand adidas is planning to produce 800,000 T-shirts per day using fully automated Sewbot Workline's supplied by SoftWear Automation, of Atlanta, GA. Tianyuan Garments Company, of Suzhou, China, the largest producer of apparel for adidas worldwide, has partnered with SoftWear Automation to produce the T-shirts at Tianyuan's newly acquired plant in Little Rock, AR, *China Daily* reports.



Using cameras to map the fabric and robots to steer it through the sewing needles, the system will handle soft fabrics and make the T-shirts for adidas on the system which is scheduled to be fully operational by the end of next year.

"From fabric cutting and sewing to finished product, it takes roughly four minutes," said Tang Xinhong, chairman of Tianyuan Garments. "We will install 21 production lines. When fully operational, the system will make one T-shirt every 22 seconds. We will produce 800,000 T-shirts a day for Adidas."

This is a big achievement for Atlanta based brand SoftWear Automation, which launched in 2012. The company's Sewbots use a combination of patented high-speed computer vision and lightweight robotics to steer fabric to and through the needle with greater speed and accuracy than a human. The technology was developed by and is patented by Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Development Center.

Tang said that with complete automation, the personnel cost for each T-shirt is roughly 33 cents. "Around the world, even the cheapest labour market can't compete with us. I am really excited about this," he said.

Tianyuan announced last October that it would invest \$20 million in the 100,000-square-foot defunct Little Rock plant it had acquired. In time, it will bring 400 new jobs to Arkansas. The signing ceremony was witnessed by a Chinese textile delegation led by Xu Yingxin, vice-president of the China National Textile and Apparel Council.

Xu said that establishing a clothing factory in Arkansas enables Tianyuan to satisfy instant order demands from its clients. He praised Tianyuan's working with American partners in automation as a smart move at a crucial junction in the technology revolution. "The idea of Industry 4.0 and Intelligent Manufacturing is gradually becoming the reality," Xu said. "It is revolutionizing labour-intensive clothing manufacturing."

The delegation, made up of industry leaders and entrepreneurs, also visited existing plants of Tianyuan and Shandong Ruyi Technology, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) and Wal-Mart's global headquarters.

Textile companies go high tech in Arkansas

By May Zhou and Zhang Yuan in Little Rock, Arkansas | China Daily USA | Updated: 2017-07-25 10:16



Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson presents a drawing of the state capitol to Xu Yingxin, vice-president of the China National Textile and Apparel Council, on July 21. MAYZHOU / CHINA DAILY

Tianyuan Garments Company of Suzhou signed an agreement with SoftWear Automation of Atlanta to develop a fully automated T-shirt production line at Tianyuan's newly acquired plant in Little Rock, Arkansas, on July 19.

The technology was developed by and is patented by Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Development Center. Using cameras to map the fabric and robots to steer it through the sewing needles, the system will handle soft fabrics and make T-shirts for Adidas.

The system is scheduled to be fully operational by the end of next year.

"From fabric cutting and sewing to finished product, it takes roughly four minutes," said Tang Xinhong, chairman of Tianyuan Garments. "We will install 21 production lines. When fully operational, the system will make one T-shirt every 22 seconds. We will produce 800,000 T-shirts a day for Adidas."

Tang said that with complete automation, the personnel cost for each T-shirt is roughly 33 cents. "Around the world, even the cheapest labor market can't compete with us. I am really excited about this," he said.

Tianyuan announced last October it would invest \$20 million in the 100,000-square-foot defunct Little Rock plant it had acquired. In time, it will bring 400 new jobs to Arkansas.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by a Chinese textile delegation led by Xu Yingxin, vice-president of the China National Textile and Apparel Council.

Xu said that establishing a clothing factory in Arkansas enables Tianyuan to satisfy instant order demands from its clients. He praised Tianyuan's working with American partners in automation as a smart move at a crucial junction in the technology revolution.

"The idea of Industry 4.0 and Intelligent Manufacturing is gradually becoming the reality," Xu said. "It is revolutionizing labor-intensive clothing manufacturing."

The delegation, made up of industry leaders and entrepreneurs, also visited existing plants of Tianyuan and Shandong Ruyi Technology, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) and Wal-Mart's global headquarters.

They were also received by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, who has been actively promoting Arkansas to Chinese investors. He personally went to China and signed the deal for Tianyuan to set up shop in Little Rock last year.

Overall, Hutchinson's efforts have produced results. Following Tianyuan, Shandong Ruyi announced in May a \$410 million investment to set up a yarn factory utilizing local cotton, in Forrest City, a town about an hour from Little Rock. The company is in the process of renovating a former Sanyo building and will bring about 800 jobs to the area.

"China attracted a lot of technology and equipment from the US. Many brands have entered China. Now, China is beginning to manufacture in the US," Xu said.

Chinese textile companies began investing in North Carolina and South Carolina. With Shandong Ruyi and Tianyuan's investment here, Arkansas is becoming another center for China's textile industry, said Xu.

In welcoming the delegation, Hutchinson said, "We are very committed to making sure that the two garment companies already here - Ruyi and Tianyuan - are successful. AEDC Director Michael Preston is working hard to support them. If they have an issue, or there is something they don't understand, they get help."

Contact the writers at mayzhou@chinadailyusa.com.

Les consommateurs dupés ? “Made in China” est souvent “Made in North Korea”

Pauline Gilles 17 août 2017



AFP PHOTO / FRED DUFOUR

De nombreuses entreprises chinoises sous-traitent leur production de textile en Corée du Nord, à l'insu de leurs donneurs d'ordres occidentaux, rapporte Reuters. Comme toutes les usines nord-coréennes appartiennent au gouvernement communiste de Pyongyang, cela implique que les consommateurs occidentaux qui achètent les vêtements ainsi produits soutiennent le régime du dictateur Kim Jong-un.

“Made in China”. Nous avons tous déjà rencontré cette annotation sur un t-shirt, un jeans, une paire de chaussures... Il est vrai qu'une grande partie de nos vêtements

et chaussures sont produits en Chine. Mais une enquête menée par Reuters montre que les fabricants de textile chinois sous-traitent de plus en plus leur production à des usines basées en Corée du Nord. La raison ? La main d'oeuvre y est bien moins chère, expliquent ainsi des courtiers de Dandong (une ville chinoise située au sud de la frontière avec la Corée du Nord) à l'agence de presse. Les coûts de fabrication des vêtements produits en Corée du Nord seraient "75 % moins élevés".

Les autorités chinoises ont annoncé le mois dernier que leurs échanges commerciaux avec la Corée du Nord avaient augmenté de 10,5 %. Au premier semestre 2017, les exportations chinoises (majoritairement de textile) vers la Corée du Nord ont augmenté de près de 30 %, pour s'établir à 1,67 milliard de dollars (1,43 milliard d'euros), a rappelé Huang Songping, la porte-parole des douanes chinoises, à Reuters. Ces exportations consistent en du tissu et des matériaux nécessaires à la confection des vêtements dont les usines nord-coréennes assurent la fabrication.

Des ouvriers qui ont une autre motivation que l'argent

"Les Nord-Coréens ne sont pas comme les ouvriers d'usines chinoises qui travaillent uniquement pour l'argent. Ils travaillent pour leur pays et leur dirigeant", commente ainsi un courtier à Reuters.

Et cette motivation les conduirait à produire "30 % de vêtements de plus que les travailleurs chinois" chaque jour, toujours selon le même courtier. Par exemple, ils n'osent pas aller aux toilettes, de peur de freiner la chaîne de production. Ils sont également nettement moins bien payés que dans d'autres pays asiatiques, puisqu'ils perçoivent 160 dollars en moyenne par mois (environ 137 euros), alors que les salaires moyens en Chine sont de 450 à 750 dollars par mois (384 à 641 euros). Et ils ne peuvent conserver qu'un tiers du montant perçu, le reste devant être reversé à l'Etat nord-coréen.

La transparence pas toujours de mise

"Nos commandes viennent de partout dans le monde", déclare un autre homme d'affaires de Dandong. C'est par cette ville chinoise frontalière que transite la majorité du commerce de la Corée du Nord. Des dizaines de courtiers du textile y opèrent pour servir d'intermédiaires entre les fournisseurs et les acheteurs qui viennent des États-Unis, d'Europe, du Japon, de la Corée du Sud, du Canada ou encore de Russie.

Le businessman continue : “Nous demandons aux fournisseurs chinois qui travaillent avec nous s’ils ont l’intention d’être transparents avec le client avec qui ils auront affaire (...) parfois, l’acheteur final ne réalise pas que les vêtements commandés sont fabriqués en Corée du Nord. C’est extrêmement sensible”.

On recenserait une quinzaine de grandes entreprises nord-coréennes exportatrices de vêtements, chacune exploitant plusieurs usines réparties dans le pays, et des dizaines d’entreprises de taille moyenne, selon GPI Consultancy of the Netherlands, qui aide les entreprises étrangères à faire des affaires en Corée du Nord.

Ainsi, la marque Rip Curl s’est excusée publiquement l’année dernière quand une enquête a révélé que certains de ses vêtements de ski “made in China” étaient en fait fabriqués en Corée du Nord.

Les sanctions internationales

L’Organisation des Nations unies (ONU) a récemment durci les sanctions contre la Corée du Nord, mais ces dernières ne concernent pas le textile, qui représentait en 2016 le second plus grand poste d’exportations de la Corée du Nord, après le charbon et d’autres minéraux, selon les données de la Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA).

La Corée du Nord n’a désormais plus le droit d’exporter son charbon, mais le pays de Kim Jong-un semble avoir trouvé une source alternative de financement.

Coton: les prix plombés par l'anticipation d'une récolte abondante aux USA

18/08/2017 | 18:29

NEW YORK (awp/afp) - Les prix du coton ont reculé cette semaine aux Etats-Unis, toujours plombés par les prévisions d'une récolte américaine importante après le relèvement des estimations de rendements par le département de l'Agriculture (USDA).

"Ce qui est sûr c'est que l'on va avoir plus de coton que la plupart des investisseurs avaient anticipé", a commenté Louis Rose de Rose Commodity Group.

Depuis l'annonce des estimations mensuelles de l'USDA en cours de semaine précédente, le coton a perdu 6% de sa valeur.

"Les investisseurs voulant vendre restent fermement accrochés aux manettes du marché", ont commenté les analystes de Plexus dans une note.

"Les investisseurs spéculatifs sont inquiets", a continué Louis Rose, estimant qu'il faudrait attendre de nouvelles statistiques sur les stocks de fin de campagne pour qu'ils reprennent confiance dans une hausse du marché.

Du côté du ciel, les conditions météorologiques aux Etats-Unis sont restées "favorables" aux cultures, selon Jack Scoville de Price Futures.

Pour l'avenir, Louis Rose estimait en revanche qu'à ce stade du développement du coton, "on ne veut plus vraiment de pluies et de temps nuageux".

Principal point positif pour le marché, la demande mondiale de coton "reste bonne", a-t-il conclu. La bonne tenue des exportations américaines est un facteur de soutien des cours depuis plusieurs semaines.

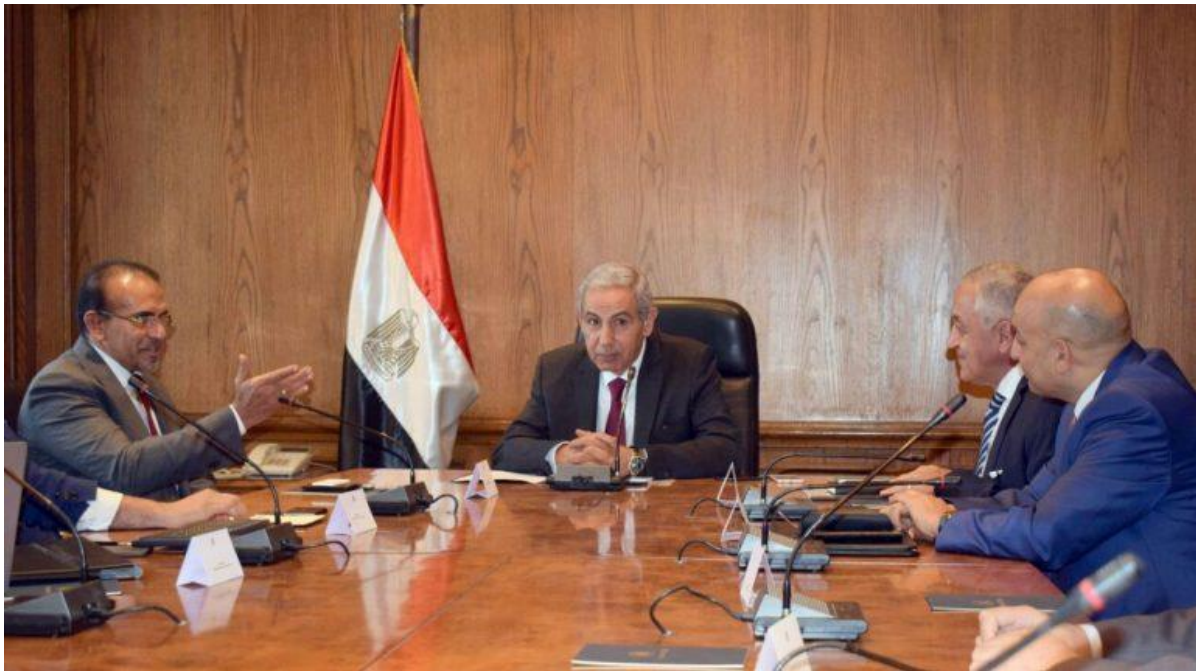
La livre de coton pour livraison en décembre, le contrat le plus actif sur l'Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), évoluait vendredi en cours de séance à 66,97 cents contre 68,25 cents en fin de semaine précédente.

L'indice Cotlook A, moyenne quotidienne des cinq prix du coton les plus faibles sur le marché physique dans les ports d'Orient, s'affichait à 77,40 les 100 livres jeudi, contre 81,35 dollars une semaine plus tôt (-4,86%).

Indian Classic Fashion considers producing garments in Egypt with EGP 1bn capital

The Egyptian market has become more attractive for foreign investments, the sector of textile is priority in the ministry's plan for industrial development

[Hossam Mounir](#) August 1, 2017



Classic Fashion, one of the largest Indian companies working in the sector of ready-made clothes, is considering establishing a new project in the Egyptian market to produce garments, with a capital of EGP 1bn, according to Tarek Kabil, the Minister of Industry and Trade.

Kabil explained that the plan is to start working on the project in January 2018 and start actual production by the end of 2018.

This came during Kabil's meeting with a delegation from Jordan, headed by Sanal Kumar, the chairperson of the company. During the meeting, the projects of the company's activity in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were demonstrated, in addition to future projects that the company seeks to undertake in the Egyptian market in the fields of textile, weaving, and agriculture.

According to Kabil, the industry of textile and weaving is one of the main four sectors receiving the highest priority in the strategy put forward by the ministry to develop industry and foreign trade during this current phase. He noted that it is considered one of the labour-intensive industries with more than one third of the workforce taking part in it.

He added that the new Investment Law provides huge guarantees and incentives for existing and new investments, pointing out that the investment climate in Egypt has become attractive to many international companies to invest in Egypt and benefit from the multiple advantages offered by the Egyptian market.

The ministry provides industrial lands for all projects and different fields at competitive prices, said Kabil, pointing out the possibility of establishing the company's new project in the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone)

According to Kumar, Classic Fashion aims to work in the Egyptian market, due to the huge economic reforms implemented by the Egyptian government currently and the promising investment and export prospects in the Egyptian market. He noted that the company is currently conducting preliminary studies of the project and is reviewing the different industrial zones in Egypt to determine a location for the project in preparation for starting the work early next year.

The company currently exports to a large number of international and regional markets, and the company's products are distributed in the largest stores and retail outlets in a number of capitals and major cities across the world, said Kumar.

Textile workers go on strike in Egypt's Mahalla over salary raise

The workers say they will continue their strike inside the factory until all their demands are met

Zeinab El-Gundy , Wednesday 9 Aug 2017



A file photo of a Mahalla textile and weaving company worker (Photo:Reuters)

Thousands of workers at the Mahalla Textile and Weaving Company in Mahalla city continued an open strike at their factory on Wednesday for the third day in a row, making several demands, including a 10 percent raise in basic salary.

Faisal Loksha, the leading activist worker at the famous state-owned company in Gharbiya governorate, told Ahram Online that the workers were shocked that they were not given the 10 percent raise in basic salary which was announced by President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi in May for public sector workers not covered by the civil service law.

The president announced the raise "to lift burdens off the average Egyptian citizen" following the economic reforms adopted by the Egyptian government.

In addition to the 10 percent public sector pay rise, the Egyptian government also reached to an agreement in July with private sector business and labour sector representatives to grant 18 million workers in the private sector a 10 percent raise starting from July.

"The Mahalla Textile and Weaving Company as a state-owned company follows the business sector ministry and for some reason, the minister of the public business sector refuses to issue those raises to the factories following his ministry," Loksha told Ahram Online.

In addition to the 10 percent basic salary raise, the workers are also demanding a 10 percent social benefit raise and an increase in their food allowance, as well as the appointment of a new board of directors to the company to replace the company's general coordinator.

On Tuesday evening, the general coordinator held a meeting with representatives of the workers, offering them only a 10 percent basic salary raise, in return for ending the strike and returning to work on Thursday. The workers refused the offer and said they would continue the strike until all their demands were met.

Loksha said that the workers had started their open strike on Monday as a final escalation.

"For the past couple of weeks, we have organised short rallies inside the factory after working hours, demanding the raise," he said, adding that they had first tried a partial strike.

"As our demands had not been met, we decided to go on a full strike in the factory," he said describing how the workers come in for their regular shifts in the factory and sit beside their machines, without operating them.

Minister of the Public Business Sector Ashraf El-Sharkawy stated in June that the factory workers and other factory employees, including the Mahalla factory, would not receive the exceptional raise because they received an end-of-year profit share.

Ahram Online spoke with MP Nemat Amar of Mahalla who stated that "the whole problem has been solved."

"Next week the workers will receive a special bonus after an agreement between the general textile and weaving union and Minister El-Sharkawy on Tuesday," she said, urging the workers to get back to work.

She also added that workers did not have the right to ask for the special raise issued by the president as "the civil service law does not apply to public sector companies, or their employees and workers."

"It applies to the workers and employees of the ministries and general authorities only," she told Ahram Online.

Loksha however denied that a deal had been reached between the workers and the government over the raise.

"Nothing was reached, we are still demanding the 10 percent raise as we are citizens in this country working in a public sector company," he said, insisting that the strike will continue until their demands are met.

"The Mahalla MPs can say whatever they want to the reporters or on Facebook but they did not even visit the factory or meet with us," Loksha told Ahram Online.

Mahalla Textile and Weaving Company is one of the biggest textile and cotton companies in the country; the sector as a whole comprises 32 companies and employs 60,000 workers around the country.

In October 2015, the workers of Mahalla Company went on strike for 12 days, to demand they receive a benefit known as the social raise.

The action was successful and they were awarded nine-months worth of the raise.

The company's workers have played a major part in political developments in Egypt in the last decade, including in major protests against the Mubarak regime in 2008.

L’Ethiopie veut devenir le hub textile de l’Afrique

Par Laurent Filippi [@GeopolisAfrique](https://twitter.com/GeopolisAfrique) | Publié le 16/08/2017 à 11H07, mis à jour le 16/08/2017 à 17H16



Une usine de textile à Addis-Abeba © Kay Nietfeld / dpa/ AFP

L’Ethiopie est l’une des cinq économies les plus dynamiques du continent africain. Selon le Rapport sur l’investissement dans le monde 2016, le pays est au 2e rang en matière d’investissement étranger dans le secteur de l’industrie textile après le Vietnam. La Chine, partenaire privilégié, développe de nombreuses infrastructures. La croissance est au rendez-vous. Mais à quel prix?

L’Ethiopie, deuxième pays d’Afrique le plus peuplé du continent avec plus de 100 millions d’habitants, connaît depuis une dizaine d’années une croissance de son PIB (10 % en 2015, 6,4 en 2016 et 7 % prévu en 2017). Le PIB par habitant a doublé. Pourtant, avec 675 euros par habitant en 2016, il reste toujours l’un des plus faibles au niveau mondial.

Mais le pays veut devenir d’ici à 2025 un pays à revenu intermédiaire. Aujourd’hui, l’agriculture reste le pilier socio-économique du pays avec 39% du PIB, 80% des emplois, et 85% des exportations, [précise le ministère de l’Economie et des Finances françaises](#). Alors pour doper son économie, le pays a décidé de mettre les bouchées doubles et de développer son industrie manufacturière dans le secteur du textile. L’Ethiopie veut que cette industrie (actuellement 5% du PIB) grimpe de 20 à 25 % d’ici dix ans pour en faire ainsi la base principale de son économie.

Plans quinquennaux de croissance et de transformation de l’économie

Un plan de croissance et de développement ([Growth and Transformation Plan](#), GTP) a été mis en place par l’ancien Premier ministre Meles Zenawi, obsédé par la «renaissance» éthiopienne. La première phase du GTP s’est terminée en 2015 et son

bilan a prouvé les capacités de bonne gouvernance économique. 60% des objectifs dans la réalisation d'infrastructures ont été réalisés. Avec une réserve: le décollage du secteur manufacturier et la hausse des exportations.

«Notre industrie est encore embryonnaire. Nous devons transformer notre économie essentiellement agricole et nous focaliser sur l'industrialisation qui va nous permettre de faire partie des pays à revenus intermédiaires d'ici à 2025», a déclaré Tadesse Haile, ministre d'Etat à l'industrie.

La seconde phase du plan (GTP II, 2015-2020) s'inscrit dans la continuité du premier et entend, au plan macroéconomique, maintenir une croissance à deux chiffres dans un environnement économique stable.

«Made in Ethiopia»

En 2015, l'État a créé une cellule spéciale: la Corporation pour le développement des parcs industriels. Treize parcs vont être construits à cet effet. Pour que les entreprises étrangères implantent des usines dans le pays, le prix des terrains est bradé, à peine un euro par mètre carré par mois. Réseaux électrique et de communication (routes) sont également construits. Une [nouvelle voie ferrée entre Addis-Abeba et Djibouti](#) entrera en service en octobre 2017.

D'ici à 2020, 150 entreprises de textile et de vêtements devraient être opérationnelles et le secteur générer [30 milliards de dollars](#) en un peu plus de dix ans. Bogale Feleke, vice-ministre éthiopienne de l'industrie a déclaré en juillet 2017: *«Nous avons l'intention d'augmenter notre superficie de culture de coton. À l'heure actuelle, seulement 20% des trois millions d'hectares sont utilisés pour cette culture alors que nous visons à atteindre les 80%».*

«Au total, l'industrie du textile habillement pourrait générer en Afrique subsaharienne 400.000 emplois et les exportations pourraient doubler dans les 10 ans, a révélé l'équipe de Fashionomics», déclare la [Banque africaine de développement](#).

Pour Mayur Kothari, patron de l'Indian Business Forum: *«Il n'y a aucun doute sur le fait que l'Ethiopie sera un leader dans cette région de l'Afrique, car il y a une population énorme, de bonnes directives, des investissements dans les infrastructures, et une stabilité politique. Les ressources naturelles sont immenses, ajoute Madeleine Rosberg [sur Forbes Afrique](#), Elles renferment un énorme potentiel de développement pour la filière textile, au point que l'Ethiopie pourrait devenir le nouveau Pakistan.»* Avec le plus gros cheptel d'Afrique et 45 millions d'hectares de terres arables pour la production du coton, le pays a toutes les cartes en mains pour devenir le nouveau Lion africain.



Dans une usine de sous-vêtements pour enfants à Addis-Abeba © Kay Nietfeld / dpa/ AFP

Un nouvel eldorado

[Selon l'édition 2016 du Rapport sur l'investissement dans le monde](#), l'Ethiopie se trouve au deuxième rang en matière d'investissement direct étranger dans le secteur de l'industrie textile, après le Vietnam. Pour cela, Addis-Abeba offre plusieurs avantages: une énergie abondante à bas prix grâce à l'hydroélectricité; une main-d'œuvre jeune et très bon marché, estimée à 47 millions de personnes. Un ouvrier dans une usine de vêtement ou de chaussures gagne 36 euros par mois, soit cinq fois moins qu'un Chinois.

De plus, le gouvernement offre un régime fiscal très attractif aux compagnies étrangères, sous certaines conditions, l'exemption d'impôts sur le revenu ou encore l'exonération de droits de douane ou de taxes sur certains biens d'équipements importés [précise l'agence Ecofin](#). Le meilleur exemple en est la loi américaine [African Growth and Opportunity Act](#) (AGOA), qui permet à certains pays africains, dont l'Ethiopie, d'être dispensés de droits de douane sur un ensemble de marchandises exportées outre-Atlantique afin de favoriser leur développement économique, [explique Le Monde](#).

Cette loi américaine, adoptée en 2000, rend non imposables les marchandises produites par ces pays africains et vendues sur le sol américain. Or, comme l'explique Salomon Simunegus, [cité par Le Point](#): «la majorité des entreprises basés à Bole Lemi (banlieue d'Addis Abeba NDLR) exporte vers les États-Unis, pour des marques comme Tesco, H&M, PVH.» En 2016, l'Ethiopie aurait exporté pour 35 millions d'euros de production textile. Ce pays d'Afrique de l'Est fait partie des Etats africains bénéficiaires des accords de l'AGOA.

La Chine et l'Ethiopie, main dans la main

Pour toutes ces raisons, Addis-Abeba se rêve en nouvelle usine du monde du textile. Elle a réussi à attirer de nombreux investisseurs étrangers et notamment la Chine. Au

total, on compte 279 entreprises chinoises opérant en Ethiopie. En vingt ans, les investissements chinois ont totalisé plus de 3,4 milliards d'euros et auraient créé 111.000 emplois, [précise Le Monde](#).

En 2016, les ventes extérieures de vêtements ont enregistré un total de 93 millions d'euros. L'Ethiopie va inaugurer deux nouveaux espaces industriels dans le nord du pays. Financés par des capitaux chinois, ces derniers ont pour ambition de séduire de grands noms de l'habillement et du sous-vêtement comme Vanity Fair ou H&M, [selon Fashion Network](#).

Ce partenariat entre la Chine et l'Ethiopie est «*gagnant-gagnant*», confirme Sisay Gemechu, le PDG de la Société de développement des parcs industriels en Ethiopie. L'Ethiopie a besoin de la Chine, car il lui faut des investissements et des infrastructures pour désenclaver son territoire.

L'Ethiopie plus attractive que le Bangladesh

Pour le Premier ministre éthiopien Hailemariam Desalegn, l'objectif est de faire du pays le «*hub textile*» de l'Afrique. Et de séduire les multinationales venues d'Europe, d'Asie et d'Amérique, à l'image de grands groupes comme H&M.

En avril 2013, l'effondrement d'un immeuble de confection textile au Bangladesh (le Rana Plaza), a tué 1.138 personnes. H&M décide alors de délocaliser ses usines en Ethiopie. Depuis que l'entreprise s'est implantée dans le pays, la croissance moyenne du secteur éthiopien du textile-habillement s'est élevée à 51 % et 60.000 emplois ont été créés. Cette catastrophe a entraîné une crise du secteur textile bangladaïsi, poussant les investisseurs étrangers à délocaliser 58 usines sur le territoire éthiopien.

Un nouvel enfer ?

Le but de l'Ethiopie est maintenant de pouvoir développer cette activité mais en respectant les droits des travailleurs. [Car comme le raconte Le Monde](#): «*Dans l'un des deux immenses hangars situés dans la zone industrielle de l'est de Dukem, des centaines d'ouvriers éthiopiens s'affairent à la découpe du cuir et au collage à la glu de semelles sous le regard de superviseurs chinois ou éthiopiens formés à Dongguan. Les Chinois ont importé des machines "Made in China", mais aussi le dogme communiste. La population éthiopienne, qui travaille à 80 % dans l'agriculture, n'était pas familière des méthodes industrielles de travail.*»

Angesom Gebreyohannes de la Confédération des syndicats éthiopiens ajoute: «*Il n'y a pas de salaire minimum en Ethiopie, la rémunération varie en fonction de l'entreprise et c'est la porte ouverte à tous les abus.*» Mais il refuse d'en attribuer la responsabilité au gouvernement, parfois accusé de laxisme. Il précise: «*Des lois, un Code du travail existent. Les ouvriers doivent se les approprier et emmener leurs employeurs devant la justice*». En janvier 2015, les ouvriers de l'usine de la marque turque Ayka Addis Textile ont fait grève et obtenu une augmentation de 25 % de leurs salaires.

Charlie Dupiot, qui a réalisé [un reportage pour RFI](#) à Addis-Abeba et à Dukem, dans des

usines chinoises, hollandaises et turques, livre un témoignage accablant: *«Tous racontaient la même cadence au travail, les journées de 14 heures, les semaines sans jour de repos, les pénalités prélevées sur les salaires au moindre prétexte, les "cours de discipline" qui ressemblent à des entraînements militaires pour "civiliser" les employés – pour reprendre les mots du responsable de l'usine qui m'en fera plus tard la visite. Et puis les violences à coup de chaussures... ».*

Le dumping social mondial est sans fin. Aujourd'hui l'Ethiopie en profite, jusqu'à ce qu'un autre pays intéresse les grandes compagnies..

Textile : l'Éthiopie veut en faire son or

D'ici 2030, l'Éthiopie veut générer 30 milliards de dollars en devises du secteur du textile et du vêtement. Elle a décidé de s'en donner les moyens.

PAR **ADÉLAÏDE NABAKWÉ**

Publié le 02/08/2017 à 15:43 | Le Point Afrique



Des femmes éthiopiennes dans une usine textile à Addis-Abeba. © KAY NIETFELD / DPA

C'est un choix fort que le gouvernement éthiopien vient de rendre public par la voix de sa vice-ministre de l'Industrie, Bogale Feleke. Profitant d'un atelier organisé à Addis-Abeba fin juillet pour promouvoir l'industrie textile éthiopienne, elle a indiqué combien le volontarisme du gouvernement est fort en la matière. « Nous avons l'intention d'augmenter notre superficie de culture de coton », a-t-elle dit, mettant le contraste de la situation actuelle dans laquelle « seulement 20 % des 3 millions d'hectares sont utilisés pour la culture de coton alors que l'Éthiopie vise à atteindre les 80 % ».

Des parcs industriels à dominante textile

Bogale Feleke a profité de l'occasion pour rappeler la volonté de l'Éthiopie à développer dans un proche avenir 13 parcs industriels « dont la majorité dans le secteur du textile et de l'habillement », et de préciser devant les participants de l'atelier issus du Centre éthiopien de promotion des investissements et de commerce international l'objectif d'avoir quelque « 150 entreprises de textile et de vêtements d'ici 2020 ». Une manière de montrer combien l'Éthiopie

veut garder, voire améliorer, son rang dans la sphère des investissements directs étrangers où, faut-il le rappeler, l'Éthiopie est au deuxième rang dans le secteur de l'industrie textile, après le Vietnam. En effet, selon l'édition 2016 du Rapport sur l'investissement dans le monde, l'Éthiopie, deuxième pays le plus peuplé d'Afrique, disposant d'une main-d'œuvre de plus de 47 millions et une jeune génération en plein essor, est déterminée à multiplier les opportunités d'emplois et le secteur sur lequel il entend compter le plus, c'est celui de l'industrie du textile et de l'habillement.

Ethiopie : l'américain Trybus Group installera une usine textile dans le parc de Kombolcha



vendredi, 18 août 2017 13:39

(Agence Ecofin) - Trybus Group, le fabricant américain de vêtements pour homme construira une usine textile sur 5 500 mètres carrés (m²) dans le Parc industriel de Kombolcha, situé à environ 225 kilomètres de la capitale éthiopienne Addis-Abeba.

Selon le site *Just-style*, un mémorandum d'entente a été récemment signé entre Lixum Wang, vice-président et directeur général de Trybus Group et Fitsum Arega, directeur de la Commission Ethiopeenne de l'Investissement (EIC).

L'infrastructure devrait employer dans une première phase plus de 1 500 personnes et environ 5 500 autres, lorsqu'elle sera pleinement opérationnelle.

Ce projet permet à l'entreprise américaine de rejoindre la liste des acteurs internationaux présents dans l'industrie textile éthiopienne comprenant entre autres le géant suédois du prêt-à-porter Hennes & Mauritz (H&M), le turc Ayka Addis Textile & Investment Group PLC et son compatriote PVH, propriétaire de la célèbre marque Calvin Klein.

Basé à Dallas, Trybus Group confectionne ses produits notamment en Italie, en Chine et au Vietnam. Il détient les marques Ibiza, Flynt et Steve Harvey.

Espoir Olodo

Orchestra renonce à fusionner avec l'américain Destination Maternity

PUBLIÉ LE 02/08/2017

Pour des raisons de réglementation boursière, le spécialiste français de la mode enfantine vient de résilier l'accord de fusion qu'il avait signé en décembre 2016 avec le groupe américain.



Orchestra (ici le magasin Baby Care de Saint-Aunès, Montpellier) renonce à fusionner avec l'américain Destination Maternity © Orchestra

La création d'un géant mondial qui devait cibler les futures mamans pour les conserver comme clientes une fois mères de famille n'aura finalement pas lieu. Le groupe montpelliérain Orchestra-Prémaman, spécialiste du [textile](#) enfant et des articles de puériculture, et l'américain Destination Maternity, de son côté positionné sur les vêtements de grossesse, viennent d'annoncer qu'ils renonçaient à fusionner, [mariage annoncé en décembre 2016](#) et initialement planifié pour le troisième trimestre 2017.

La raison de ce revirement ? La procédure à engager auprès du gendarme boursier américain, la Securities and Exchange Commission, pour organiser le rachat de l'Américain avec des actions du Français. [Orchestra](#) mentionne en particulier « des doutes entourant la possibilité de répondre à ces exigences réglementaires sans démarches ni frais déraisonnables, notamment en matière d'enregistrement et d'introduction des actions Orchestra sur le marché boursier américain, où elles n'ont jamais été cotées ».

Une acquisition devenue trop chère ?

Figurant parmi les leaders européens des produits pour l'enfance, Orchestra est présent dans 40 pays, opère 640 magasins et emploie 2500 salariés. Cependant, le groupe de Pierre Mestre vient de publier des pertes de 33,6 millions d'euros, pour un chiffre d'affaires en hausse de 8,7% à 608,3 millions d'euros. En un an, son action à la Bourse de Paris a de plus dégringolé de moitié. Il est donc possible que l'acquisition de Destination Maternity se soit in fine révélée trop onéreuse pour ses finances.

Pour sa part, l'Américain affiche un chiffre d'affaires de 500 millions de dollars, compte 4200 salariés et dispose d'un parc de 1230 points de vente aux Etats-Unis, au Canada, à Porto Rico et au Royaume-Uni. Au total, l'entité issue de la fusion, qui devait être détenue à 72% par les actionnaires d'Orchestra et à 28% par ceux de Destination Maternity, aurait donc dépassé 1,1 milliard de dollars de ventes annuelles.

Concentration inéluctable

Adieu, donc, les synergies attendues : 15 à 20 millions de dollars d'économies sur les approvisionnements et l'implantation d'Orchestra outre-Atlantique, le marché de produits pour enfants le plus important et le plus rentable au monde. Entre les taux de natalité en berne et l'essor des plateformes en ligne de produits de seconde main, le marché des vêtements et articles pour enfants et bébés sont en déclin. Le rapprochement des deux groupes a beau échouer pour la deuxième fois, après une première tentative infructueuse en 2015, la concentration dans ce secteur devrait donc se poursuivre.

LES ÉTUDIANTS, VARIABLE D'AJUSTEMENT CHEZ UNIQLO ?

Par Julia Lemarchand | 02/08/2017 à 08:00, mis à jour le 03/08/2017



Signer un contrat dans une grande enseigne de l'habillement n'est pas une garantie de le finir... @Eugene Hoshiko/AP/SIPA

Le numéro 3 mondial du prêt-à-porter derrière Zara & H&M connaît un incroyable essor grâce à son concept lifewear... au prix de pratiques RH questionnables mais courantes dans le secteur.

Arthur*, 22 ans, étudiant en école de commerce, pensait avoir trouvé un job d'été sympa dans une boutique parisienne du groupe japonais d'habillement Uniqlo, avec même la promesse orale répétée d'un CDI en temps partiel à la rentrée. Idéal pour un job étudiant pendant son master ! Mais les choses ne se sont pas passées comme prévues...

Après un entretien de sélection, Arthur* se voit proposer un CDD de 6 semaines dans l'une des plus grandes boutiques parisiennes. Au total, une vingtaine de jeunes, la plupart étudiants comme lui, sont convoqués... la première semaine des soldes. Il faut apprendre vite, prouver qu'on est compétents et motivés.

A FOND !

"Nous étions bien plus dynamiques que tous les autres vendeurs déjà embauchés car notre place dans l'entreprise n'était pas certifiée à 100%", témoigne l'apprenti vendeur, qui est vite rassuré par les nombreux compliments de sa manager adressés à chacun dans l'équipe. Autre signe positif : l'entreprise investit du temps dans la formation, non seulement sur les tâches à réaliser, mais aussi sur la sécurité ou encore sur la culture d'entreprise - parfois déroutante de la chaîne japonaise.

"Chaque matin et chaque soir, lors du meeting, tous les vendeurs sont au "garde à vous", ils hurlent les objectifs de la journée avant de terminer par les "6 phrases types du magasin" que tout le monde doit répéter à voix haute en même temps", se rappelle Arthur. Mais les nouvelles recrues se prêtent au jeu, sans ciller.

DOUCHE FROIDE

A la fin de sa première semaine - qui marque aussi la fin de sa période d'essai - Arthur* est invité par sa manager, tout sourire, à aller faire un point avec un autre responsable. "Je me suis retrouvé face à un homme que je n'avais croisé qu'une fois. Au bout de 2 minutes, il m'annonce que ma période d'essai se termine tout simplement, sans raison apparente, j'ai seulement réussi à obtenir une phrase type : "vous ne mettez pas assez en pratique les conseils qu'on vous donne". En 3 minutes, j'étais dans la rue devant le magasin sans badge et sans CDD", confie l'étudiant.

Sur les 9 nouveaux de son équipe, seule une personne est gardée en CDD. Et sur la vingtaine qui ont commencé en même temps que lui dans le magasin, 7 personnes ont pu poursuivre leur CDD, selon lui.

GACHIS

Une source syndicale au sein d'Uniqlo explique que la pratique n'est pas marginale chez la marque du groupe Fast Retailing (Uniqlo, Comptoir des Cottonniers, Princesse Tam-tam...), fondé en 1984 et passé numéro 3 mondial du secteur en 2016 avec 15,7 milliards d'euros de chiffre d'affaires, derrière Inditex qui détient Zara (23,3 mds) et H&M (20,3 mds).

"Malheureusement, nous voyons passer beaucoup de gens compétents qui ne dépassent pas la période d'essai, une personne sur quatre voire sur cinq est gardé", estime ce représentant syndical, salarié depuis plusieurs années par le groupe. Ce dernier pointe en outre le "manque de transparence des critères de sélection et l'inexpérience d'un certain nombre de responsables en magasin en matière de management".

Contacté, le siège français de l'enseigne nous a répondu par mail qu'elle ne formulait "pas de commentaire particulier sur employés, qu'ils fassent ou non encore partie de effectifs".

PRATIQUES GÉNÉRALISÉES

Uniqlo n'est pas le seul à avoir recours à ce type de pratiques, qui n'ont par ailleurs rien d'illégales, un contrat pouvant être rompu par l'employeur comme l'employé pendant la période d'essai, sans motif ni justification. Une étudiante en droit nous a confié avoir eu la même expérience chez Zara : embauchée en CDI pendant ses études en temps partiel, elle a été "remerciée à la fin de sa période d'essai qui débutait également au début des soldes en janvier". Tout comme la majorité des étudiants embauchés au même moment.

"C'est devenu une pratique courante dans le secteur, sans oublier les abus liés au recours aux stagiaires recrutés pendant les fêtes de fin d'année, souvent pour moins d'un mois et donc non

rémunérés”, relève Eric Scherrer, président du Syndicat des employés du commerce et de l'industrie (SECI-UNSA).

“RÈGNE DE LA PEUR”

Une politique RH hasardeuse qui s'explique, selon lui, par la “forte pression exercée par les sièges en matière de gestion des coûts et de résultats”. “Ce n'est pas organisé à proprement dit par les enseignes, poursuit-il. Il n'empêche, dans la gestion courante, les directeurs de magasin doivent bricoler pour ne pas dépasser leur quota d'heures mensuel, et risquer de se voir licencier”. Ce climat favorise les tensions entre le management et les vendeurs, selon lui, et conduit parfois à instaurer un “règne de la peur”.

A la Fédération des enseignes de l'Habillement (FEH), on ne nie pas le fort turnover qui persiste dans le secteur, que les syndicats estiment souvent à 50 à 60% dans la vente. “Le métier reste difficile, notamment en raison des horaires, reconnaît Antoine Solanet, responsable des affaires sociales de l'Alliance du Commerce, qui chapeaute la FEH.

DES AVANCÉES IMPORTANTES

Il ajoute toutefois que les abus ne sont “pas la norme”. Beaucoup a été fait ces dernières années, selon lui, pour améliorer l'attractivité de la branche, qui emploie 120.000 salariés en France, et dont la moyenne d'âge est de 34 ans. “Les enseignes ont accentué leurs efforts sur la formation pour les collaborateurs, qui pour 86% d'entre eux sont en CDI”, rappelle Antoine Solanet. “Les derniers accords de branche ont permis des avancées importantes pour tous les salariés”.

Et de mentionner le doublement de la rémunération des heures effectuées le dimanche entre autres mesures signées dans [l'accord de branche le mois dernier](#), mais aussi les nouvelles règles encadrant le temps partiel (qui concerne 4 salariés du secteur sur 10) grâce à la loi sur la sécurisation de l'emploi de 2013.

Enfin, la FEH insiste sur la “crise que traverse le secteur depuis presque 10 ans”. “Lorsqu'une entreprise n'a pas de visibilité sur son activité, il lui est difficile de s'engager sur le long terme”, explique Antoine Solanet.

De son côté, Uniqlo a prévu d'ouvrir prochainement 3 nouveaux magasins en France portant son nombre à 22 sur l'Hexagone. En avril, son fondateur et PDG Tadashi Yunai, indiquait dans une interview au [Figaro](#) : “Le marché français est très bon pour Uniqlo. Dans toutes les villes importantes, nous allons ouvrir encore au moins 50 magasins”. Le groupe en compte 1.800 actuellement dans le monde.

Par Julia Lemarchand

Export organisation FIEO seeks new textile policy to boost trade

By: [PTI](#) | Chennai | Published: August 4, 2017

The Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) representing various industries, has appealed to the Tamil Nadu government to set up a Textile Promotion Board and also formulate a new textile policy. The textile industry is fully dependent on the overseas market and a Textile Export Promotion Board should be formed with an objective to provide better linkage facilities and for marketing of finished products, FIEO regional chairman A Sakthivel said. The textile industry is one of the oldest in the country and accounts for four per cent of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product). The trade employs nearly 35 million people and offers huge potential, he said in a statement here.

Stating that the United States and Europe constituted the major market for textiles, he said today India faces serious challenges from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Urging the state government to announce a new textile policy to help boost trade, he said a textile park in Tamil Nadu may be set up. Sakthivel said Tamil Nadu textile industry generates business to the tune of Rs 50,000 crore every year and it was expected to reach Rs 75,000 crore by 2020. "With proper policy direction from the government, the state can become a top textile producer and exporter".

Govt takes steps to tap full potential of textile sector

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 2017-08-10 17:00:00 - New Delhi



The Indian Ministry of Textiles has set up institutional mechanism which includes a Steering Committee, an Inter-Ministerial Synergy Group on Man-Made Fibre and a Task Force to help on textile industry achieve its full potential.

The textile ministry has set up the institutional mechanisms to carry forward the key recommendations which emerged from the deliberations at the Textiles India 2017 was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from June 30 to July 2.

The Ministry of Textiles in a release said that building on the overwhelming success of Textiles India 2017, Ministry of Textiles has set up institutional mechanisms to synergize efforts of the Ministry of Textiles, related Ministries and state governments to enable the textile industry achieve its full potential of production, exports and employment.

The inter-ministerial synergy group on man-made fibre (MMF) chaired by the textiles secretary will formulate policy interventions to enhance the growth and competitiveness of MMF industry in the country.

The group comprises senior officers from ministry of petrochemicals, department of heavy industries and Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry, among others.

The steering committee has been set up to oversee implementation of a Knowledge Network Management System (KNMS) to facilitate exchange of knowledge among academia, farming community and the industry on the productivity of natural fibres and diversification of their by-products. The KNMS on product diversification would cover jute, silk, wool and cotton, an official statement said.

The task force on Textiles India, chaired by the textiles secretary will comprise representatives from the department of industrial policy and promotion, consumer affairs, department of heavy industry, representatives of partner and focus states of Textiles India 2017, export promotion councils, textiles associations and representatives from consumer associations has been set up to steer follow-up action on various outcomes of Textiles India 2017 for growth of the textiles sector.

Mega textile park in Warangal will be coming up soon

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 2017-08-10 16:00:00 – Telangana



A mega textile park will be coming up soon at Chintalapalli of Sangem mandal in Warangal city with an estimated investment to the tune of Rs1,150 crore and it is expected to provide direct employment to 1.13 lakh people (*), said Deputy Chief Minister Kadiam Srihari speaking to the media at Chintalapalli where he attended the Haritha Haram programme on Tuesday.

Nearly 1,190 acres of land has been acquired from farmers without any hassles because of the special efforts made by District Collector Prashanth J Patil.

The textile park would attract investments of over Rs. 11,000 crore and it would have ginning, spinning, weaving, dyeing and other units all at one place.

Once completed the industrial cluster would bring back the weavers and textile workers who migrated to distant places like Sholapur, Gujarat, Bhiwandi and others.

Srihari said that Chief Minister K Chandrshekar Rao would be laying the foundation stone for the park in this month. The district administration has decided to plant 20,000 saplings at the park site and already 10,000 saplings were planted to expand the green cover at the park.

Note JF Limantour : 1,13 lakh = 113 000

IranTEX 2017 to see strong participation from Germany

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 2017-08-10 14:00:00 - Tehran



German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), in cooperation with the Association of the German Trade Fair Industry (AUMA) for the first time supporting a German group participation at IranTEX, an International Exhibition of Textile Machinery, Raw Materials, Home Textiles, Embroidery Machines and Textile Products which is taking place in the beginning of September in Tehran.

Twenty-six VDMA member companies will participate in the official German presentation at IranTEX. The German Pavilion, initiated by the VDMA Textile Machinery, will cover 300 square metres of exhibition space.

According to VDMA, the prospects for German textile machinery in Iran are promising. In the first five months of 2017, Germany's exports of textile machinery and accessories reached more than 27 million euros which was already more than in the entire year 2016.

The VDMA exhibitors at IranTEX will cover the whole textile chain. The companies presenting their latest developments include: ANDRITZ Küsters, Autefa Solutions Germany, Brückner Textile Technologies, Dilo Maschinenfabrik, Genkinger, Heusch, Interspare, Jagenberg Textile, Karl Mayer Textilmaschinenfabrik, Karl Mayer Technische Textilien, Küsters Calico Machinery, A. Monforts Textilmaschinen, Neuenhauser Maschinenbau, NOMACO, Oerlikon Manmade Fibers Segment c/o Oerlikon Textile, Georg Sahn, Sohler-Neuenhauser, Spinnbau, Strobel Spezialmaschinen, Temafa Maschinenfabrik, Textechno, Trützschler, Weko - Weitmann & Konrad, Welker Vacuum, Xetma Vollenweider, and ZSK Stickmaschinen.

Also some companies from South Korea, Spain, Italy, Turkey, India, Netherland, Russia, China, Taiwan, Germany and Japan will be participating in IRANTEX.

IranTEX, a 4 day event being held from 4th September to the 7th September 2017 at Tehran International Permanent Fairground, Shahid Chamran Expressway in Tehran, Iran.

Italian textile machinery records significant growth in sales

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 2017-08-02 16:00:00 – Milan



ACIMIT, the Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers driven by a strong performance from the domestic market has recorded a significant growth in the order index for textile machinery during the period from April to June 2017.

Specifically, there was a significant increase in orders for the domestic market, where the index stood at an absolute value of 92.9 points (+66% over April-June 2016). In foreign markets, the increase amounted to 22%, and the absolute value of the index stood at 123.4 points.

The latest statistics show that the order index rose by 26% compared to the same period in 2016. The value of the index stood at 117.3 points (basis: 2010=100).

ACIMIT president Alessandro Zucchi said that the data confirms that a recovery is currently underway for their domestic market. This is the third consecutive quarter that the order index is on the rise.

ACIMIT has also reported a good level of participation by its members at the forthcoming Irantex exhibition, the primary trade fair for the Iranian textile and textile machinery sector, to be held in Tehran from 4 - 7 September 2017.

Last year, the trade fair was attended by a good number of Italian manufacturers, and this year's edition will be marked by the participation of 24 machinery producers.

Iran has always represented an important market for Italy's textile machinery industry. For the first three months of 2017, Italian exports to this specific market amounted to €12 million.

Un fonds pour soutenir le secteur textile

09.08.2017

C'est l'un des secteurs en pleine croissance. Après des années de vaches maigres, l'industrie textile est actuellement en plein essor dans le pays. Le secteur bénéficie actuellement d'un fonds de soutien de 2 millions de dollars. Cette enveloppe est destinée à développer les activités des sous-traitants et des petites et moyennes entreprises du secteur. Tous les ingrédients semblent être réunis pour le textile et l'habillement tire vers le haut l'essor économique tant attendu.

Les exportations tournent essentiellement en Europe et aux Etats-Unis. « Le marché européen représente 62% des exportations de textile et habillement, tandis que le marché américain ne concerne que 18% », a fait savoir Dominique Randrianarivony, directeur de communication au sein de l'Economic development board of Madagascar (EDBM). Mais d'ici peu, cette entité de promotion des investissements estime atteindre un chiffre d'affaires de 500 millions de dollars d'exportation vers le marché américain d'ici trois ans.

L'EDBM compte essentiellement sur la mise en place de la zone économique spéciale dédiée au textile ou le «Textile City». Elle sera bâtie sur une surface de cent hectares et sera capable d'accueillir quatre-vingt à cent usines de production.

Lova Rafidiarisoa

Marrakech accueillera le «Maroc in Mode» et le «Maroc Sourcing» en octobre



Marrakech accueillera le «Maroc in Mode» et le «Maroc Sourcing» en octobre prochain. / Ph. Drapers Online

La 15^e édition du festival «Maroc in Mode» et la 14^e édition des événements commerciaux «Maroc Sourcing» se tiendront à Marrakech les 26 et 27 octobre 2017. Au total, 175 exposants du Maroc, de Tunisie, d’Egypte, de Turquie, d’Espagne, d’Allemagne, de France, du Portugal et de Chine participeront aux deux manifestations pour dévoiler leurs produits et leurs conceptions et présenter leur savoir-faire.

Selon Drapers Online, un magazine porté sur l’actualité liée à la mode et au commerce, le festival sera «divisé en plusieurs secteurs tels que la mode éphémère, le denim, les tricots, les sports et les loisirs et les marques marocaines». Les événements comprendront également une section pour les vêtements en cuir et les chaussures. Pour la première fois, 20 entreprises marocaines, spécialisées dans la fabrication du cuir et des chaussures, participeront au «Maroc In Mode - Maroc Sourcing», indique la même source. Quelque 1 500 visiteurs d’Europe et d’Afrique sont attendus.

Les deux rencontres permettront d'«exposer les capacités et l'innovation des fabricants marocains et profiter de la nouvelle approche éco-systémique du Maroc pour stimuler la production et la réputation de son vêtement et de son textile».

Les deux festivals accueilleront le public au circuit de course Moulay Hassan. Ils sont organisés par Amith, l'Organisation textile marocaine, le département du Commerce extérieur et Maroc Export.

Le textile, un champion à l'export qui ne fait pas dans la dentelle !

LE 31 JUILLET 2017

Le secteur du textile et de l'habillement au Maroc est le premier employeur industriel. Avec près de 27% des emplois industriels nationaux, il contribue à hauteur de 7% à la valeur ajoutée industrielle, 5% à la production industrielle et 5% au chiffre d'affaires industriel.

L'un des plus grands atouts du Maroc, concernant le textile, reste sa proximité des principaux pays importateurs, une caractéristique qui rend les coûts de transport plus faibles et les échanges plus faciles. La main d'œuvre qualifiée et moins chère, possédant un savoir-faire concernant le travail des matières (denim, velours...) et des techniques de production de plus en plus modernes sont également un avantage pour Royaume.

En 2016, le secteur a connu une année record, enregistrant un chiffre d'affaires à l'export de 34 milliards de dirhams, en hausse de 8,8% sur un an. Cette tendance a été portée essentiellement par une très forte progression sur la péninsule ibérique et la fin de la facilité accordée aux intrants non originaires de la zone de libre-échange Maroc – Etats Unis, selon l'Amith, l'Association Marocaine de l'Industrie du Textile et de l'Habillement.

Plus de la moitié de ce chiffre d'affaire, soit 18,49 milliards, a été réalisée sur le marché espagnol.

Les exportations nationales du textile-habillement vers ce dernier ont ainsi progressé de 20,5% durant l'exercice 2016.

Ces réalisations, l'Amith les attribue au renchérissement des coûts en Asie, à la stabilité politique du pays, qui est un volet majeur de compétitivité dans le contexte mondial actuel, mais surtout au fast-fashion, un segment dans lequel le Royaume s'est spécialisé et où il est devenu très expérimenté.

Le principe est simple : produire et diffuser dans des temps records et être capable de s'adapter à des changements permanents de collections. C'est le concept adopté par les enseignes espagnoles comme Mango, Desigual et le groupe Inditex. En effet, le groupe Inditex produit en majorité au Maroc, notamment près de 50% de sa marque Zara. La proximité géographique au pays avec les marchés européens et le port de Tanger Med permettent au secteur du textile marocain d'être plus réactif, et c'est la clé du succès du modèle fast-fashion.

Selon M. Karim Tazi, Président de l'Amith, l'industrie textile marocaine a réalisé en 2016 la 2ème meilleure croissance à l'export sur le marché européen, après le Vietnam.

Un secteur bien organisé

Depuis plus de 50 ans, le secteur s'organise autour d'une association professionnelle, l'Amith, qui défend et représente les intérêts généraux de ses adhérents, qui sont à plus de 90% des entreprises exportatrices du secteur.

L'Amith assume aujourd'hui un rôle moteur pour la promotion et le développement de l'industrie du textile et de l'habillement. Elle initie des projets, dynamise les filières et les régions, négocie des programmes avec l'État, organise des salons professionnels de la filière textile au Maroc, etc.

Si le secteur du textile et de l'habillement est un champion à l'export, c'est parce qu'il dispose de plusieurs atouts que l'Amith dénombre comme suit : un plan de développement concret de l'offre marocaine du secteur textile; un système incitatif englobant un ensemble de mesures d'encouragement à l'investissement à caractère fiscal, financier, juridique et social; un grand réseau d'accords de libre-échange avec l'Union Européenne, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique et le monde arabe, donnant accès à un marché de plus d'un milliard de consommateurs; une plateforme d'investissement (l'Etat marocain met à la disposition des investisseurs des plateformes industrielles d'investissement «P2I» très avantageuses); la réactivité de production; la réactivité de livraison grâce à un dédouanement en moins d'1 heure, un couloir dédié aux acteurs textiles, une augmentation de la capacité de rotation des navires opérant dans le port (6 à 8 correspondances par jour) ; une grande capacité de production, etc.

Un plan pour 2020...

Après les difficultés que le secteur a rencontré ces dernières années à cause de la crise économique, les professionnels du textile ont pensé une nouvelle vision pour s'adapter aux besoins mondiaux et devenir plus concurrentiels. Ils ont proposé au gouvernement, en 2013, le «Plan Textile 2025», emboitant le pas en quelque sorte à la Turquie qui s'est munie du «Plan Textile 2020» et qui est devenue l'un des plus importants fournisseurs de l'Europe.

Une initiative qui a coïncidé avec la vision de l'Etat d'un Plan d'Accélération Industrielle (PAI) 2014-2020 englobant aussi bien l'export que le marché national.

Dans le cadre de ce plan, le secteur du textile et de l'habillement s'est doté, en février 2015, de trois premiers écosystèmes : le denim, le fast fashion et celui des distributeurs industriels de marques marocaines, qui devraient, à

terme, créer 44.000 nouveaux emplois, et générer un chiffre d'affaires additionnel de 6,3 milliards de dirhams. En octobre 2016, le Ministère de l'Industrie, du Commerce, de l'Investissement et de l'Economie Numérique et l'Amith ont procédé à la signature de trois accords portant sur le lancement de trois nouveaux écosystèmes textiles dans les filières «maille», «textile de maison» et «textile à usage technique», toujours dans le cadre du PAI. Ces contrats devraient permettre la création de 16.763 emplois à l'horizon 2020, ainsi que la réalisation d'un chiffre d'affaires additionnel de 8,4 MDH, dont 2,75 MDH à l'export. La création d'écosystèmes dans ces filières favorisera l'émergence d'un amont textile compétitif et innovant et permettra une meilleure intégration du secteur.

D'autres contrats d'investissement ont été signés notamment avec Décathlon, le distributeur d'articles de sport pour l'ouverture de 26 nouveaux magasins dans le Royaume et une plateforme logistique à Tanger Med d'ici 2020. Ceci pour un investissement de 163 millions de dirhams, la création de 10 910 emplois directs et plus de 2 milliards dirhams de sourcing au Maroc.

Il est à noter que depuis leur lancement en février 2015, les 6 écosystèmes de la filière textile ont enregistré 36 projets d'investissement d'un montant de 1,14 milliard de dirhams, générant 20 673 emplois.

A. Loudni

Les prémices d'un mieux qui se fait attendre



PAR [LOTFI OUAJAH](#)
PUBLIÉ LE 18/08/2017

Le secteur du textile, de l'habillement et du cuir est, depuis quelque temps déjà, à la croisée des chemins. Accusant douloureusement les revers d'un concours de circonstances avare en promesses, subissant le joug d'une concurrence effrénée et d'une situation avachie par l'absence d'envergure, il a beaucoup perdu de sa verve et de son engagement. Les professionnels du secteur n'ont pas cessé d'appeler à une meilleure prise en main des choses. Une éclaircie commence à pointer à l'horizon...

Les chiffres ont le mérite, à des niveaux différents, de lever le voile sur la réalité des choses et de tirer les conclusions conséquentes, soit dans le sens de l'acceptable et du positif, soit au contraire dans celui, négatif, qui devrait inciter à la réflexion et à la révision. Ceux publiés par l'Institut national de la statistique à propos du secteur textile-habillement

s'inscrivent dans ce cadre en faisant valoir une amélioration, bien que timide, de la production à ce propos. Dans un contexte de concurrence ardue, de crise et d'aléas économiques, ces chiffres peuvent prendre l'allure d'une relance qui se fait attendre sérieusement. Ainsi la production a enregistré, en mars de l'année en cours, une augmentation de 2.9 %. Les exportations ont évolué en 2016 de 8.5 %.

Bien que «timide», cette avancée est à souligner, voire à encourager car le secteur est stratégique économiquement et à grande incidence sociale. En effet, il compte plus de 1800 sociétés et permet à 176.464 postes d'emploi de voir le jour. Son potentiel est grand, bien encadré; sachant à ce propos que parmi le nombre des sociétés citées, 1524 inscrivent leurs activités dans l'exportation. Ceci ne peut avoir que des résonances positives lorsque les dispositions seront prises pour inciter encore davantage à mieux. Et c'est un travail de longue haleine dont il s'agit là. Les professionnels du secteur ont conscience de cela puisqu'ils n'ont pas cessé d'appeler à une meilleure prise en considération de leurs revendications en la matière, à savoir une intégration optimale de la production et la confection dans les circuits nationaux et internationaux, une incitation à la qualité et une facilitation des procédures mises en vigueur.

Il s'agit d'un élan qui ne demande qu'à être encouragé et, surtout, confirmé.

Design au Maroc: La Casablanca Design Week s'interroge sur le passé et le futur

Par [Amine Boushaba](#) | Edition N°:5087 Le 16/08/2017

Une première édition prévue en octobre 2017

Expositions, conférences, débats... dans une dizaine de lieux à Casablanca



Houna n'en est pas à sa première expérience collaborative, en octobre 2016, l'association a organisé le «Kouzina Concept Store». Installé à la Marina de Salé durant plusieurs mois, l'événement a réuni une trentaine de designers pour mettre en avant la création «Made in Morocco» (Ph. Houna)

A l'instar de Beyrouth, Amman, Dubaï, Singapour ou Paris, Casablanca aura enfin sa «Design Week». L'évènement culturel, prévu du 24 au 30 octobre, a pour vocation de rassembler les différents acteurs du design et de la création à travers une multitude d'événements gratuits: expositions, conférences, débats, animations éphémères, et surtout la présentation du travail de plusieurs designers et artisans talentueux dans plus de 10 lieux de la ville de Casablanca.

Une sélection de designers reconnus, d'artisans ainsi que de jeunes talents émergents exposeront des créations souvent libres à l'édition: mobilier et accessoires, industrie et artisanat, textile et luminaire, mais aussi design graphique, sonore et visuel.

L'exposition se fera sous un format de storytelling racontant l'histoire de la conception au Maroc sous tous ses angles avant qu'elle ne soit perçue et nommée en tant que telle jusqu'aujourd'hui. Les conférences, quant à elles, porteront sur les questions liées au monde de l'entreprise, de l'industrie et de l'économie créative ainsi que des débats sous les thèmes de l'identité, l'artisanat, l'héritage culturel et les champs de collaboration.

Portée par l'association «Houna» (structure qui se définit comme une plateforme collaborative d'expérimentation, d'interaction et de développement, qui vise à renforcer l'économie créative et à baisser les barrières entre les créateurs et le public), la Casablanca Design Week s'adresse tout d'abord aux professionnels de la conception, aux artisans, aux artistes et designers, à la business-community, aux entrepreneurs, et enfin aux étudiants.

«Notre première intention est de rassembler une communauté autour de la création et de favoriser les interactions entre les différents acteurs du secteur et de cet écosystème: créateurs amateurs et professionnels, industriels, entrepreneurs, institutions, grand public, associations locales... grâce à un événement qui teintera la ville aux couleurs de la culture, de l'art et du design de façon simple et sans snobisme intellectuel», précise Soukeina Hachem, designer et chargée de développement de l'association Houna.

Cette première édition se présente comme un état des lieux du design au Maroc, à travers une question, qui peut paraître de prime abord générique: Qu'est-ce qu'on conçoit? L'interrogation renvoie toutefois, selon les organisateurs, vers un passé qu'on a envie de questionner: Qu'a-t-on conçu? Pourquoi l'a-t-on conçu? Qui l'a conçu? Et vers le futur: Qu'a-t-on envie de transformer? Comment le design permet-il de penser l'avenir? La Casablanca Design Week veut également s'inscrire dans une dynamique régionale. En mai 2017, les membres de l'association Houna ont été invités à présenter le programme de la manifestation casablancaise à la Beirut Design Week, et à participer à un panel de discussion autour de la collaboration dans la région Mena avec Dubai Design Week, Amman Design Week, Cairo Observer et Iran Persia Collective. Une future collaboration entre les 6 organisations et les 6 pays est en cours.

IndustriALL et 14 enseignes de l'habillement expriment leur soutien à une réforme des juridictions du travail au Mexique

16.08.2017



IndustriALL et 14 enseignes internationales de l'habillement ont écrit au gouvernement mexicain pour déclarer leur soutien à la réforme constitutionnelle des juridictions du travail et pour qu'une législation dérivée reflète pleinement ces changements constitutionnels.

Adidas, C&A, Inditex et Nike font partie des enseignes qui se sont jointes à IndustriALL Global Union pour écrire au Secrétaire d'État mexicain au

Travail et à la Sécurité sociale, Alfonso Navarrete Prida, pour appeler à des améliorations des juridictions du travail et à des garanties pour les droits des travailleurs.

La réforme constitutionnelle abolit les commissions tripartites de conciliation et d'arbitrage (JFCA) et transfère leur rôle légal à une Haute Cour de Justice (*Tribunal Superior de Justicia*). Cela signifie que le système juridictionnel du travail ne sera plus directement contrôlé par le Président de la République, des gouverneurs d'États agissant en collusion et des syndicats manipulés par les employeurs.

L'institution indépendante et décentralisée sera composée d'experts qui enregistreront les syndicats et les conventions collectives de manière impartiale, transparente et efficace. Cette réforme va permettre de combattre l'un des problèmes les plus importants auxquels les travailleurs mexicains sont confrontés : les "contrats de protection".

Au stade actuel, les JFCA permettent l'enregistrement de conventions collectives conclues par des syndicats non-représentatifs qui ne peuvent pas démontrer par le biais d'un processus démocratique qu'ils disposent du soutien légitime des travailleurs et travailleuses qu'ils sont censés représenter.

IndustriALL et ces enseignes de l'habillement soutiennent le respect des normes du travail reconnues au plan international et de la Législation fédérale du travail. Cette réforme va ouvrir pour les travailleurs la voie à une meilleure application de leurs droits à la liberté syndicale et à la négociation collective, tels que les protègent les Conventions 87 et 98 de l'OIT, et à un système juridictionnel du travail plus fort.

"Nous espérons que cette nouvelle législation garantira aux travailleurs et travailleuses mexicains le droit à être représentés au niveau des négociations collectives par un syndicat choisi librement et où toutes les règles de procédure, en particulier s'agissant du droit d'élire démocratiquement le syndicat et les délégués syndicaux de leur choix et de s'exprimer par scrutin à propos de toute convention collective avant qu'elle ne soit enregistrée, seront observées et respectées,"

indique le courrier.

Le Sénat a approuvé cette réforme constitutionnelle en octobre 2016. Le décret établissant la réforme de diverses dispositions de la Constitution a été publié au Journal officiel fédéral le 24 février. Un an après cette date, le

gouvernement fédéral va promulguer pleinement ces changements constitutionnels, lorsqu'il aura terminé la rédaction des nécessaires projets concernant la législation dérivée.

“Il faut dès lors faire pression pour s’assurer que cette législation dérivée reflète pleinement les progrès réalisés par la réforme constitutionnelle,”

a déclaré Fernando Lopes, directeur auprès d’IndustriALL Global Union.

Quality cotton seeds running out even as demand rises

By Khin Su Wai | Tuesday, 15 August 2017

National producers of cotton – one of Myanmar’s strategic export crops – are facing problems accessing seeds, cotton farmers told *The Myanmar Times*.



Workers pick cotton at a farm in Ku Mae City. Photo - Supplied

Cotton is cultivated twice a year across two seasons. However, cultivation has become expensive since farmers must now buy seeds from private agriculture companies due to insufficient government supplies.

“The cost to sow the seeds per acre is now about K30,000. When we try to access the seeds from the private [companies], the seeds are not of good quality even [when] they said the seeds are from reputable government farms like Shwe Tung. That could pose problems for future plantation yields. That’s why some of us now prefer [growing] rice rather than cotton,” one cotton farmer said.

He pointed out that the volume and quality of the cotton seeds provided by government cotton seed distributors like Lunn Kyaw -- Kyauk Sae township -- and Shwe Taung -- Wandwin township in Mandalay -- have weakened in recent years.

“We need good seeds distributed by the agriculture department. When they were able to distribute good quality cotton seeds sufficiently, the cost to plant the seeds was just K5,000 per acre.”

The shortfall comes as demand for Myanmar cotton from local textile and garment companies is rising fast. As cotton is a national export strategy crop, it is expected that local cotton will be used to produce finished products for the garment and textile industries in Myanmar, said U Aung Soe, director general of Myanmar Trade Promotion Team.

Demand from China is on the rise, too. A total of 1.6 tonnes (US\$3.5 million) worth of cotton was exported to China through border trade in 2013-2014, 15.70 tonnes (\$3.4 million) in 2014-2015, 2414 tonnes (\$5.3 million), 4340 tonnes (\$9.5 million) in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, and 487.5 tonnes (\$1.1 million) in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (until July 21).

Meanwhile, agriculture officer Daw Yin Yin Nwe said that a total of 52,144 viss (83,431kg) of cotton was distributed by government cotton seed distributors for 2016-2017 fiscal year and a total of 75,000 viss (120,000kg) is expected to be distributed in the coming 2017-2018 fiscal years.

Another cotton farmer said that besides access to cotton seeds, there is also a shortage of workers willing to do manual work at the cotton plantations. “Cultivation of other crops can work with the machine. But for cotton cultivation, we need workers to do the manual work. Maybe we are not yet familiar with machines.”

FPCCI calls for cut in production cost of textile industry

AUG 1ST, 2017 19:40



KARACHI: Vice President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Saquib Fayyaz Magoon has urged the Federal Government to bring down the present tariff rates on gas and power in the country at par with the regional competitors to make Pakistan's export competitive in the global market.

He made such assertion in a meeting with Federal Secretary for Ministry of Textile Industry Hassan Iqbal, here at FPCCI Head Office, says FPCCI release on Tuesday.

Saquib Fayyaz Magoon showed concern on allowing rebate to export of yarn which is a basic raw material for weaving industry.

He proposed that like textile machinery, the import of spare parts should also be allowed at zero rate as these were ultimately sold to the textile industry.

Federal Secretary for Textile, in response to a query, informed that Plastic Technology Center (PTC) Karachi as per Federal Cabinet decision would be affiliated to National Textile University (NTU), Faisalabad as its campus under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textile with the financial help of Higher Education Commission (HEC), Ministry of Finance (MOF) and Ministry of Commerce (EDF).

It would be a State-of-Art Centre which would be run under the guidance and in close coordination with Pakistan Plastic Manufacturers' Association, he added.

The meeting was attended by a number of senior business leaders.

Minister for long term strategies for textile sector

Mond August 21, 2017

FAISALABAD: Short and long term remedial strategies will be made to drag out textile sector from the current crisis.

It was said by State Minister for Commerce and Textile Muhammad Akram Ansari while addressing a function at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday.

The minister asked the all stakeholders to submit their workable proposals within a week. He said that textile sector was facing problems like high mark up, power and gas loadshedding few years ago but now these issues had been resolved and now new types of problems had surfaced.

He asked FCCI president Muhammad Saeed Sheikh to make a committee of all stakeholders to give short and long term proposals enabling him to put these before Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. He said that being a major cotton producing country, we must review our strategy that why our textile exports were declining.

“We must switch over towards value addition by making conscious efforts to reduce cost of production”, he said. It was the responsibility of all stakeholders to fulfill their duties to achieve their objectives, he added.

It was now my duty to resolve the genuine grievances of the textile sector, he added. Haji Muhammad Akram Ansari said that in this region, Bangladesh, China and India were far ahead of us in textile exports.

He said that the government would also try its optimum best to give maximum facilities to the textile sector. He assured that he would also discuss the issue of the electricity and gas supply at reduced rates to the textile sector. He said that the cabinet meeting would be held on Tuesday in which he would try to talk to Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi regarding Rs 180 billion textile package and issuance of notification for the release of remaining Rs 120 billion for the period from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.


He said that he would also request him to provide this relief without any condition of 10 per cent increase in existing export of the claimants. Responding to the appointment of commercial consular from private sector,

he said that not only commercial consular but our ambassadors should also work for the promotion of Pakistani exports in their concerned country.

He also assured to take up the issue of difference in gas prices for Punjab and Sindh with the concerned ministries.

Sri Lanka invites more Chinese investors

Source: Xinhua | 2017-08-01 20:23:20 | Editor: Yurou Liang

Xinhuanet App 

COLOMBO, Aug. 1 (Xinhua) -- Sri Lanka on Monday called on more Chinese investors to invest in the island country, saying that China had invested more than 52 million U.S. dollars in the country in 2016 alone. Speaking at the China-Sri Lanka Infrastructure Investment Cooperation Forum in Colombo, Commerce and Industry Minister Rishard Bathiudeen said that in 2016, Sri Lanka received foreign direct investment (FDI) of 801 million U.S. dollars.

Bathiudeen said mega Chinese projects such as the recently signed 1.1 billion dollars Hambantota Port agreement between the Sri Lanka Ports Authority and China Merchants Port Holdings and the 1.4 billion dollars Colombo Financial City project were immensely beneficial for the island country.

He said **there were many other Chinese FDI projects in Sri Lanka including in the textile and apparel**, fisheries and manufacturing sectors.

"Tourism is another attractive sector since Chinese tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka doubled from year to year. Therefore today I invite the potential Chinese investors to invest in Sri Lanka and partner with us," Bathiudeen said.

Statistics from China's Ministry of Commerce showed total trade volume between China and Sri Lanka reached 4.4 billion dollars. That is a 363 percent increase in comparison to a decade back in 2007, which stood at 965 million dollars.

A Bold Step Forward for Taiwan's Textile Industry

Joseph Judd, Brand Strategist

A textiles champion, behind the scenes

Taiwan's textile industry, in particular functional textiles, is one of the country's biggest export success stories. In the face of strong competition from other Asian competitors and increasing production costs, Taiwan has carved out a niche for itself in functional textiles, including functional apparel, home textiles and industrial applications. Thanks to investment in R&D, advancements in manufacturing capabilities and cross-industry collaboration, Taiwan has developed an integrated supply chain, with different companies across the island specializing in areas such as man-made fiber manufacturing, weaving, spinning, dyeing and finishing, among others. Taiwan now accounts for 70% of the world's output of functional fabrics, and is the sixth largest textile exporter globally.

Though most of this effort has taken place behind the scenes — most consumers don't know where or how their performance apparel products are made — Taiwan's strengths in functional textiles are widely recognized in the industry. For many years, Taiwanese suppliers have excelled at offering efficient, friendly service and a wide range of high quality fabrics at competitive prices. While brands like Adidas, Patagonia and North Face have built the consumer culture and demand for their products through branding and marketing, Taiwanese companies have done the back-end work: getting the products made and shipped.

'Fast (sports) fashion'

This model has worked well for Taiwan. As yoga and cross-fit caught on, branded gym clothing became ubiquitous. 'Active-wear' turned trendy, even attracting

consumers who could not be described as “active” . The performance apparel sector boomed, product lines expanded, and a raft of new brands were born. At the same time as ‘fast-fashion’ became entrenched — driven by the remarkable rise of brands like Zara and Uniqlo — so did ‘fast sports fashion’ . This has been great news for Taiwan’ s textile industry, which has directly benefited from the growth of brands like Under Armor and Lululemon, and the steady sales of giants like Nike and Adidas.

Yet much like other component and manufacturing-based industries in Taiwan, competition is fierce. Japan and Korea, which boast large conglomerates and vertically-integrated manufacturers, offer economies of scale, advanced R&D facilities and well-marketed ingredient brands. The signing of the China-Korea Free Trade Agreement in 2015 is putting further pressure on Taiwan’ s textile industry, which relies on China as its biggest export market. As Korean firms look to expand their investments in China, there’ s a risk of Taiwan’ s products being pushed out. And with Vietnam’ s inclusion (and Taiwan’ s unfortunate exclusion) in the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), there’ s a danger that significant portions of business will shift to South East Asia, chasing lower tariffs, cheaper labor and improving manufacturing capabilities. To hedge against these risks, Taiwan should consider how it can differentiate from the competition by developing a more focused and strategic position in the market.

A three-layered approach to branding

To build a higher-value position for itself in functional textiles, Taiwan should take a three-layered approach.

The first is up to individual manufacturers. Global-facing companies across the textile supply-chain in Taiwan need to consider and understand what their real value is in the world of functional textiles. They need to understand their competitive advantages, how to enhance and build on those, and how to communicate them to the marketplace; letting the world know they exist, and that they have the technology, products and knowledge that can help brands meet their consumers’ changing demands, is critical.

The second approach concerns the functional textile industry as a whole. Although efforts have been made by local government departments to boost R&D, innovation and cross-industry collaboration, the industry as a whole is still perceived as primarily price-driven: a supermarket where foreign brands can come to buy decent quality fabrics for a good price. Taiwan still lacks the associations of 'industry-leading quality' , 'innovation' and 'sustainability' , particularly when compared with manufacturers from Europe, Japan and the US. The textile industry in Taiwan needs a rebrand, focused on a set of strategic messages and supporting marketing communications that can change Taiwan's perception as a destination for lower-value textiles.

The third approach touches on a deeper question about Taiwan's role in the world, and the kind of future the country wants to build for itself. To drive Taiwan's textile industry toward a higher-value position requires support from the government and a rethinking about what kind of global image Taiwan wants to establish. As a country, Taiwan is seen a leader in cost-down manufacturing – developing good quality products at competitive prices. But with growing competition from China and Southeast Asia, it's unlikely this will remain sustainable into the future.

There are many examples of successful country branding which Taiwan could learn from. Switzerland has built a reputation for its design prowess. Germany is widely recognized for advanced engineering and manufacturing. New Zealand, with its strategic 100% Pure NZ campaign, has managed to craft a position for itself as 'clean' and 'green' — branding the country as a leading destination for adventure tourism and a country rich in natural produce. Of course, the success of these country brands is closely tied to their resources and competitive industries — such as Germany's advanced automakers, Switzerland's high-end watchmakers, and New Zealand's stunning landscapes. Nonetheless, each country has managed to build a positive global image and reputation for itself based on leveraging and enhancing those advantages.

A bold step forward

Clearly, executing these three layers of branding — across individual companies, the textile industry, and Taiwan — is an ambitious proposition. But ambition, combined with clarity of purpose, is exactly what Taiwan needs to take the next step in its economic development. Once initial companies see the financial fruits of building more strategic, market-focused B2B brands, this could create a snowball effect with other manufacturers following suit. Taiwan's textile industry representatives can then build a marketing platform based on driving and promoting these new B2B brands. The Taiwan government can then use the textile industry's success story to rally other local industries, and gradually build higher-value position for Taiwan and its companies.

Taiwan's eco opportunity

One of the major trends in the textiles industry today is a greater demand for environmentally sustainable and socially responsible products. As more consumers demand evidence of sustainable sourcing, new brands are being launched — many online, through communities or crowdfunding platforms — to meet those demands. To target these new brands, along with established brands in the market, a smart approach for Taiwan's textile industry could be to position itself as the world's leader in eco-friendly and socially responsible functional textiles. Complemented by its existing cost-down know-how and advantages, such a position would provide brands and their consumers with a clear choice: choose Taiwan for textiles with the lowest possible environmental footprint. For any brands serious about being sustainable, Taiwan should become their default option. Taiwan should also make an effort to prove that its workforce are treated and paid fairly — allaying any potential social concerns consumers or brands might have about workers' rights or workplace environments. The collapse of a Bangladeshi textiles factory in 2013, which killed over 1000 workers, brought significant attention to the poor working conditions and workers' rights commonly associated with the textile industry. Taiwan could show that it takes these responsibilities seriously and by promoting its own high standards become a leading example in Asia for others to follow.

Of course becoming recognized as the world's leader in eco-friendly and socially responsible functional textiles would also require advancements in

innovation, since leading brands would still demand industry-leading performance. But with focused and continued investment in R&D and strategic branding, there's no reason why Taiwan couldn't own this position. From a broader perspective, if Taiwan's textile industry can own this space, there's no reason why other technology-focused industries couldn't follow suit. Global warming poses arguably the greatest threat to humanity. What better brand message could there be than positioning Taiwan as resolved to alleviate this threat by making sustainable and socially responsible products affordable for the world?



763 entreprises tunisiennes actives en Algérie



Photo crédits :L'Econews

Selon les chiffres du Centre national du Registre de commerce (Cnrc) (Algérie), les entreprises tunisiennes actives en Algérie sont au nombre de 763.

Celles-ci représentent 7,13% du total des entreprises étrangères installées en Algérie et inscrites au Registre de commerce jusqu'à fin juin 2017. Les entreprises françaises arrivent en tête avec 2.080 entreprises.

Quant aux personnes physiques étrangères, 633 opérateurs tunisiens (26,4%) sont installés en Algérie. Ces entreprises tunisiennes opèrent dans

plusieurs secteurs, à savoir l'industrie automobile, les biens et services, ingénierie, TIC, tourisme, distribution, habillement,...

Le plus grand nombre se compte parmi les Syriens avec 695 opérateurs (29% des opérateurs économiques étrangers-personnes physiques), les Marocains avec 369 opérateurs (15,4%), les Egyptiens avec 185 opérateurs (7,71%) et les Palestiniens avec 179 opérateurs (7,46%).

Alger se classe comme étant la première destination en matière d'implantation d'opérateurs économiques.

A la fin du premier trimestre 2017, seulement 39 entreprises algériennes se sont implantées en Tunisie, dont 13 opèrent dans le secteur Textile-habillement.



Une veste intégralement imprimée en 3D et personnalisable

Auteur : sven 2 août 2017

Coco Chanel disait : « Pour être irremplaçable, il faut être différent. » S'il y a une styliste qui a construit son travail autour de cette maxime c'est bien Danit Peleg. Cette jeune designer Israélienne vient de divulguer la première pièce de prêt-à-porter intégralement imprimée en 3D disponible à la vente en ligne. Il s'agit d'une veste imprimée en 3D pour femme tirée de sa collection « The Birth of Venus ».



La veste est proposée en vente sur le site de Danit Peleg au prix de 1500€

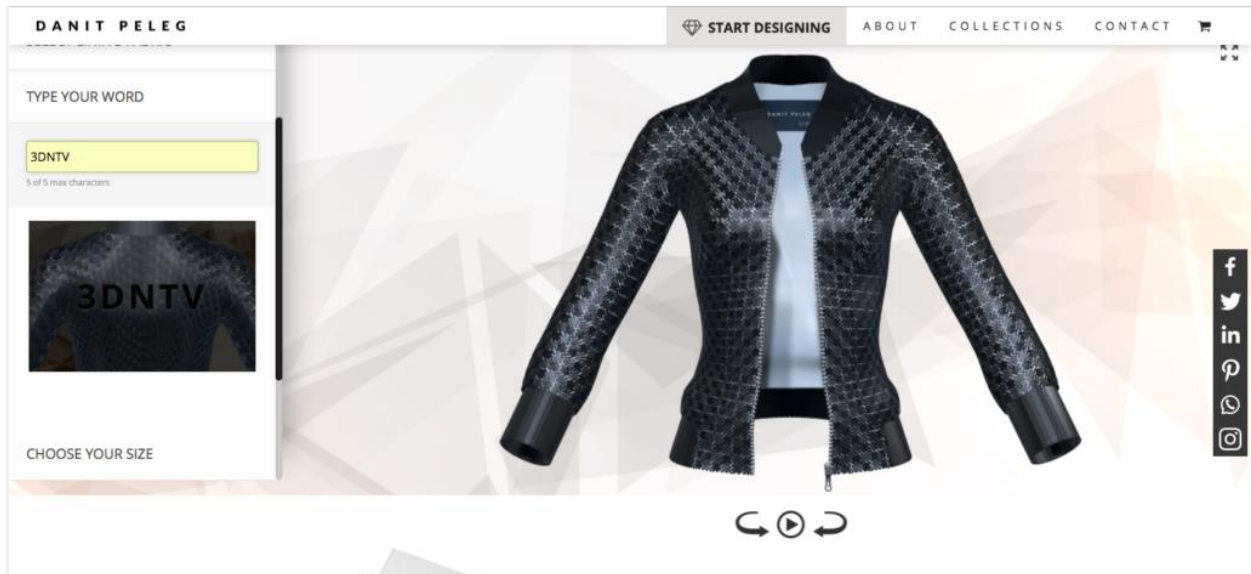
Dans notre sélection du [TOP 12 des conférences TEDxTalks concernant l'impression 3D](#), on vous parlait de Danit Peleg. Cette fascinante créatrice de mode s'est lancée il y a quelques années le défi de créer des vêtements imprimés en 3D. Elle découvre le monde de l'impression 3D grâce aux équipes TechFactoryLab et XLN et utilise des machines du fabricant espagnol BQ. Très vite, elle se heurte à la rigidité des matériaux PLA proposés et collabore avec la société espagnole Recreus pour l'utilisation de filaments flexibles FilaFlex. Quelques 2000 heures d'impression plus tard, elle pouvait présenter sa première collection composée de 5 ensembles. C'est aujourd'hui en collaboration avec l'entreprise américaine Gerber Technology qu'elle s'est lancée dans la production de cette veste entièrement 3D imprimée.



La collection « The Birth of Venus »

Depuis ce vendredi, Danit Peleg a mis en ligne sur [son site](#) la veste en question à un prix de revente unique de 1500 euros, le prix à payer pour obtenir une pièce unique. Pour cette somme, les clientes pourront personnaliser leur veste aux mesures de leur buste mais auront également la possibilité de choisir le coloris ainsi qu'un message personnel incrusté dans le dos.

Le prix peut paraître extravagant mais il faut prendre en compte que la fabrication d'une seule de ces vestes nécessite 100 heures d'impression, et englobe également le coût des matériaux et les temps d'assemblage des pièces explique la designer. Une collection qui sera d'ailleurs produite à 100 exemplaires seulement. En prenant un peu de recul sur l'aspect exclusif du produit et en comparant avec des pièces sur-mesure de grand couturiers, le prix de la veste ne semble plus si surcoté que ça.



5 minutes nous ont suffi pour personnaliser notre veste 3Dnatives

Et Danit Peleg ne compte pas s'arrêter là dans ses créations imprimées en 3D. En 2 ans à peine, elle a réussi à réduire de plus de 3 fois le temps d'impression de cette veste, une prouesse quand on sait qu'elle n'utilise que de simples imprimantes 3D de bureau. De son point de vue, l'impression 3D nous permettra dans un futur proche de dessiner un vêtement sur ordinateur et de l'imprimer dans la foulée sur une imprimante personnelle ou chez un service d'impression au coin de la rue. Retrouvez pour l'occasion notre [TOP 12 des applications de l'impression 3D au service de la mode](#).

Danit voit le futur de son entreprise se concentrer sur la réalisation d'une plateforme collaborative en ligne permettant de télécharger ou créer des designs à imprimer chez soi. « Pour un jeune designer cela pourrait être une plateforme formidable » conclut-elle.

En vidéo, la présentation des créations de Danit Peleg :

Pensez vous plus tard avoir la chance d'imprimer vos vêtements de chez vous ? N'hésitez pas à partager votre vidéo dans les commentaires de l'article ou [avec les membres du forum 3dnatives](#).

À PROPOS SVEN



Fidèle du site et passionné d'impression 3D, je partage avec vous les dernières innovations du secteur et les interviews d'experts sur 3Dnatives. Diplômé d'économie à l'Université de la Sorbonne Paris 1, j'y poursuis un master en Management de l'Innovation, des Technologies & Entreprenariat. N'hésitez pas à me contacter pour me présenter vos projets en lien avec la fabrication additive.



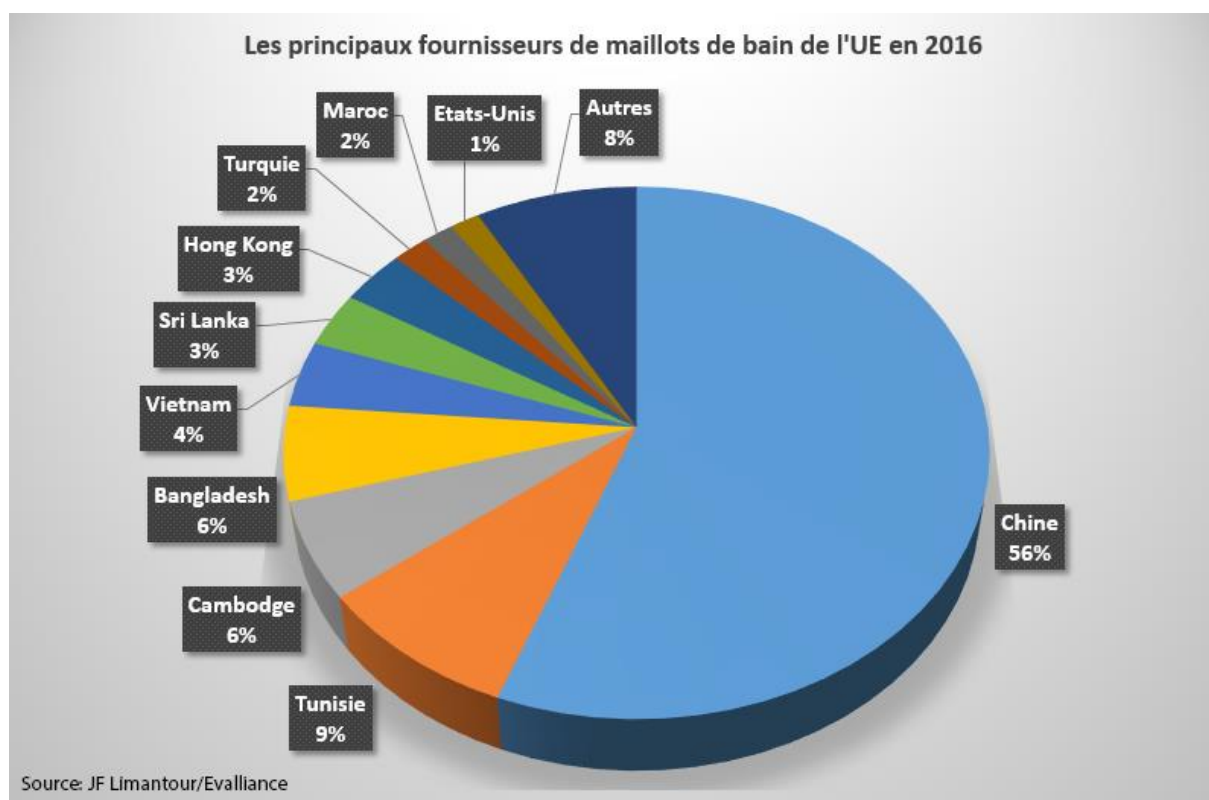
1^{er} août 2017

6 maillots de bain sur 10 importés par l'UE viennent de Chine !

En cette période estivale, il est intéressant de savoir d'où viennent les maillots de bain que nous portons.

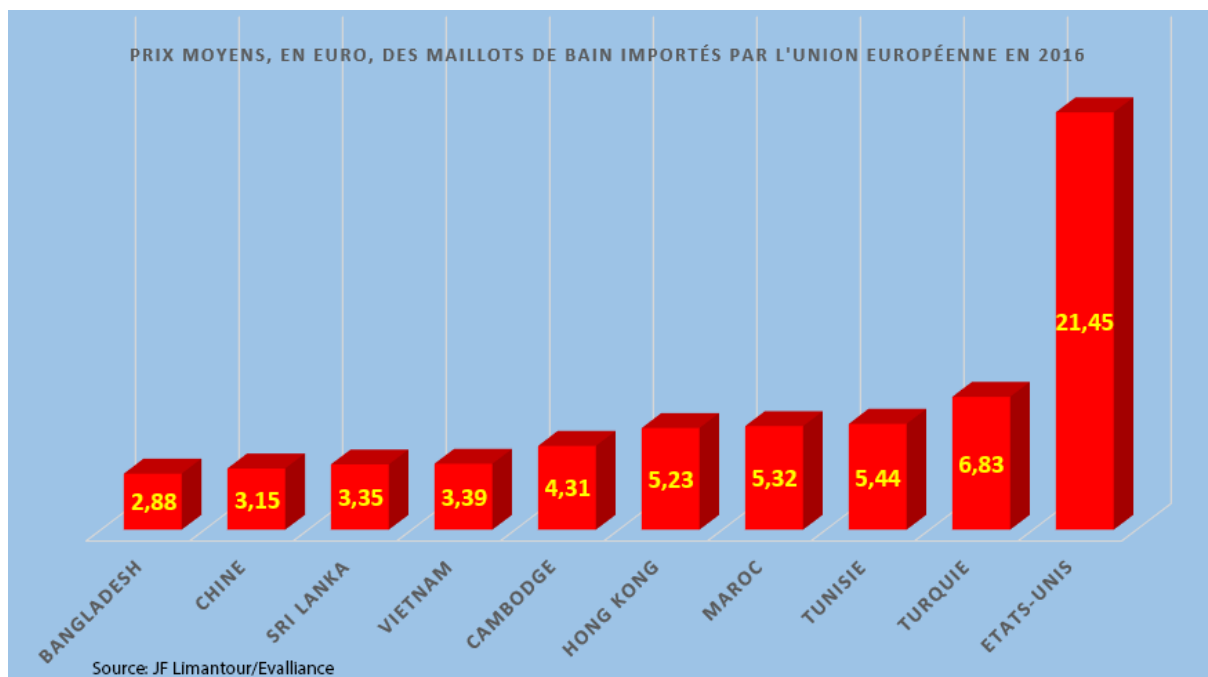
En 2016, l'Union européenne en a importés 243 millions de pièces, pour une valeur de 858 millions d'euros.

La Chine est de très loin le premier fournisseur de l'Europe : 152 millions de pièces pour 480 millions d'euros ! En valeur, elle couvre 56 % des importations européennes.



Spécialisée dans la production de maillots de bain haut de gamme pour de grandes marques internationales, la Tunisie occupe une remarquable seconde place.

Suivent les fournisseurs asiatiques : Cambodge, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Sri Lanka....et méditerranéens : Tunisie et Maroc.



En 2016, le prix moyen d'un maillot de bain importé par l'Union européenne s'élevait à 3,54 euros.

La dispersion autour de ce prix pivot est importante avec, d'une part, les pays producteurs et exportateurs de maillots de bain « bas de gamme », tels que la Chine, le Bangladesh, le Sri Lanka ou le Vietnam ; à l'opposé, on trouve des fournisseurs méditerranéens (Maroc, Tunisie, Turquie) et les Etats-Unis qui exportent vers l'Europe des maillots de bain moyen/haut de gamme dont les prix, beaucoup plus hauts, résultent des matières utilisées et du niveau élevé de conception et technicité des produits.

August 2017, Manchester

Filling the automation gap in garment manufacturing

Jana Bukolovska reports

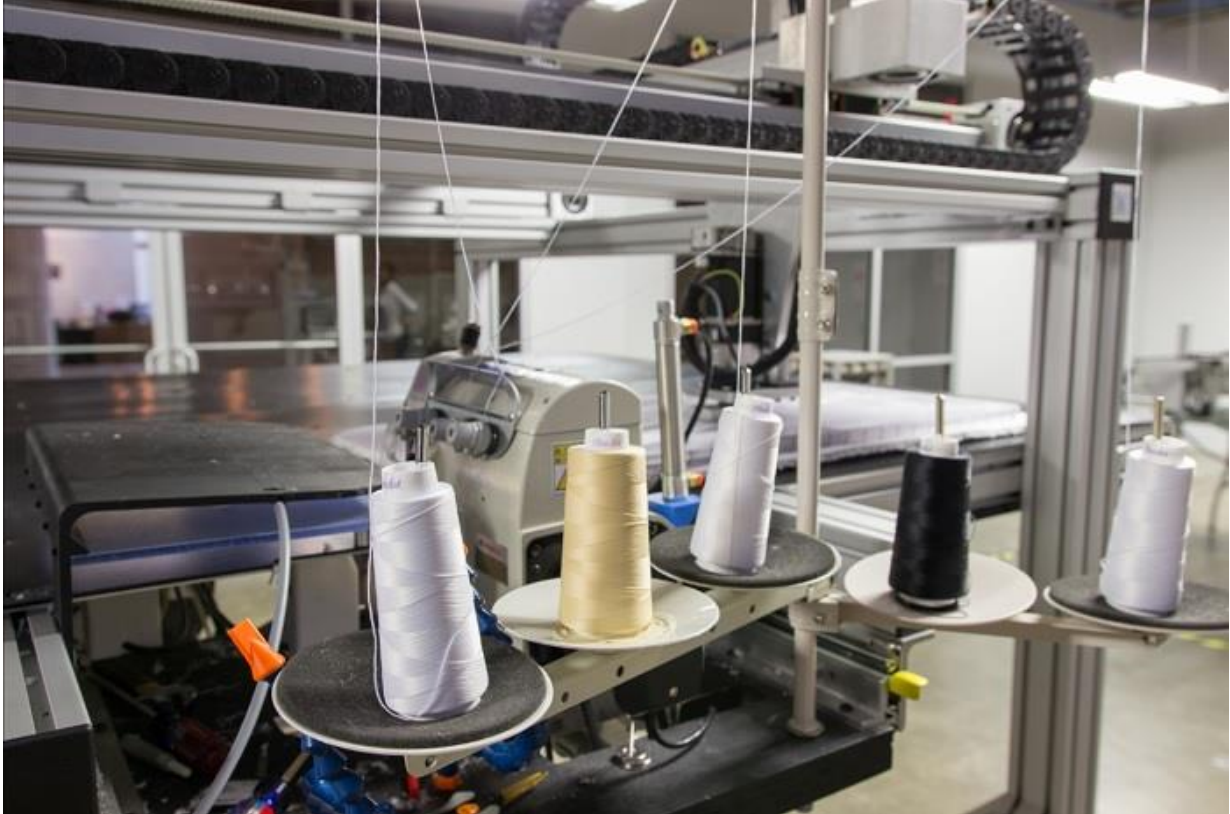
Making clothes has always been a labour-intensive activity. The industrial revolution mechanised and automated textile production in the 18th century, whilst the invention of the sewing machine in the following century moved the bottleneck to the cutting room. Computer controlled cutting machines solved this problem, however, the task of assembling the garment is still mainly left to the manual labour.

An Atlanta, US, based brand SoftWear Automation, launched in 2012, aims to change this by creating autonomous 'sewn good' worklines for home goods, footwear and automotive sectors. With its patented *Sewbots* fully automated technology, the company aims to geographically shorten the distance between manufacturer and consumer by utilising benefits of disruptive technologies.



"In 2002, the Berry Amendment went into effect restricting the military from procuring clothing that was not made in the USA. Complying with the rule proved challenging due to a lack of skilled labour available in the US that only got worse as the current generation of seamstresses retired with no new talent to take their places. It was under these circumstances that the initial idea for Soft Wear was born and the company was launched in 2012," explained Chairman and CEO Palaniswamy Rajan.

“Since then, we have grown our team to 25 engineers and developers, delivered our first products in the US and are currently working on moving from worklines for home goods to launching our first fully automated workline solely for apparel production.” The company initially received US\$ 1.75 million grant from the defence department’s Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to produce a prototype of its automatic sewing machine in 2012. After that, SoftWear received a US\$ 2 million grant from the Walmart Foundation/Georgia Tech and a US\$ 3 million Series A from CTW Venture Partners in 2014. SoftWear recently closed a US\$ 4.5 million Series A1, ultimately raising just over US\$ 10 million in the past five years.



Shortening lead times

The company’s Sewbots use a combination of patented high-speed computer vision and lightweight robotics to steer fabric to and through the needle with greater speed and accuracy than a human. Using Sewbot worklines customers are expected to be able to increase productivity while decreasing their overall defect rate. “They are also able to move their sewing closer to the end consumer or materials supply chain shortening lead times and reducing competitive pricing pressure without the need for chasing cheap labour all over the globe,” said Mr Rajan.



“Most current automation in textiles and apparel is single operation specific —focused on automating a particular process— and still requires an operator to feed and manage the machine. Right now, we are seeing a strong desire to shift from this process focused automation to full automation, going from fabric roll to finished good with minimal human interaction. This shift will drastically transform how and where we manufacture giving brands and manufacturers to move closer to their customers or their materials supply chain.”

Currently, the company is developing a fully automated workline for T-shirts. “This line will go from cut piece to finished t-shirt without human intervention— save the machine operator managing our workline of course. When launched in the fourth quarter of 2018, this line will be capable of running 24/7/365 with a projected output of over 1 million shirts per year,” explained Mr Rajan.

Sewbo robot

Another US start-up, Sewbo, based in Seattle, WA, was founded by a web developer Jonathan Zornow, who also believes he can offer a solution that would not only produce garments of higher quality, but could also help bring garment manufacturing back to US. “Our technology will allow manufacturers to create higher-quality clothing at lower costs in less time than ever before,” said Jonathan Zornow, who invented the technology. “Avoiding labour issues and shortening supply chains will help reduce the complexity and headaches surrounding today’s intricate global supply network. And digital manufacturing will revolutionise fashion, even down to how we buy our clothes by allowing easy and affordable customisation for everyone.”



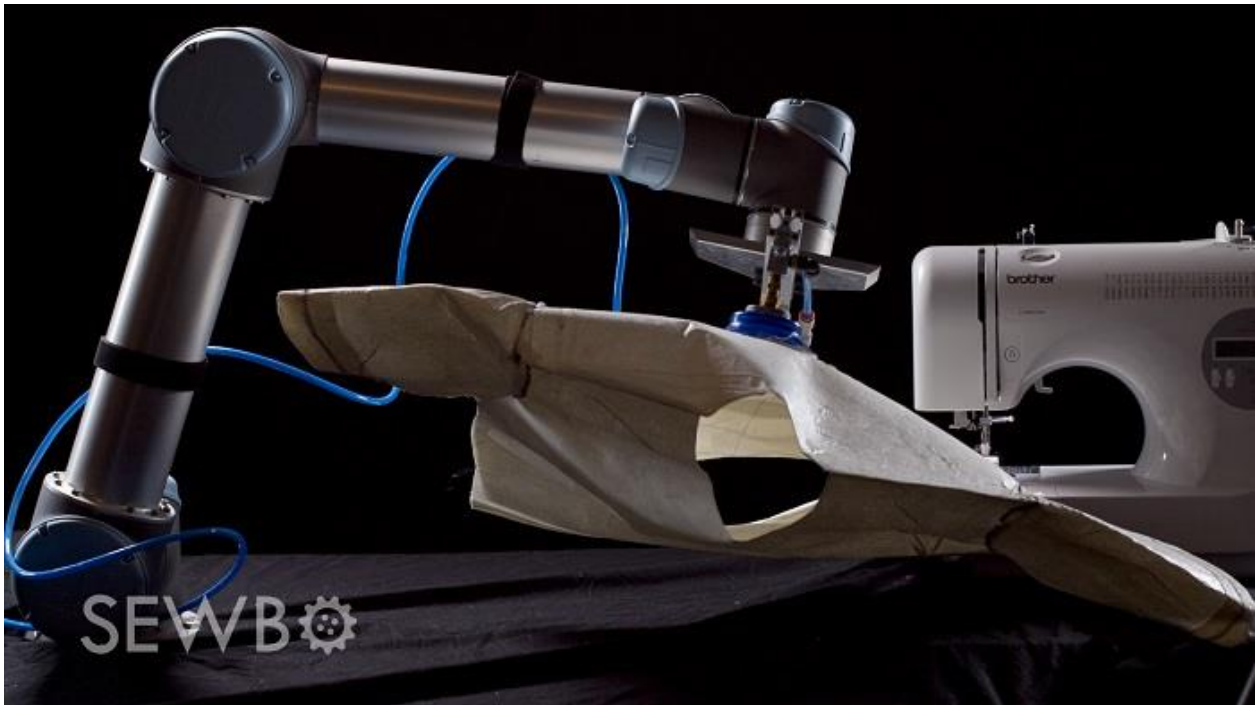
Despite widespread use in other industries, automation has made little progress in clothing manufacturing due to the difficulties robots face when trying to manipulate limp, flexible fabrics. Sewbo has addressed this issue by using a non-toxic polymer to temporarily stiffen fabrics, allowing the off-the-shelf industrial robots to build garments from a rigid cloth, just as if they were working with sheet metal.

The fabric panels can be moulded and welded before being permanently sewn together, and the water-soluble stiffener is removed at the end of the manufacturing process with a rinse in hot water. Patent-pending in 10 countries, the technology of temporarily stiffening fabrics can be used on a number of fabrics, including delicate materials, with the use of alternative low-impact treatments, except for impermeable materials, such as waterproof or coated fabrics, the manufacturer explains.

Assembling trousers for US military

Having secured several patents, which include the general concept of temporarily stiffened fabrics, as well as goods that have been assembled from the stiffened materials, and the method for applying the treatment and for manipulating the stiffened materials, Sewbo is now working towards commercialising its technology.

In October 2016, the company announced its plans to pilot its robotic process with Bluewater Defense, a leading manufacturer of uniforms and equipment for the US Department of Defense. The company produces 8,000 pairs of combat trousers a day, half of which are made in a Puerto Rican factory that employs 500 people who sew garments together. "It requires 64 operations just to make a single combat trouser," said CEO Eric Spackey. "If we can automate every two to three of those, it will make the process much more efficient."



According to Sewbo, the company is now in the research and discussion stages. “The military requirements are as strict as they are extensive, so there’s a lot of work to make sure that this will be compatible with their needs,” commented Mr Zornow.

New ARM Innovation Hub

This year, the Department of Defense awarded the 14th Manufacturing USA institute – the Advanced Robotics Manufacturing (ARM) Innovation Hub – to American Robotics. The eighth DoD-led institute, the ARM Institute joins the Manufacturing USA network in its collective effort to help revitalise American manufacturing and incentivise companies to invest in new technology development in the US.

Headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA, the winning consortium – comprised of state and local governments, industry, universities, community colleges, and non-profit organisations from across the country – contributed US\$ 173 million, to be combined with US\$ 80 million in federal funding. “The substantial cost matching reflects the importance the U.S. robotics community places on this institute and its value to US businesses, academia, and state and local governments,” the organisation explained.

The ARM Institute joins the Manufacturing USA institute network, a programme with industry, academia, and government participants who co-invest in the development of cutting edge manufacturing technologies and capabilities.

Last update 11:37 | 15/08/2017

Mega polyester fibre plant may resume production

Vietnam's first polyester fibre manufacturing plant may soon resume production following the investor's strong commitment.



The leaders of state-owned oil and gas giant PetroVietnam and state-owned textile and clothing conglomerate Vinatex recently met to discuss resuming the consumption of the fibre plant's products. Based in Dinh Vu Economic Zone in the northern port city Haiphong, the plant has a total investment value of nearly VND7 trillion (about \$325 million) and was planned to use feed from Dung Quat Oil Refinery in the central province of Quang Ngai to produce fibre. PetroVietnam owns 75 per cent of the plant. The meeting was a message for a possible resumption of operations at Dinh Vu Polyester Fibre Plant (PVTEX) which halted production in October 2015 due to losses after the first year of commercial operations. PetroVietnam's general director Nguyen Vu Trung Son said that the group is actively cooperating with related bodies in order to bring the fibre plant back into operation—the sooner the better. PVTEX is one of 12 notorious projects under the management of the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) decrying ineffective operation.

Of these 12 projects, five are under the management of PetroVietnam, including bio-fuel production plants Ethanol Phu Tho, ethanol Binh Phuoc, Bio-ethanol Dung Quat, Dung Quat Shipyard, and PVTEX. After consideration, MoIT authorised PetroVietnam to stop and let two projects—Dung Quat Shipyard and Ethanol Phu Tho—go bankrupt.

In the case of PVTEX, PetroVietnam is reportedly working on several scenarios. Of the proposed scenarios, such as offering the plant for lease and letting it go bankrupt, the scenario of resuming operations appears to be the most feasible.

In a talk with VIR after the recent meeting with PetroVietnam, Cao Huu Hieu, head of Vinatex's Investment Department, said the total demand for fibre of the domestic textile and clothing industry is 500-600,000 tonnes per year, and Vinatex alone needs 60,000 tonnes.

During 2014-2015, some Vinatex's member units who had used PVTEX's fibre products said that the products were generally of fair quality, but there was a sad lack of quality consistency between different batches. To spinning firms, stable fibre quality is crucial as it affects the quality of the spinning process as well as the need to adjust related machines' technical parameters to fit the process.

"Therefore, apart from upholding the increased consumption of PVTEX products, Vinatex and Vietnam Textile Research Institute will provide our utmost support to help the plant control product quality," Hieu said. PVTEX began operations in May 2014. From the inception, the plant had constantly faced difficulties as it could hardly sell products due to its unstable quality.

Until now, the plant has halted operations for nearly two years , accumulating losses of around VND1.5 trillion (\$68 million).

Until PVTEX halted operation in 2015, the plant had produced and sold more than 100,000 tonnes of fibre and filaments of various kinds.

Vinatex's member units had consumed around 20,000 tonnes of the products.

Last update 15:49 | 30/07/2017

Vietnamese textile sector overcomes TPP fall-back in style

With no sharp increase in sight, and despite a reduced number of projects in recent years, the Vietnamese textile industry still attracts more than \$750 million in FDI in the first six months of this year, mostly from investment capital increases in existing projects.



After the two years considered the high point of FDI in the textile industry (2014-2015), since the start of 2016, the number of FDI projects in this industry has decreased considerably. In early 2017, Chinese investors invested \$220 million in the Billion Vietnam polyester synthetic fibre plant in the southern province of Tay Ninh. Aside from this, however, capital flows consist mostly of capital expansion investments in existing projects.

According to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (Vitas), since the start of the year, the two projects with the largest investment capital increase in the textile industry were in the southern provinces of Dong Nai and Binh Duong.

In Binh Duong, Far Eastern Group (Taiwan) increased its investment capital by \$485.8 million in its polyester and synthetic fibre production project, Far Eastern Polytex (Vietnam) Ltd. The project was green-lighted in June 2015, with the registered investment capital of \$274 million, and the capital increase will push the total registered investment to approximately \$760 million.

This capital increase of nearly \$500 million makes Far Eastern Polytex Vietnam one of the largest projects to be certified in 2017, besides Samsung Display Vietnam, which registered a \$2.5 billion capital increase in its projects in the northern province of Bac Ninh.

Another Taiwanese giant, Tainan Spinning Company Ltd., also increased its investment capital in Long Thai Tu Spinning Factory at Long Khanh Industrial Zone in Dong Nai. The company registered a \$50-million increase in investment capital.

Prior to the capital increase, Tainan Spinning has initiated the construction of Long Thai Tu Spinning Factory-Phase 2 at Nhon Trach 2 Industrial Zone in Dong Nai. The project has a floor area of 37,000 square metres and a plot area of 18 hectares, consisting of a main factory, four finished product warehouses, a garage for workers, and other auxiliary structures. The factory began operation at the end of 2016.

Tainan Spinning Co., Ltd. is a major textile company based in Taiwan. To expand its market share as quickly as possible, Tainan plans to build its factories in Vietnam to take advantage of Vietnam's existing export markets. As such, just from the three above mentioned projects, the total FDI capital in the textile industry has reached \$755 million.

Attractive investment environment

According to Le Tien Truong, vice chairman of Vitas, the fact that a number of textile projects still attract capital after the US withdraw from the TPP is a good sign.

"With TPP going in the wrong direction, the decision of foreign investors to continue increasing capital in the Vietnamese textile industry means that the investment environment is still very attractive," Truong said.

As one of the largest textile exporters in Asia, Vietnam's total value of garment and textile exports has increased 3.6-times in the last decade, from \$7.78 billion in 2007 to \$28.02 in 2016, accounting for 16 per cent of total export turnover. In 2017, the industry is expected to grow by 7 per cent, reaching \$30 billion in the total export value.

In recent years, thanks to competitive labour costs and preferential policies, Vietnam has become the ideal destination for investors in the textile industry. The amount of FDI in the textile and apparel industry in the last decade has helped Vietnam become one of the five largest textile and apparel exporters in the world.

According to Vitas, even without the TPP, the Vietnamese textile and apparel industry still benefits from a number of free trade agreement, such as the Vietnam-EU FTA, Vietnam-South Korea FTA, Vietnam-Japan FTA, among others.

At the moment, Vietnamese textile and apparel products only account for 3 per cent of the EU market, which means with the right strategy, Vietnam's export can see sharp growth in the 2018-2020 period.

VIR

Local textile, garment firms yet to reap FTA benefits

Update: August, 03/2017 - 09:57

HCM CITY — Domestic garment and textile firms have, for the most part, missed out on the much-touted benefits of free trade agreements (FTAs) that Việt Nam has signed, experts said at seminar yesterday.

The firms in the country that have taken advantage of FTA breaks is the FDI sector, they noted.

Việt Nam has signed 12 free trade agreements, of which 10 FTAs have come into force: VN-ASEAN, ASEAN-India, ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand, ASEAN-South Korea, ASEAN-China, ASEAN-Japan, Việt Nam-Chile, Việt Nam-Japan, Việt Nam-South Korea and Việt Nam- Eurasian Economic Union, said Nguyễn Ngọc Hòa, deputy director of the HCM City Department of Industry and Trade.

In the 2016-20 period, most tariff lines under the FTAs have entered the period of being deeply cut or completely removed, he said.

Garments and textiles are key export items for the country in general and HCM City in particular. If enterprises can take good advantage of FTA opportunities, the country will be able to increase export revenues as well as expand export markets, he said.

But to be able to enjoy preferential tariffs under FTAs, the products must meet requirements under the rules of origin, he added.

With weak materials supply and supporting industries, businesses in the garment and textiles face a big challenge in complying with the rules of origin, Hòa said.

Import reliance

Phạm Xuân Hồng, chairman of the Garment-Textile-Embroidery-Knitting Association in HCM City, said the garment and textile industry has to import around 70 per cent of its materials for production, mainly from China.

“Domestic garment and textile businesses have not taken much advantage of FTAs since they cannot meet rule of origin requirements.”

“And one of the main reasons for this is that Vietnamese firms lack knowledge on this issue,” he said.

Hòa said yesterday's seminar was organised by the department in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to help garment and textile businesses get updated information on rules of origin so that they can capitalise on preferential treatments under FTAs to boost exports.

Trịnh Thị Thu Hiền, head of the origin of goods division under the Ministry's Export-Import Department, said that currently, more than 50 per cent of Việt Nam's garment and textile products are making full use of opportunities provided by FTAs, but these are mainly FDI companies.

"Rules of origin can neutralise preferential tariffs under FTAs," she said.

Goods eligible for preferential treatment under FTAs have to meet general or product-specific rules of origin, and have appropriate documentation, known as the certificate of origin (C/O).

Each FTA has its own certificate of origin form, she said.

A product can qualify for the C/O if it is cut-made-trimmed in Việt Nam under the ASEAN FTA, but under other FTAs like ASEAN-Japan and Việt Nam-Japan pacts, firms must meet the rules of origin from the fabric onwards, which is a big challenge for Vietnamese firms since the country still relies heavily on imported fabric.

Under the EU-Việt Nam FTA, the ministry has negotiated to apply more flexible rules of origin, Hiền said. While this FTA also requires rules of origin to apply from fabric onwards, meaning that exports to the EU must use fabric produced in Việt Nam or the EU, the agreement also allows firms to use fabric from one third country which has FTAs with both Việt Nam and the EU.

At the seminar, Hiền answered several questions raised by enterprises about FTA rules and procedures regarding C/Os.

Diversify markets

Hòa said exports in the garment and textile sector were still focused on a few main markets. He urged exporters to diversify their export markets, especially those with which Việt Nam has signed FTAs, so as to avoid or minimise risks.

Firms need to study carefully the characteristics of each market as well as its rule of origin requirements, he said.

Hồng said garment and textile exports reached over US\$14 billion in the first half of the year, a year-on-year increase of 11 per cent.

Following the solid first half performance, the industry is confident of achieving its 2017 export target of \$30-31 billion, an increase of 10 per cent over last year, he said. — VNS

Vietnamese textile sector attracts \$750 mn FDI in H1

11 Aug '17



The Vietnamese [textile](#) and apparel industry attracted more than \$750 million in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first six months of 2017, mostly from investment capital increases in existing projects, despite a reduced number of FDI projects in recent years and the US withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) last January.

The years 2014 and 2015 are considered the most successful for FDI in the [country's](#) textile industry. But the number of FDI projects in this sector decreased considerably from the beginning of 2016, a state-controlled English-language newspaper in Vietnam reported.

Except for the notable \$220 million Chinese investment in a polyester synthetic fibre plant in the southern province of Tay Ninh, capital flows comprise mostly capital expansion investments in existing projects.

According to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS), the southern provinces of Dong Nai and Binh Duong attracted the two projects with the largest investment capital increase in the textile industry in 2017.

In Binh Duong, Taiwan's Far Eastern Group raised its investment capital by \$485.8 million in its polyester and synthetic fibre production project, Far Eastern Polytex (Vietnam) Ltd. The project was initiated in June 2015 with a registered investment capital of \$274 million. This capital push makes the project one of the biggest to be certified in 2017 and will push the total registered investment to about \$760 million.

In the northern province of Bac Ninh, Samsung Display Vietnam registered a \$2.5 billion capital increase in its projects. Taiwan's Tainan Spinning Company Ltd, also increased its investment capital by \$50 million in Long Thai Tu Spinning Factory at Long Khanh Industrial Zone in Dong Nai.

Tainan Spinning began constructing the Long Thai Tu Spinning Factory-Phase 2 at Nhon Trach 2 Industrial Zone in Dong Nai before the capital raise. The project, consisting of a main factory, four finished product warehouses, a garage for workers, and other auxiliary structures, began operation in 2016 end. The company plans to build its factories in Vietnam to take advantage of the country's existing export markets.

According to VITAS vice chairman Le Tien Truong, textile projects attracting foreign capital after the United States withdrew from the TPP is a sign of conducive investment environment. The country's textile and apparel industry still benefits from a number of free [trade](#) agreement, such as the Vietnam-EU FTA, the Vietnam-South Korea FTA, and the Vietnam-Japan FTA.

The value of garment and textile exports in Vietnam, one of the largest textile exporters in Asia, has increased 3.6 times in the last decade, from \$7.78 billion in 2007 to \$28.02 in 2016, accounting for 16 per cent of total export turnover. The industry is expected to grow by 7 per cent in 2017, reaching \$30 billion in total export value.

Competitive labour costs and preferential policies have made Vietnam the ideal destination for investors in the textile industry in recent years. FDI in the last decade has helped the country turn one of the five largest textile and apparel exporters in the world. At the moment however, Vietnamese textile and apparel products account for a mere 3 per cent of the EU market. (DS)