

Sommaire / Summary

	Algérie : le « made in Algeria » en vogue	1
	Bangladesh : cotton import from India downs from 60 to 26%	3
	Bangladesh : Bangladesh : devalue Taka to help garment exporters	6
	Bangladesh : it is the « made in Bangladesh » era now	9
	Bangladesh : « made in Bangladesh » to overtake the « made in China »	13
	Bangladesh : sweaters manufacturers switching over to automated production system	15
	Cambodia : EU mission to assess the human and labour rights situation	17
	Cambodia : EU, US pressing towards Cambodia trade reprisals	19
	Cambodia : Nike reaffirms commitment to Cambodia	27
	Cambodia needs « real, credible improvement » to avoid loss of tariff-free trade scheme	29
	China : tariffs fail to dent US apparel imports from China	32
	China : tariffs hurt the USA heartland (AAMA letter to D. Trump)	34
	Chine : la production de l'industrie textile augmente de 4,1 % de janvier à avril	36
	Ethiopie : l'industrie textile, la nouvelle usine du monde ?	37
	France : de quoi avoir le moral dans les chaussettes ! et pourtant...	40
	France : l'industrie des tissus français reprend des couleurs	42
	France : Lectra vise cinq à dix acquisitions dans les deux à trois ans	43
	India's apparel export's share fall from 51 % in FY17 to 45% in FY19	45
	India : preferential trade status for India ends on June 5	47
	India's top 10 E-commerce fashion brands	49
	Maroc : l'industrie de l'habillement gagne des parts de marché en Europe !	56
	Maroc : Karim Tazi retire sa candidature pour la présidence de l'Amith	58
	Maroc : appel à une vision intégrée en matière de commerce extérieur	60
	Maroc : qui sont Mohamed Boubouh et Jalil Skali, candidats à la présidence de l'Amith	62
	Maroc : logistique : des méga-camions américains entre le Maroc et l'Espagne	65
	Myanmar : AAMA letter to the Myanmar government	67
	Sri Lanka : GSP as a « bait »	70
	Tunisie : les professionnels se mettent à l'heure de l'habillement durable	75
	Tunisie : exportations de jeans pour 1,322 milliard de dinars en 2018	76
	Tunisie : le savoir-faire tunisien textile s'expose à Barcelone et à Madrid	77
	Tunisie : lancement du projet du textile tunisien durable	79
	Tunisie : l'Europe à la mode tunisienne	82
	UK : growth in modern textile industry of Yorkshire	84
	UE : déclaration commune de Euratex, EBCA et AAFA	86
	Vietnam : denim production sees potential to thrive	88
	Vietnam : exportations de textile-habillement en forte croissance	90
	Vietnam's garment export growing since last 5 months	91
	Vietnam's textile industry strives to find new markets	92

Textile : Le «Made in Algeria» en vogue

Le président-directeur général (PDG) du Groupe public des textiles et cuirs (Getex), Mokrane Zerrouki, a relevé une amélioration de l'offre de l'habillement local par rapport aux années précédentes, sa part sur le marché national étant passée de 4% en 2016 à 20 % en 2018.

PUBLIE LE : 06-06-2019 | 0:00

Le président-directeur général (PDG) du Groupe public des textiles et cuirs (Getex), Mokrane Zerrouki, a relevé une amélioration de l'offre de l'habillement local par rapport aux années précédentes, sa part sur le marché national étant passée de 4% en 2016 à 20 % en 2018. Dans un entretien accordé à l'APS, M. Zerrouki a précisé que ce taux devrait atteindre les 35% après l'entrée en production, en septembre prochain, de l'usine de filature de Relizane d'une capacité de production de 9.000 tonnes/an, et entre 40 à 45% d'ici à 2020.

Cette usine fait partie d'un projet de complexe composé de 8 usines intégrées appartenant à la joint-venture «Tayal», dont 5 sont entrées en production, tandis que les 3 autres devront être opérationnelles avant fin 2019. Ces usines assurent une bonne qualité de produits conformes aux normes internationales en matière d'industrie du textile, a ajouté M. Zerrouki. Le chiffre d'affaires de Getex est passé de 11 milliards de DA en 2017 à plus de 13 mds en 2018, ce qui reflète, selon le responsable, «la nouvelle dynamique» que connaît l'industrie du textile. Le chiffre d'affaires généré par l'activité de production d'habillement représente un taux de 40% du total des activités du Groupe et s'oriente vers la hausse, vu la nature d'un marché en expansion», a-t-il estimé.

Le volume des crédits d'investissement obtenus par le Groupe dans le cadre du plan de développement de l'industrie du textile s'élève à 21 milliards de DA, un montant qui a été consacré à la rénovation des machines et des moyens de production ainsi qu'à l'achat des matières premières et à la relance de l'activité des usines. M. Zerrouki a déploré «le retard enregistré au début de la mise en application du plan en raison de la bureaucratie et du manque de main-d'œuvre qualifiée, ce qui a nécessité aux opérateurs davantage de temps pour la réalisation de tous les objectifs fixés». Rappelant que plusieurs instituts de formation spécialisés en textile et confection avaient fermé après le déclin de l'activité dans les années 1990, le PDG de Getex a expliqué que cette situation a entraîné un déficit de main-d'œuvre qualifiée, d'autant que les actions de formation en entreprise ne sont pas suffisantes pour couvrir la demande. Il a appelé, dans ce contexte, le ministère de la Formation et de l'Enseignement professionnels ainsi que celui de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche scientifique à ouvrir de nouvelles spécialités en pétrochimie et à créer des centres de formation spécialisés en textile et confection et en programmation et maintenance des équipements pour être au diapason des technologies développées adoptées de par le monde.

Getex importe 60.000 tonnes de coton/an

M. Zerrouki a appelé également les ministres de l'Energie et de l'Agriculture à l'ouverture de filières spécialisées en production de fibres industrielles, à l'élargissement des investissements de culture du coton à l'intérieur du pays pour approvisionner les usines en matière première produite localement, ce qui réduira la facture d'importation de ces matières, dont la valeur frôle les 180 millions USD/an. Le coton et les fibres industrielles représentent 80% des besoins de ces usines en matière première, sachant que Getex importe 60.000 tonnes de coton/an pour couvrir les besoins annuels de ses usines. Le Groupe comprend 6 filiales et 40 unités de production au niveau national ainsi qu'une entreprise de distribution Jackets Club constituée de 22 magasins, dont le nombre devrait passer à 40 locaux d'ici 2020. De son côté, le secrétaire général de la Fédération nationale des travailleurs du textile et du cuir (FNTTC), Benyoucef Zenat, estime nécessaire de donner plus de temps à ce secteur, vu la conjoncture difficile que traverse le pays et qui n'a pas encore permis aux usines de textile de rentabiliser leurs investissements. «Commencer à rembourser leurs crédits actuellement reviendra à freiner les ambitions de ces entreprises d'élargir leurs activités, d'où la nécessité de leur donner plus de temps afin de rattraper le retard accusé dans la phase de lancement», a-t-il expliqué. Pour M. Zenat, le ministère de l'Industrie est appelé à soutenir davantage ce secteur, notamment à la faveur des résultats positifs du plan de développement élaboré par l'Etat pour un montant de 2 milliards USD. Entrés en production l'année dernière, plusieurs ateliers et usines de textile enregistrent une reprise, a-t-il noté. Le secrétaire général de la FNTTC assure, dans ce sens, que le textile et la confection algériens peuvent apporter une plus-value à l'économie nationale hors hydrocarbures, ajoutant qu'en tant que plus grand secteur de recrutement, il est à même de couvrir la demande en emploi dans les wilayas d'implantation. Par ailleurs, M. Zenat a évoqué l'importance de développer les techniques de commercialisation du produit local et sa promotion auprès du consommateur, à la lumière de la féroce concurrence des produits étrangers qui inondent le marché. La priorité devrait être donnée au produit national au niveau des magasins spécialisés et des grandes surfaces, notamment pour l'habillement et la maroquinerie, a-t-il déclaré. Le secrétaire général de la FNTTC affirme, par ailleurs, que le produit national «Made in Algeria» est bien accueilli localement et qu'il est en mesure de concurrencer le produit étranger, «d'où l'impératif de mettre en place un plan visant à fidéliser le client algérien», a-t-il insisté. Il a fait état, à ce propos, de l'approvisionnement, prévu durant le prochain Aïd El Adha, du plus grand nombre de surfaces commerciales possible en produits algériens. En effet, nombreux sont les opérateurs dans le secteur du textile et sa commercialisation à relever que le produit local reprend «progressivement» sa place sur le marché national, après une période de stagnation. Longtemps fabriqué sur commande et réservé exclusivement aux besoins des entreprises publiques, le «Made in Algeria» s'impose de plus en plus dans les commerces à travers l'ensemble du territoire national. En dépit de l'offre limitée, l'habillement de fabrication locale attire le consommateur algérien, d'après le constat fait par l'APS à travers une tournée dans différentes surfaces commerciales à l'occasion de l'Aïd el-Fitr.

Cotton import from India downs from 60 to 26.12%

Staff Correspondent
May 29, 2019

Bangladesh now depends less on India for cotton and African nations become the largest source

India accounted for 26.12% of the total cotton imports of Bangladesh, down from more than 60 percent two years ago. A recent data of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) is showing this.

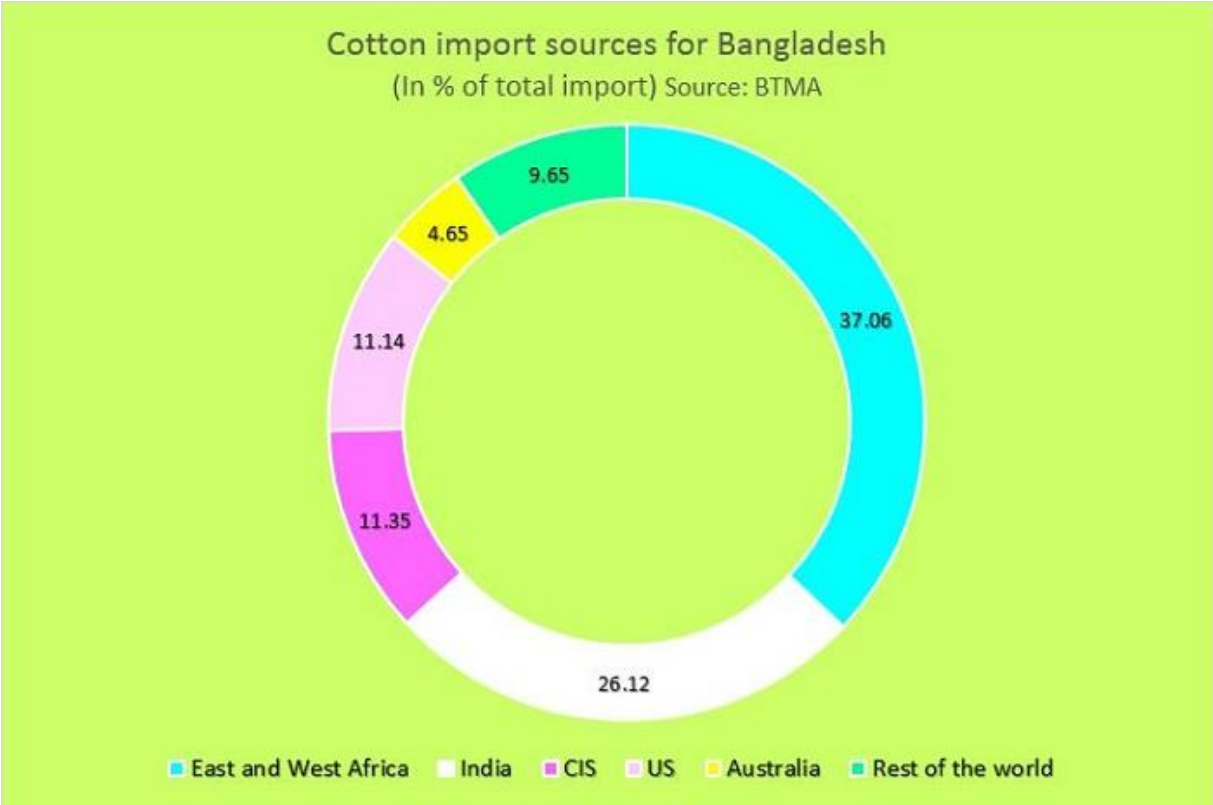


Local spinners and millers look to cut down their dependence on a single source for their vital raw material. In this regard, African nations have surpassed India to become the largest source of cotton for Bangladesh.

Last year, Bangladesh imported 37.06% of its requirement for the white fiber from East and West African countries. At the same time, 11.35% of the cotton came from the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries, 11.14% from the US, 4.65% from Australia and 9.65% from the rest of the world.

The low quality of Indian cotton is the main reason behind the falling imports from the neighboring country. A section of Indian cotton traders also cannot maintain timely shipment and deliver the right quantity of cotton as per agreement.

“Indian cotton quality is not good, it is not contamination free, short staple length and other quality parameters are not good,” said Mohammad Ali Khokon, President of BTMA.



For example, it is written in the letter of credit that there may be 3 to 4 percent less cotton than the amount agreed upon when the imported fiber is weighed in Bangladesh. But in many cases, it is 10 to 15 percent less.

“This is a big loss for us. We can’t afford this kind of losses. This is another reason for moving away from India,” said Mehdi Ali, President of the Bangladesh Cotton Association.

The concentration of moisture in the Indian cotton is higher than in other countries’, which makes it difficult to store in the warehouses for a long time.

Last year, Bangladesh imported 8.28 million bales of cotton (one bale equals to 282 Kg). In dollar terms, the imports are worth \$3 billion. The country produced 1.65 lakh bales of cotton last fiscal year, which is less than 3% of the annual demand for 10 million bales.

“We already know that in Africa, there are three cotton zones: East Africa, West Africa, and Central Africa. These are well known for high-quality and long staple

length. The productivity of Africa's cotton is 10-12% higher than that of India's cotton," said Mohammad Ali Khokon.

“Indian cotton quality is not good, it is not contamination free, short staple length and other quality parameters are not good.”

-MOHAMMAD ALI KHOKON, PRESIDENT OF BTMA

“So, Bangladesh cotton importers have increased their importing from African counties,” Khokon concluded.

In order to extend local production, state-run Cotton Development Board is looking for new farming lands in hilly and swamp areas in various districts along with the existing farming areas in Jashore, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Gazipur and Mymensingh.

The board hopes to produce 2.5 lakh bales of cotton by 2021, which will meet nearly 5-7% of the local consumption.



2:00 AM, June 14, 2019 / LAST MODIFIED: 04:12 AM, June 14, 2019

Devalue Taka to help garment exporters

Economists suggest, discourage cash incentives; 1pc additional incentive proposed in budget; BGMEA demands more



The government should support the garment exporters by devaluing taka against US dollar instead of giving them direct cash incentives, two economists said yesterday.

They made the observation after the government in the national budget for 2019-20 fiscal year proposed increasing the cash incentive on garment export by an additional one percent.

It also proposed introducing two percent cash incentive for remittance from abroad.

Currently, garment exporters receive a cash incentive of 4 percent for emerging markets. All the countries except for Canada, the EU members and the US are considered as emerging markets.

In the proposed budget, an additional Tk 2,825 crore has been allocated for paying cash incentives on garment export receipts. Some Tk 3,060 crore has been allocated for paying incentives on remittance receipts.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of Policy Research Institute, said it was not needed to raise the cash incentive against the export receipts as it could be compensated by devaluing the local currency against US dollar. According to him, the devaluation of taka is long overdue.

“There is a room for devaluation of the local currency by another Tk 7, of which the exporters would get at least Tk 4 as they have to spend Tk 3 for import of raw materials,” Mansur told The Daily Star over the phone. “The exporters deserve more, but they should not be compensated with the people’s tax money. The government should not give an incentive to any matured industry,” he observed.

Rubana Huq, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), platform for garment factory owners, said 1 percent cash incentive was quite inadequate for them as they were “passing through a very bad time”.

The apparel exporters had demanded 5 percent cash incentive.

“Had it been at least 3 percent, it would have been okay for us,” Rubana said at a Facebook live event on the budget.

She said it was estimated that the amount of cash incentive would be Tk 14,000 crore at the rate of 5 percent in a year solely for the garment sector, but the government allocated Tk 2,825 crore for the same period.

Zahid Hussain, lead economist at the World Bank’s Dhaka office, said it is not right to include the offer of a cash incentive in the national budget, rather taka should be depreciated against US dollar.

He said given the real time effects of exchange, taka can be devalued up to Tk 90 against \$1 which is now exchanged between Tk 84 and Tk 84.50.

The economist said the garment exporters would be more benefited from the devaluation of the local currency.

He, however, said he was not sure about the necessity for giving a cash incentive to the garment sector as the country's garment export was on the rise.

Moreover, a big opportunity has been created for Bangladesh due to the current global trade scenario. For instance, Bangladesh has been receiving a lot of work orders, especially from the US retailers and brands, over the last one year because of the ongoing tariff war between the US and China, he told this newspaper over phone.

Many Western retailers and brands have been transferring work orders from China, the world's largest apparel exporter, to Bangladesh and some other neighbouring countries, mainly to avoid any uncertainty in the entire supply chain, said the WB official.

Furthermore, the US government recently suspended the GSP facilities of India and Turkey, two major global competitors of Bangladesh, which has also created an opportunity for the local exporters to grab more share in the US market, Zahid said.

According to him, many competitors of Bangladesh in Asia devalued their local currencies significantly to be more competitive in global trade and to give incentives to their exporters.

He said the government did not need to pay a two percent incentive to the remitters.

Salehuddin Ahmed, a former governor of Bangladesh Bank, said taka can be devalued slightly.

"We may devalue taka slightly against US dollar in line with the market demand, but we have to keep in mind that there is no negative impact on the imports," he told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh Bank data shows that expatriate Bangladeshis sent home \$15.06 billion in eleven months (July 2018-May 2019) of the current fiscal year.

In the ongoing fiscal year, cash incentives are being offered against 35 categories of export products, according to budget documents.

Export incentives provided in fiscal 2008-09 amounted to Tk 1,500 crore, which stood at Tk 4,481 crore in the fiscal 2017-18.

It is the 'Made in Bangladesh' era now

[Tribune Desk](#)

- Published at 09:51 pm June 8th, 2019



Workers at a Chinese-run factory in Bangladesh produce 12 million toys a year **Collected**

- Soaring wages at home have seen many Chinese firms set up shop in Bangladesh, boosting its economic growth, expected at 8% this year
- But while there has been a backlash against Chinese investments and workers in the Philippines and Indonesia, Dhaka is more welcoming

When Chinese businessman Leo Zhuang Lifeng arrived in Dhaka 22 years ago, only one of the two luggage conveyor belts in the airport was functioning. The lighting was not working properly, either.

The rundown airport in the capital of Bangladesh prepared many Chinese and foreign businessmen for what they were about to experience in the country, which was still an economic backwater at the time, with frequent power outages and inadequate infrastructure, according to a South China Morning Post report.

Zhuang, now 51, landed in Dhaka in 1997 to set up garment factories there, taking advantage of the low labour costs and abundant supply of workers.

“Back then, there was a lack of daily commodities. It was not even easy to buy instant noodles,” said Zhuang, managing director of the LDC Group, which now employs about 20,000 workers in the country. “But Bangladesh has gone through tremendous changes over the years, though of course you cannot compare those changes to what China has experienced.”

His factory compounds were so big they resembled villages on their own. There were medical centres providing free consultation for staff and their family members, as well as day-care centres for their children.

Such compounds are now everywhere in Bangladesh, as Chinese and other foreign investors have kept coming. This investment has transformed the country into a manufacturing powerhouse with 3.5 million labourers making clothing for local and international brands such as Uniqlo and H&M. Luxury brands such as Michael Kors also have some products made in Bangladesh.

As wages soar in China, more clothing is expected to carry the tag “Made in Bangladesh” rather than “Made in China” in the years to come.

Zhuang, now the president of the Overseas Chinese Association in Bangladesh, estimated there were only 20 to 30 Chinese companies in Bangladesh 22 years ago. By his estimate, that number has since grown to roughly 400 in the relatively young South Asian country, which gained independence from Pakistan in 1971.

Chinese loans have boosted Bangladesh’s economic growth. For about a decade, it grew at an average of 6 per cent, but is expected to hit 8.13% this year, making the country one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

From China to Bangladesh

Despite its rapid economic growth, Dhaka remains different from other Asian capitals such as Jakarta, Manila and Phnom Penh. Its infrastructure, including highways, is lacking; during peak hours, there is so much traffic that it can take three frustrating hours to navigate a distance of 50km.

But Bangladesh’s ample room for development is precisely why it has drawn so many investors. Among them is Hong Kong businessman Felix Chang Yoe-chong,

chairman of the Hong Kong-listed Evergreen Products Group, one of the largest wig manufacturers in the world. Since moving his factories from mainland China to Bangladesh, he now has 18,000 workers who produce 300,000 to 400,000 wigs a month in the Uttara Export Processing Zone, an hour's flight from Dhaka.

Some 20 companies, among them about six from Hong Kong, have set up factories in the 213-acre zone. There are eight such zones across Bangladesh, allowing companies to import materials needed to make their products at a reduced or zero tax rate. This concessionary tax policy applies to their exports as well.

The minimum wage in Bangladesh currently is \$95 a month, which is still lower than those in other Asian countries. It is \$182 a month in Cambodia; \$180 a month in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, though lower in other Vietnamese cities; and \$3.60 per day in Myanmar.

During Chang's first few years in the country, there was no flight from Dhaka to where his factories were located. Even though there was an airport, it was not open because hardly anyone was using it. It meant that every time he had to go to his factories, he had to travel over land for nine to 12 hours, depending on traffic conditions.

"The advantage of doing business in Bangladesh is that the wage is low. The downside is that shipping takes a long time. But for me, a solution is to have more wig materials stored in the factories," he remarked.

Hongkonger David Lam Ming-heung, general manager of an eyeglass manufacturer in the same export zone, understands the logistics troubles all too well.

"Bangladesh right now is like China when China was first opening up [in the 1970s]," said Lam, 53, who oversees 3,700 workers in the factory. "Bangladesh is using the China model to grow its economy."

Home away from home

Some 2,300km from his home province of Hunan, Thomas Zou Haibo is a shadow of his former self. Since the assistant manager of a handbag factory started working in the Uttara zone seven years ago, his weight dropped from 90kg to just 70kg.

“I was one of the seven people who were sent here by my company seven years ago. When I first came, there was only 2G internet here and we could not get any Chinese television channels. There was no entertainment. It was just work every day,” said Zou, 33.

The hundreds of Chinese working in the companies in the export zone were close knit. Many of them lived in the same buildings, sharing meals and singing karaoke in their flats over the weekend. That was the closest to a Chinatown in the zone.

“After all these years working here, I have developed a sense of belonging with the people here,” Zou said. “But I do miss home. That’s why I go home two to three times a year.”

David Zhao Zhiwen, manager of a toy factory in the zone, misses his two children. He oversees 4,200 workers who make 12 million toy models a year. His day starts at 7am and ends 12 hours later; he supervises every procedure, from the melting of metals to the moulding of the toys.

There are about 100 Chinese employees at Zhao’s factory, mostly managers and technicians. “We need Chinese here to teach and pass on our techniques to the Bangladeshi workers,” he said.

Farhan Haq, a law lecturer at the Central Women’s University in Dhaka, said: “Infrastructure is being built in the country. A lot of Chinese are here, investors and workers. They have created a lot of opportunities for the locals. We are not concerned. We are happy. They are helping the economy.”

06/11/2019, 16.33

CHINA – BANGLADESH

'Made in Bangladesh' to overtake the 'Made in China'

The first Chinese companies arrived in Bangladesh in 1997, and now number around 400. China has contributed to the booming garment industry whose aim is to reach US\$ 50 billion by 2021. Bangladesh, which has the lowest wages in the region, has sought a plurality of foreign partners to avoid the China "debt trap".



Dhaka (AsiaNews/Agencies) – Chinese companies have shifted production to Bangladesh because of low wages, low import and export duties, almost no insurance coverage for employees, and no unions.

Such conditions have brought in foreign investors and boosted local production and economic growth, which will reach 8.13 per cent this year.

Chinese business executives began coming to Bangladesh just over 20 years ago. One of the first to land in Dhaka in 1997 was Leo Zhuang Lifeng, now 51, managing director of the LDC Group, which today employs 20,000 workers across the country.

When he arrived, there were 30 Chinese companies; now there are around 400. Another Chinese business expat is Felix Chang Yoe-chong, from Hong Kong, chairman of Evergreen Products Group, one of the largest wig manufacturers in the world.

About 10 years ago, Chang decided to transfer production from Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Kunming and Henan. Today 93 per cent of his production is made in the Utara Export Processing Zone, one of eight industrial zones in Bangladesh.

According to the two executives, the "Made in China" has moved to Bangladesh due to rising costs and wages at home. Before Chang opened in the Uttara area, he paid his Chinese workers 2,000 yuan a month (US\$ 289); at that time, the minimum wage in Bangladesh was 170 yuan a month (US\$ 25).

The minimum wage in Bangladesh currently stands at US\$ 95 a month, which is still lower than in other Asian countries: US\$ 182 a month in Cambodia; US\$ 180 a month in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, lower in other Vietnamese cities; US\$ 3.60 a day in Myanmar.

Chinese companies have contributed to huge growth of Bangladesh' garment sector, a US\$ 30 billion industry that wants to reach US\$ 50 billion by 2021. The country already is the second-largest exporter of clothing after China.

Garment manufacturers employ 3.5 million people making clothing for local and international brands such as Uniqlo, Zara and H&M as well as high-end brands like Michael Kors and Calvin Klein.

Manufacturing plants are however known for their poor safety standards, with frequent accidents and fires. In January of this year, workers went on strike to demand higher wages in the **Dhaka-Savar-Gazipur triangle**. The labour action resulted in one protester killed and little change to working conditions in Bangladeshi plants.

Massive foreign investments (US\$ 506 million from China in fiscal 2017-2018) saw Bangladesh graduate from "least developed country" to "developing country".

According to economists, the Bangladeshi government has been smart enough to recognise the dangers of the "**Chinese debt trap**" and diversified sources of loans; India first, then Japan and South Korea.

By contrast, they are critical of the country's obsolete transportation network and the inadequacy of its ports to handle containers.

Sweater manufacturers switching over to automated production system

Posted By: **daily industry** on: June 09, 2019 In:

BD's sweater export growth to the world

Year	Growth
2008-2009	26.09%
2009-2010	-3.40%
2010-2011	38.59%
2011-2012	-5.94%
2012-2013	11.98%
2013-2014	11.91%
2014-2015	-3.54%
2015-2016	12.49%
2016-2017	5.63%
2017-2018	9.32%

Industry Desk: A technological shift has been taking place in the country's readymade garment sector especially in sweater segment as manufacturers are switching over to an automated production system, industry people said. The main purposes behind the shift are to grab the growing demands for value-added items, increase the productivity of their units and also avoid any untoward labor unrest that took place over wage issues.

A good number of sweater units have already installed the required machines for automation, while some are installing and others are actively considering it, industry insiders said.

The sweater factory workers get their wage on the basis of piece-rate – the number of pieces they produce daily – and the rate is not fixed in the sector. Usually, it is the owners, who fix the piece-rate.

Industry people said they import the automatic machines, mainly from Germany, Japan, and China. Chinese machines are comparatively cheaper than those of Germany and Japan.

According to Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), about 786 sweater factories are being operated in the country, employed around 7,00,000 workers.

In 1985, a sweater factory with 366 machines first set up in the country with creating employment for some 570 workers, according to the trade body.

Jersey, pullover, cardigans and waistcoats are the major items shipped to the European Union, the USA and Canada. France, Germany, Italy, UK, Spain and Poland are the major EU markets while Japan and Russia are the potential non-traditional markets for locally made sweater items, industry people said.

Exports earnings from sweater items are also increasing each year. The country earned only \$70.41 million in the fiscal year of 1995-96 from sweater items exports, according to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data.

Now the earnings from sweater items stood at \$3.67 billion in the fiscal year of 2017-18, making the items top five readymade garments (RMG) items.

Moshiul Azam Shajal, Managing Director of Fame Sweaters Ltd, said many of the sweater factories have invested a huge amount of money in setting automated system in their units in recent years mainly to increase productivity and reduce the cost related to workers and others.

“But exports are not increasing as required as we are not getting fair price of products in line with the investment made in automation and other compliance issues,” he said.

A manual machine costs only \$300 to \$700 where an automated jacquard machine ranged between \$2,000 to \$30,000, Fazlee Shamim Ehsan, Vice President of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) said.

According to the BKMEA leader almost all sweater factories have installed the automated machine, many of them might not go for full automation. This is because to address labor issues including shortage of workers, possible unrest over payment.

Though automation resulted in job loss of workers, it has increased productivity, help producing more designed based sweater items with embroidery and value-added items.

The BGMEA leader explained that an automated Jacquard machine is not only able to produce diversified and fashionable products, but can also fabricate critical designs, not possible with the manual ones.

“Complexities over the payment of workers are mainly experienced in the knitting sector, and automation is largely taking place in this segment,” said Mohammad Hatem, a former leader of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

A manual machine needs one operator and can produce a maximum of five pieces a day. On the other hand, an automatic machine, operated by a single operator, can produce about 30 pieces a day, he explained. So, many owners are opting for those expensive automatic machines to remain cost competitive in the long run.

Brussels, 11 June 2019

EU sends monitoring mission to Cambodia to assess the human rights and labour rights situation

Officials from the European Commission and the European External Action Service undertook a mission to Cambodia from 3 to 10 June 2019. The mission was part of the monitoring and evaluation under the procedure that could lead to the temporary withdrawal of Cambodia's trade preferences under the EU's Everything But Arms (EBA) trade scheme, following concerns over Cambodia's record against core human rights and labour rights conventions.

The mission looked at some of the major issues of concern in Cambodia, including the potential violation of

- Political rights
- Freedom of expression and freedom of association
- The right to organise and collective bargaining
- Dispossession of families caused by economic land concessions (ELCs), particularly in the sugar sector.

The monitoring mission met government authorities, international organisations, trade unions, business organisations, civil society, and the Embassies of EU member states and third countries.

The mission noted steps reported by Cambodia towards improving compliance with international standards on freedom of association and collective bargaining, as well as in addressing a number of land disputes in relation to economic land concessions.

The monitoring and evaluation period will end in mid-August. Following that date, the EU will produce a report of its findings and conclusions. Cambodia will have one month to reply to this report.

The EU's aim is to address the human rights and labour rights concerns. The EU is committed to work with the Cambodian authorities to achieve this. Cambodia must show real, credible improvement on the issues of concern in order to avoid the withdrawal of EBA preferences.

Cambodia is the second largest beneficiary of EBA trade preferences, accounting for over 18% of all imports coming into the EU market under EBA preferences in 2018. EU imports exports from Cambodia to the EU totalled €5.3 billion in 2018, with over 95% taking advantage of EBA preferences. Clothing and textiles account for three quarter of EU imports from Cambodia (€4 billion).



JUNE 7, 2019



Hun Sen irons clothes at a factory compound on the outskirts of Phnom Penh on August 30, 2017. Photo: AFP/Stringer

EU, US pressing towards Cambodia trade reprisals

Coordinated withdrawal of Cambodia's EU and US tariff-free trade privileges would devastate crucial garment exports and flatten the economy

By DAVID HUTT, PHNOM PENH

A United States Trade Representative (USTR) and Department of State delegation wrapped up a five-day mission to Cambodia on June 7, a visit that could ultimately have major ramifications for the Southeast Asian nation's economy.

The delegations were deployed ostensibly to "discuss bilateral trade issues, including automobile standards, as well as Cambodia's labor situation," the US Embassy in Cambodia's Facebook page said.

More likely, sources say, the delegations were looking into the potential of removing Cambodia from the US' Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), a preferential trade scheme that grants tariff and quota-free status to exports from developing countries.

The USTR, the agency responsible for advising the US president on trade policy, is believed to be weighing whether to launch a review of Cambodia’s GSP status because of alleged poor labor rights’ conditions.

In the past two months, India and Turkey have had their GSP designations removed over market access issues. When Asia Times went to press, the USTR mission to Cambodia had not yet made a public comment on its visit.

It was likely not a coincidence that the American delegation arrived in Cambodia the same week as a fact-finding team from the European Commission and the European External Action Service were in country.

The European delegations were dispatched to assess whether the country should remain part of the “Everything But Arms” (EBA) scheme, the European Union’s version of the GSP.



Workers in a Cambodian garment factory. Photo: Facebook

The US and EU are by far the two largest customers of Cambodia’s export-driven economy, purchasing combined around US\$9 billion worth of its exports last year. Of these, roughly half were shipped under the EBA and GSP schemes.

Cambodia’s removal from the preferential trade deals would hit the economy hard, a potential problem for Prime Minister Hun Sen’s increasingly repressive regime that has based its legitimacy largely on achieving years of high economic growth.

In February, the EU started an 18-month process of reviewing Cambodia's place in the EBA scheme, citing "serious human rights violations as well as a deterioration of democracy."

Unlike normal trade deals, these preferential schemes require signatory nations to meet certain criteria, though the EU's EBA scheme imposes more political conditions than America's GSP, which is chiefly about labor rights, property rights and equal access for US firms.

It remains to be decided whether Cambodia has fulfilled the criteria to remain part of the GSP, though clearly the USTR thought so in April 2018 when its inclusion was extended. That decision, however, was made before last July's controversial general election that many observers saw as rigged in Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party's (CPP) favor.

Last month a group of international businesses involved in Cambodia's vital garment sector – including Nike, Adidas, and Levi Strauss – sent a joint letter to Hun Sen stating: "We are concerned that the labor and human rights situation in Cambodia is posing a risk to trade preferences for Cambodia."

The EU's investigation arose because of deteriorating political conditions, as the ruling CPP formed a de-facto one-party state last year and tightened its chokehold over politics and dissent.

In late 2017, a pliant Supreme Court formally dissolved the country's largest opposition party, the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), while the party's president Kem Sokha was arrested on treason charges.

Months later, the CPP won all 125 seats in parliament at last year's election, which many in the international community dubbed "illegitimate."

Both the US and EU have called on the government to release Kem Sokha, who has now been in detention for 22 months; introduce judicial reforms; improve human rights conditions; and retract the legal changes that allowed for the dissolution of the CNRP and the banning of its officials.

However, Hun Sen has said that he will not "exchange national sovereignty with aid," and vowed not to be backed into a corner by external influences.

At the same time, his government has oscillated between saying that it isn't too concerned about losing preferential trade status, as it aims to diversify its trade, and

saying that such threats by foreign governments are an assault on Cambodia’s sovereignty and would prove disastrous for the country’s poor.

“There is a red line in which the government will not exchange its sovereignty for access to the EBA,” Foreign Affairs Minister Prak Sokhonn reportedly told the visiting European delegation this week. It is believed that this “red line” is the CNRP’s reinstatement.

In some respects Phnom Penh has offered clemency. Minor reforms to the judiciary have been introduced, while pardons were granted to some political prisoners, though not yet to Kem Sokha.

But in recent months, even as the government prepared to welcome yet another EU delegation, analysts say that authorities have again stepped up their repression.

In a statement released on June 2, Human Rights Watch asserted that this year alone Cambodian authorities “have issued at least 147 arbitrary court and police summonses” against members or supporters of the CNRP.

“The EU and other donors to Cambodia should demand that the Hun Sen government immediately release all arbitrarily detained opposition members and fully restore the CNRP as a political party,” said Brad Adams, HRW’s Asia director, said in a statement.

Speaking during his state visit to Japan last week, during which he was met by protests from the Cambodian diaspora, Hun Sen upped his rhetoric, pledging to “wage war” against the dissolved CNRP. He referred to the party’s acting-president Sam Rainsy as a “a dog that I need to destroy.”



Exiled Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy in a file photo.

It is unclear how much this rhetoric and recent repression influenced the European and American delegations that were in Cambodia this week. However, it might not be a coincidence that both delegations arrived at the same time.

Indeed, analysts reckon that Washington and Brussels are keen to work together on lobbying Phnom Penh to mend its ways and restore political conditions to how they were in 2016, which was not quite democratic but certainly more so than today.

Their reasoning might be justified. While Cambodia might be able to cope with losing preferential trade status with one of its two main export partners, its economy certainly wouldn't be able to weather losing both.

The government estimates that new tariffs, if the EBA scheme is revoked, will cost exporters roughly \$700 million each year. More costly, however, would be a decline in investment as manufacturers look to setup shop elsewhere. Factory closures, particularly in the garment sector, the largest single employer, of around 800,000 workers, could lead to mass layoffs and spiraling debt.

While China, Cambodia's top ally, has promised financial support in such an event, it cannot replace the country's two main export markets in the long-term. China only purchases about 6% of all Cambodia's exports, and chiefly less-profitable agricultural goods.

On the surface, Cambodia has much more to lose if it is kicked out of the EU's EBA scheme than America's GSP. Of the \$5.5 billion worth of goods Cambodia exported to the EU last year, some US\$5.4 billion fell under the EBA scheme, meaning they were exempt from tariffs and quotas.

By comparison, only \$720 million out of the total of \$3.8 billion worth of exports to the US last year was shipped under the GSP scheme.

But exports to the US are fast growing, from around \$2 billion in 2014 to \$3.1 billion in 2017 and \$3.8 billion last year. Moreover, in the first quarter of this year exports amounted to \$1.1 billion, up 24% from the same period last year, portending yet another big increase in 2019.

.../...



American apparel company Levi Strauss has raised concerns with Prime Minister Hun Sen about possible US trade reprisals. Photo: Twitter

In March, a spokesman for Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce told local media that the rapid increase of exports to the US over the last few years was largely due to Cambodian-produced travel goods, such as luggage, backpacks and handbags, being included in the GSP scheme in 2016.

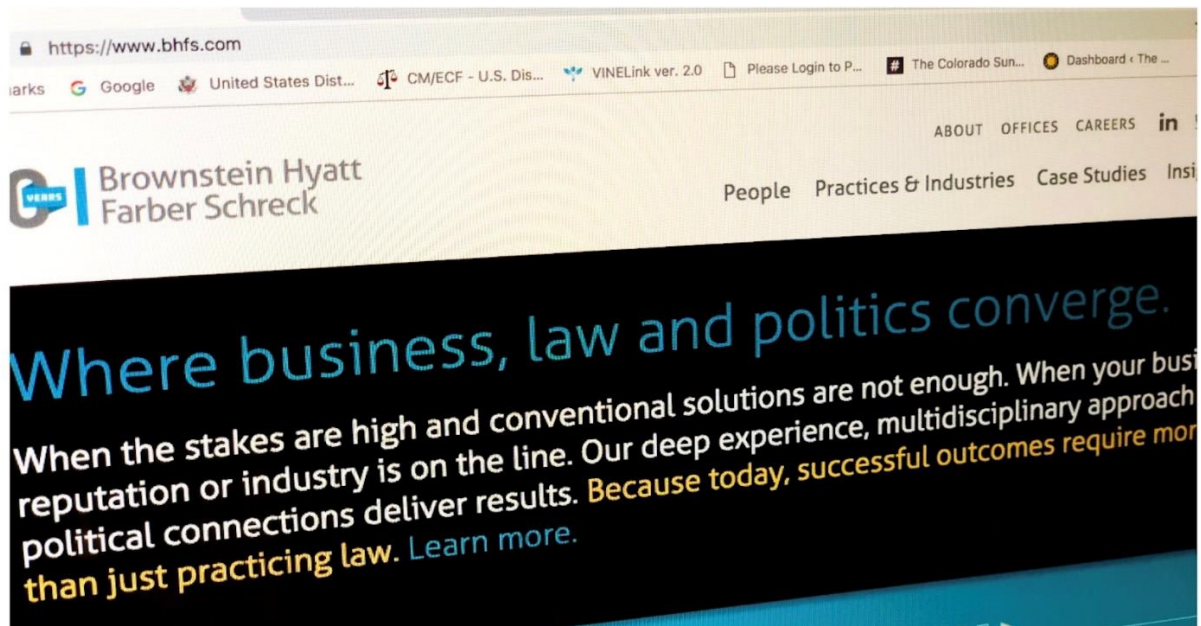
Indeed, after GSP status was applied to this category, exports of travel goods to the US rose from just \$50 million in 2016 to \$400 million last year, according to US Embassy figures.

An investigation into Cambodia's place in the GSP scheme could provide new momentum to potentially punitive bills introduced to the US Congress earlier this year. If passed, these could lead to sanctions being placed upon political and military elites in Phnom Penh, and could see Washington pressure the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to cut loans to Cambodia.

GSP status gives the US leverage over Cambodia. The GSP scheme would be far more important for Cambodia if it also included and gave duty-free status to garments and footwear, Cambodia's two main export items, worth about \$10 billion for the economy in 2018. (The EU's EBA scheme covers both products).

Last year, the US purchased roughly 24% of all Cambodia's exports from the garment and footwear sector, while the EU took about 46%.

The Cambodian government has since last year lobbied Washington to expand its GSP status to those two products, which economists predict would give a big boost to the local market and Cambodia's export receipts.



US law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck offer services beyond practicing law on their website. Photo: Twitter

Documents filed under the US Foreign Agents Registration Act show the Cambodian government has also spent \$1.2 million this year on two US lobbying firms, the notable Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck and the lesser known PacRim Bridges.

These lobbyists are believed to be working to against Washington imposing sanctions and rescinding the country's GSP status. They have their work cut out for them.

In February, the Cambodia Trade Act of 2019 (CTA) was introduced to the House of Representatives. If passed, it would call upon US President Donald Trump to order a review of Cambodia's place in the GSP scheme. A similar bill with the same name was also introduced to the US Senate in January.

"Cambodia continues to receive preferential trade status when dealing with the United States while [Hun Sen] continues to trample on the rights of his people. In light of his actions, it is time for us to re-evaluate this special treatment," Congressmen Steve Chabot, one of the CTA's sponsors, said in a statement at the time.

It is also possible for the USTR to unilaterally conduct an investigation into Cambodia's place in the GSP scheme without action by Congress, though in that case President Trump's administration will have the final say.

Last month the Trump administration terminated India's place in the GSP scheme, after a 60-day warning in March.

Trump said that this was because India, the largest beneficiary of the scheme in 2017, had failed to “provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets.” Washington also terminated Turkey’s GSP designation in May.

The USTR is currently reviewing eight countries now in the GSP scheme, including Thailand and Indonesia, for infringements on workers’ rights, intellectual property rights and market access for US firms.

Given that the USTR is currently reviewing workers’ rights in various countries, and with its visit to Phnom Penh to inspect “Cambodia’s labor situation,” it seems possible that Cambodia could soon find its trade privileges under review.

June 7, 2019

Nike reaffirms commitment to Cambodia

May Kunmakara / Khmer Times Share:



Workers at Bowker Garment Factory along National Road 4 in Kandal Province. KT/Chor Sokunthea

Global sportswear manufacturer Nike Inc. on Wednesday reiterated its commitment to producing in the Kingdom and praised the country's progress in improving labour conditions.

Speaking during a meeting with Minister of Commerce Pan Sorasak, Nike vice president Chris Helzer said the company feels optimistic about the Kingdom's economic outlook and its compliance with international labour laws, particularly in the garment and footwear industry.

Mr Helzer praised the government for its efforts to improve labour conditions in the garment sector and adhere to international laws regulating it.

“Cambodia now enjoys high compliance with international labour standards through factory monitoring programmes, which are implemented as a partnership between the government and the private sector,” Mr Helzer was quoted as saying in a ministry press release.

“For companies like Nike it is now easy to comply with international labour standards, which is a major factor in deciding to invest and place orders. In this regard, Nike will continue its operations in Cambodia,” he said.

Minister Sorasak said the government has been painstakingly working to improve the investment and business environment through reforms that aim to make private sector ventures more profitable, particularly in the garment and textile industry.

Kaing Monika, deputy secretary general at the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC), told Khmer Times that, “We appreciate Nike’s commitment and support towards Cambodia.

“The Nike brand has great value, and its compliance standards are usually high,” he added.

Mr Helzer said Nike will continue its partnership with the Cambodian government by increasing investment to strengthen the production chain, provide jobs for the people, and contribute to economic growth.

Cambodia Needs ‘Real, Credible Improvement’ to Avoid Loss of Tariff-Free Trade Scheme: EU

2019-06-13



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (C) irons clothes at a garment factory on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Aug. 30, 2017.

Cambodia “must show real, credible improvement” on human and labor rights if it hopes to avoid losing preferential trade status, according to the European Union, drawing condemnation from a government spokesman who suggested that Phnom Penh has no intention to comply.

The EU statement came at the end of a June 3-10 fact-finding mission, sent to Cambodia as part of a six-month monitoring period ending in mid-August to determine whether the country’s exports should continue to enjoy tax-free entry into the European market under the Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme.

The decision was prompted by a November 2017 ruling by Cambodia’s Supreme Court to ban the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP)—part of a wider crackdown by Prime Minister Hun Sen on the political opposition, NGOs, and the independent media that paved the way for his ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) to win all 125 seats in parliament in the country’s

July 2018 general election.

On Tuesday, the EU said that this month's fact-finding mission investigated major issues of concern in Cambodia, including potential violations of political rights, freedom of expression and freedom of association, the right to organize and collective bargaining, and the dispossession of families caused by economic land concessions, particularly in the sugar sector.

During the visit, the EU delegation met with government authorities, international organizations, trade unions, business organizations, civil society, and the embassies of EU member states and third countries to gather evidence of violations and improvements on rights in Cambodia, the statement said.

"The mission noted steps reported by Cambodia towards improving compliance with international standards on freedom of association and collective bargaining, as well as in addressing a number of land disputes in relation to economic land concessions," it said.

But the EU added that "Cambodia must show real, credible improvement on the issues of concern in order to avoid the withdrawal of EBA preferences," and said it is committed to working with the government to address human and labor rights concerns in the country.

The EU plans to produce a report of its findings and conclusions at the end of the monitoring and evaluation period in mid-August, and Cambodia will have one month to respond to the report, the statement said.

Speaking to RFA's Khmer Service on Thursday, CPP spokesman Sok Ey San dismissed the EU statement and accused the bloc of meddling in Cambodia's internal affairs.

"We have done nothing wrong, so I don't think we need to do anything," he said, adding that Cambodia's government is reforming itself to "compete with free export markets ... when the EBA is lifted."

Sok Ey San said that the EU's "intention" is to force Cambodia to release CNRP President Kem Sokha, who is currently under de facto house arrest for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government.

"They want the dead opposition party to be revived and join future elections," he said.

"What do they think about Cambodian laws and the Supreme Court's decision? Do they believe the court's decision is a joke? Their requests cannot be honored."

Soeng Senkarona, spokesman for local rights group Adhoc, told RFA that the government seems to have no intention to improve the situation of human rights and democracy in Cambodia.

"That is even more worrisome [than the prospect of losing EBA status]," he said, urging the

government to work with the EU to maintain trade preferences.

Cambodia accounted for more than 18 percent of all imports into the EU market under EBA preferences in 2018, making it the second largest beneficiary of the trade scheme for developing nations.

According to the EU, imports from Cambodia totaled 5.3 billion euros (U.S. \$6 billion) in 2018, with more than 95 percent taking advantage of EBA preferences. Some three-quarters of those imports came from Cambodia's critically important textile sector.

Fostering freedom of expression

Meanwhile, Cambodia's Interior Minister Sar Kheng called on CPP officials and authorities at the local level to "foster freedom of expression," even in areas where constituents are mostly supporters of the CNRP.

Speaking at a ceremony in Phnom Penh on Thursday, he said that criticism can play a useful part in helping the nation reform for the better.

"These days, people are speaking out more, so we should organize more public forums to listen to the recommendations of our constituents and try to resolve their requests," he said. "We'd do better to listen to critical comments than flattering ones."

But activists told RFA they aren't convinced that Sar Kheng's recommendations will be implemented at the local level because of partisan politics.

Land activist Chan Puthsak said that villagers who ask local authorities for help in land disputes are regularly turned away by officials who say it is "beyond their ability" to resolve them.

"We hope that the local authorities will implement Sar Kheng's order—if they can't implement it 100 percent, then at least 60-70 percent would be a big improvement," he added.

Am Sam Ath, deputy director of monitoring and protection at Licadho, said local authorities can only implement Sar Kheng's recommendations if they end discrimination based on political affiliations.

"Political discrimination is the cause of many issues in Cambodia," he said.

Reported by RFA's Khmer Service. Translated by Samean Yun. Written in English by Joshua Lipes.

Tariffs fail to dent US apparel imports from China

JOC Staff | Jun 11, 2019 12:04PM EDT



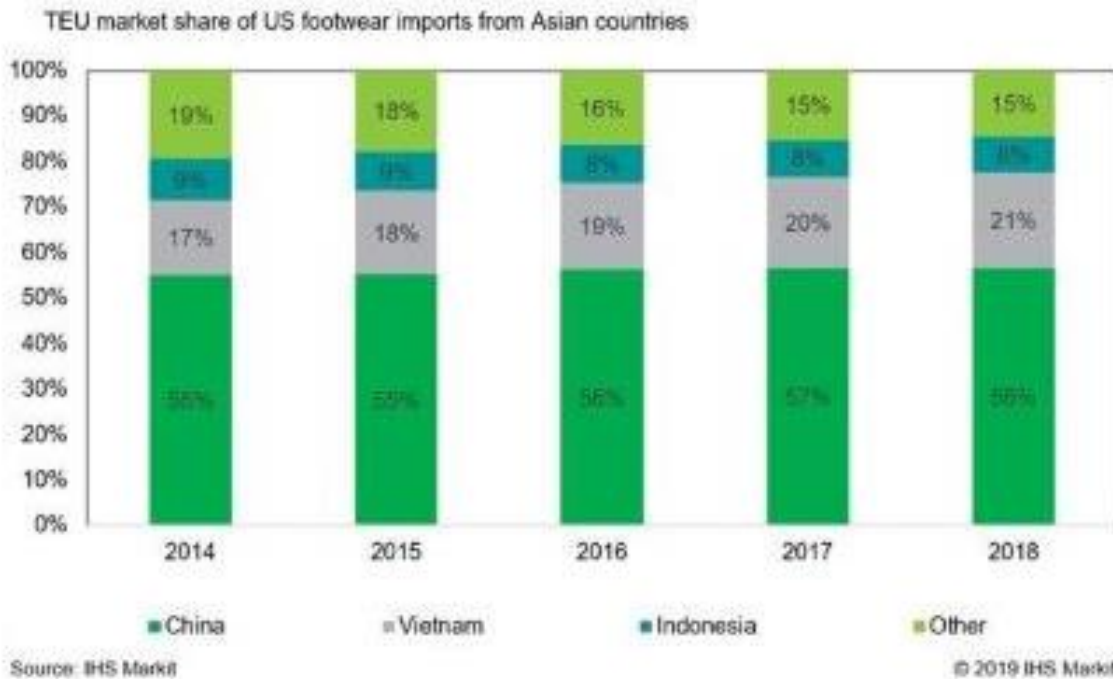
US sourced a total of 758,050 TEU of apparel from Asia last year, up from 713,875 in 2017.

US tariffs on China have so far failed to dent apparel imports, with data showing China’s market share for Asia-sourced clothing to the United States was unchanged between 2017 and 2018.

Vietnam, meanwhile, has steadily, albeit slowly, increased its apparel market share for US imports in recent years, according to data from PIERS, a sister product of JOC.com within IHS Markit.

China had 56.5 percent of market share for US apparel imports from Asia last year, essentially unchanged from 56.6 percent in 2017. Volumes were noticeably higher, however, with China sending 428,182 TEU to the US last year, up almost 6 percent from 404,288 TEU the year prior.

Vietnam expands US apparel sourcing share; China steady



Vietnam’s market share for US apparel sourced from Asia rose to 21.3 percent in 2018, marginally higher than 20.1 percent in 2017; its market share has risen about a percentage point annually over the past five years. Volumes were up 12.5 percent year over year, to 161,171 TEU.

Container carrier partnerships in the eastbound trans-Pacific are responding to Vietnam’s growing export and import markets by adding new direct links between the country and the US West Coast. Vietnam’s [footwear imports to the US](#) have almost doubled in the past five years, while its market share for US footwear sourced from Asia has risen to 24.2 percent.

Indonesia, the third-largest Asian apparel exporter to the US, saw its market share slip by a half-percentage point to 7.5 percent last year on volumes of 57,763 TEU.

The US sourced a total of 758,050 TEU of apparel from Asia last year, up from 713,875 in 2017, the data showed.

TARIFFS HURT *the* HEARTLAND

Note JFL: AAFA joined with more than 650 other associations and companies, including many AAFA-member companies, opposing the proposed imposition of tariffs on U.S. imports from China under Tranche 4.

June 13, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
[The White House](#)
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the undersigned companies below and the millions of workers we employ, we are writing regarding the ongoing trade dispute between the U.S. and China. We agree that our trading partners must abide by global trade rules, and we support the administration's efforts to address unfair trading practices, including intellectual property violations, forced technology transfer and more. We encourage the administration to negotiate a strong deal with China that addresses longstanding structural issues, improves U.S. global competitiveness and eliminates tariffs. We believe this goal can be achieved without taxing Americans.

We remain concerned about the escalation of tit-for-tat tariffs. We know firsthand that the additional tariffs will have a significant, negative and long-term impact on American businesses, farmers, families and the U.S. economy. Broadly applied tariffs are not an effective tool to change China's unfair trade practices. Tariffs are taxes paid directly by U.S. companies, including those listed below – not China. According to Trade Partnership Worldwide LLC, 25 percent tariffs on an additional \$300 billion in imports (combined with the impact of already implemented tariffs and retaliation) would result in the loss of more than 2 million U.S. jobs, add more than \$2,000 in costs for the average American family of four and reduce the value of U.S. GDP by 1.0 percent. Furthermore, we have seen repeatedly that tariff increases and uncertainty around these trade negotiations have created turmoil in the markets, threatening our historic economic growth.

Mr. President, we support your efforts to hold our trading partners accountable, level the playing field for American businesses and forge enforceable trade agreements. We urge your administration to get back to the negotiating table while working with our allies to develop global, enforceable solutions. An escalated trade war is not in the country's best interest, and both sides will lose. We are counting on you to force a positive resolution that removes the current tariffs, fosters American competitiveness, grows our economy and protects our workers and customers.

Sincerely,

CC: Ambassador Robert [Lighthizer](#), United States Trade Representative
Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Department of the Treasury
Secretary Wilbur Ross, Department of Commerce
Secretary Sonny Perdue, Department of Agriculture
Director Larry Kudlow, National Economic Council

TARIFFS HURT *the* HEARTLAND

Company

3V Sigma USA Inc. Georgetown, SC	AFX Pro LLC Mandeville, LA	AMG Portsmouth, NH
A Pet with Paws® LLC New York, NY	Alabama State Port Authority Mobile, AL	<u>Amwell</u> Pet Supply Hillsborough, NJ
A&E Cage Company Burlington, NJ	Alexander Wang New York, NY	Anglo Dutch Pools and Toys Bethesda, MD
ABC & Toy Zone Rochester, MN	<u>Aliquantum</u> International Inc. Ontario, CA	Anomaly Action Sports, Inc. Park City, UT
Absolute Outdoor Inc Sauk Rapids, MN	<u>Almo</u> Corporation Philadelphia, PA	Any Pet International Santa Fe Springs, CA
Acadian Crossing Consumer Products San Antonio, TX	<u>alphabroder</u> <u>Trevo</u> , PA	Apex Tool Group Sparks, MD
<u>Accell</u> North America Kent, WA	ALPS Brands New Haven, MO	Aqua Lung America Vista, CA
Access Marketing & Events Boulder, CO	Amato's Toy and Hobby Middletown <u>Middletown</u> , CT	Aquatic Works Ltd Northbrook, IL
ACI International Los Angeles, CA	Amber's Designs Katy, TX	<u>Armpocket</u> Enterprises LLC Cooper City, FL
ACIGI RELAXATION Fremont, CA	American Automation & Communications, Inc. Bowie, MD	<u>Artgame</u> Ltd Henderson, NV
Action Wholesale Products, Inc. Anaheim, CA	American Eagle Outfitters Pittsburgh, PA	Ascena Retail Group, Inc. New York, NY
Active Brands Broomfield, CO	American Eagle Superstore, Inc. dba Big Fireworks	Ashland Global Holdings Dublin, OH
.....		Asia Pacific Offset
.....		
.....		



Chine : la production de l'industrie textile augmente de 4,1% de janvier à avril

French.xinhuanet.com | Publié le 2019-06-09 à 16:46

BEIJING, 9 juin (Xinhua) -- Les principales entreprises textiles chinoises ont vu une augmentation de leur production industrielle combinée à valeur ajoutée de 4,1% sur un an au cours des quatre premiers mois de l'année, selon des données nouvellement publiées.

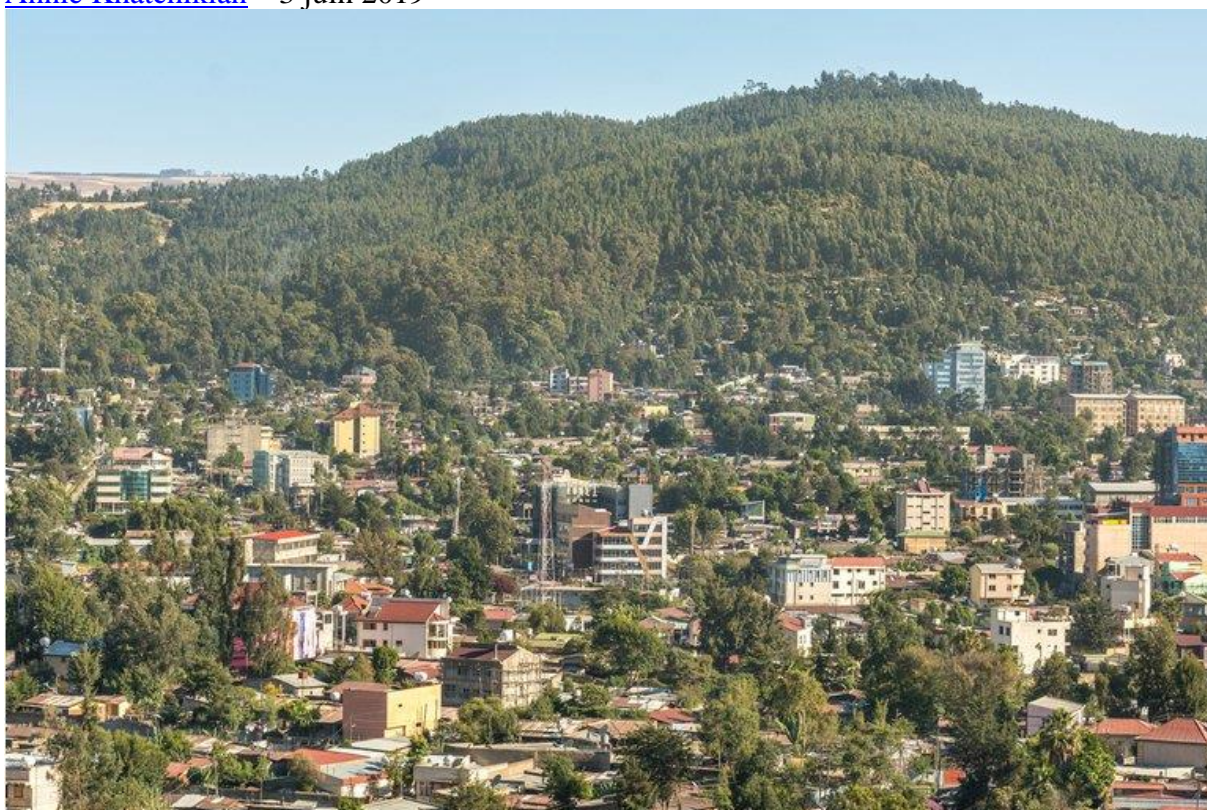
Le taux de croissance a augmenté de 0,4 point de pourcentage par rapport à la même période l'année dernière, a indiqué la Commission nationale du développement et de la réforme dans un communiqué.

De janvier à avril, les exportations de produits textiles et de vêtements ont chuté de 3,7% pour atteindre 75,8 milliards de dollars, avec des exportations de textiles ayant augmenté de 0,8%.

L'investissement en actifs fixes des grandes entreprises textiles a augmenté de 0,8% au cours de la même période. Leurs revenus combinés ont augmenté de 4,9%, et leurs bénéfices ont progressé de 0,7% en glissement annuel, a-t-on appris du communiqué.

Industrie textile en Ethiopie, la nouvelle usine du monde ?

[Annie Khatchikian](#) – 3 juin 2019



Évoquée dans notre [article sur la Chine](#) et sa nouvelle route de la soie, la place de l'Éthiopie comme « nouvelle usine du monde » n'est évidemment pas sans conséquences sur le pays, ses populations mais aussi les fabricants ayant choisi de s'implanter dans le second pays d'Afrique le plus peuplé.

Une étude réalisée par le Stern Centre for Business and Human Rights de la prestigieuse New York University s'est penchée sur le parc industriel de Hawassa, situés à quelques kilomètres de la capitale Addis-Abeba et qui emploie plus de 25 000 travailleurs et travailleuses.

Le parc industriel d'Hawassa a été inauguré en 2015, et le gouvernement éthiopien a annoncé sa volonté d'ouvrir 30 parcs du même type d'ici 2025. Cependant, dans un

contexte particulier d'apaisement politique, les grèves des travailleurs sont cependant de plus en plus courantes – ces derniers remettant en cause les salaires, trop bas. Evoqué par quelques quotidiens nationaux, le rapport fait en effet état des salaires très bas des ouvriers et ouvrières, payés 26 dollars par mois, contre 95 dollars au Bangladesh ou encore 326 dollars en Chine, et qui demeurent insuffisants pour la vaste majorité des travailleurs.

En résulte une productivité médiocre, des grèves à répétition et un fort turn-over les salariés n'hésitant pas à faire grèves et à démissionner face aux salaires qui sont les plus faibles au monde – et par conséquent les plus attractifs pour les fabricants.

Le rapport identifie d'autres problèmes tels que le manque d'efficacité, les différends culturels qui pèsent sur les méthodes de management, et formule plusieurs recommandations à destination du gouvernement d'une part et des fabricants d'autre part.

Selon le rapport, il incombe au gouvernement de **régler les tensions entre ethnies à Hawassa** ainsi que dans les environs des autres parcs industriels afin de les sécuriser. Il incombe également au gouvernement de **diversifier les activités des parcs**, afin d'en faire des lieux pérennes de production. Le rapport préconise également – et c'est peut-être la mesure la plus importante – d'**instaurer un salaire minimum**, mais progressivement (« afin de ne pas éloigner les fabricants ») et enfin de **rationaliser les infrastructures et processus administratifs**. En somme il incombe au gouvernement d'encadrer légalement et structurellement l'activité des entreprises qui s'implantent dans le pays.

Les entreprises quant à elles sont conseillées de s'aligner sur le business model éthiopien et de développer des partenariats solides et de longue durée, de **construire des logements décents à destination des ouvriers**, de **faire bénéficier les ouvriers de formations**, de **faire accéder plus d'Éthiopiens à des postes de management**, **notamment** afin d'alléger les tensions entre managers issus des pays asiatiques et la main-d'œuvre locale, et enfin **encourager la création de syndicats afin de créer un dialogue avec les ouvriers** – il s'agit alors pour les fabricants de prendre en charge toute une série d'aspects qui dépassent le simple cadre de la production, et d'appliquer les normes RSE qu'ils pratiquent à leur main d'œuvre : bien-être, formations, sentiments d'appartenance entre autres.

Si le texte n'est pas destiné à la main-d'œuvre évoquée tout au long des mesures, il pose ainsi le problème du regard porté sur les populations d'un pays qui n'a pas connu la colonisation et qui s'est industrialisé différemment.

Le rapport pose une question en réalité : **l'Ethiopie doit-elle suivre la trajectoire de la Chine ou du Bangladesh en matière de développement ?** De manière plus large le problème demeure de savoir dans quelles conditions cette industrialisation nouvelle va améliorer le bien-être des travailleurs et permettre un développement économique certain pour le pays, alors que ce modèle qui fut celui de la Chine, et demeure celui d'un grand nombre de pays montre peu à peu ses limites en matière environnementale et économique.

Secteur textile: de quoi avoir le moral dans les chaussettes ! Et pourtant...

Publié le 7 juin 2019

[Modifier l'article](#)[Voir les stats](#)

Jean-François Limantour

President of Evalliance

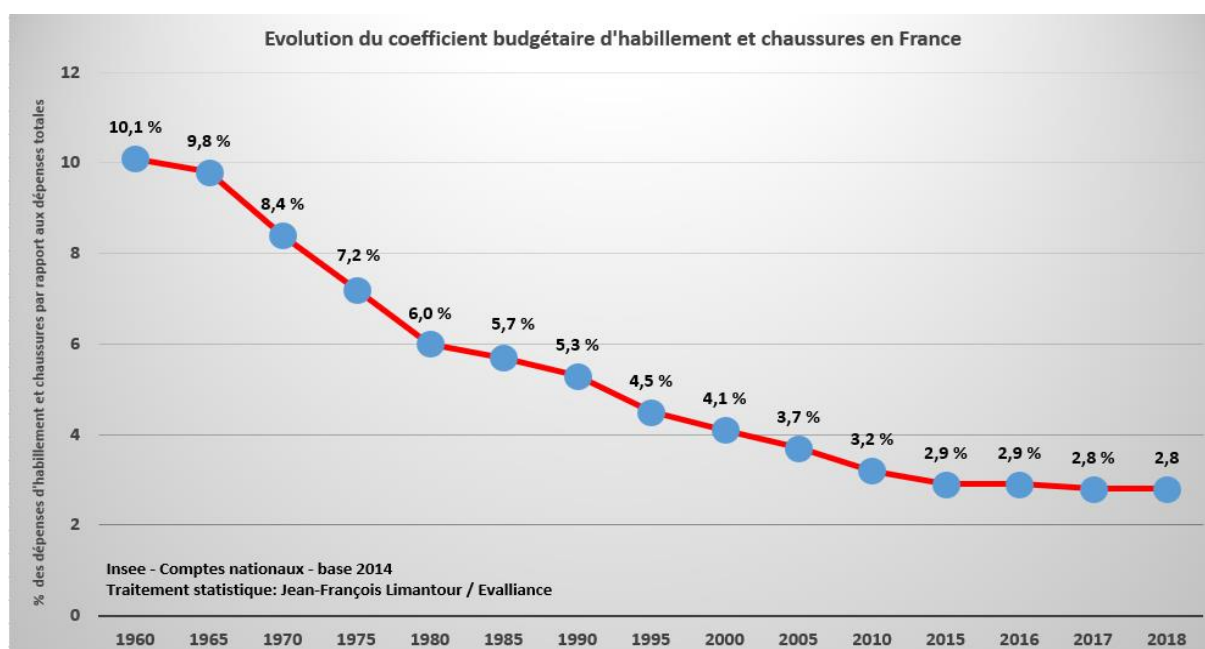
107 articles

Deux informations économiques ne vont pas réjouir les industriels textiles français.

La première est fournie par une étude de l'Insee (juin 2019 qui nous apprend que seuls 13 % de la consommation nationale de textile-habillement-cuir-chaussure est du « made in France » et que ce taux est tendanciellemment en baisse ! En moyenne donc, seul un vêtement sur dix achetés dans notre pays est du « made in France ».

En réalité, du moins pour l'instant, la France ne connaît pas un processus de réindustrialisation, tout au contraire. Seules les activités à fort contenu technologique (textiles techniques) ou créatif (le luxe) font exception et ont véritablement le vent en poupe. Car pour le reste, si l'on enregistre parfois de remarquables succès industriels, ils demeurent anecdotiques et sont l'arbre qui cache la forêt. Et on ne se consolera pas d'être moins mauvais que la plupart de nos voisins européens chez qui le taux de « made in national » est encore plus bas.

La seconde information peu réjouissante vient des Comptes de la Nation qui montrent, hélas sans surprise, que les dépenses d'articles d'habillement et de chaussures des ménages français sont tombées à 44,9 milliards d'euros en 2018 contre 45,4 milliards d'euros en 2017.



Elles ne représentent maintenant plus que 2,8 % de la consommation effective totale en France (y compris les dépenses individualisables des administrations / armée, police, gendarmerie, hôpitaux...). Dans les années 60, elles culminaient à plus de 10 %.

Ces informations sont certes désolantes. Il n'est pourtant pas du tout exclu que la révolution technologique en cours (industrie 4.0, Intelligence artificielle) rebatte les cartes et permette de revivifier le textile-habillement en France pour en faire une industrie de pointe, créative, performante, rentable et pourvoyeuse d'emplois extrêmement qualifiés. Nous devons y croire d'autant que de nombreux signes concrets nous montrent d'ores et déjà qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une pure utopie et que le secteur entre dans une nouvelle ère, avec un brillant avenir devant lui !

Mercredi 5 juin 2019

L'industrie des tissus français reprend des couleurs

Détricotée par des décennies de délocalisations et de concurrence asiatique, l'industrie textile française n'a pas dit son dernier mot. Elle ne représente plus que 2% de la valeur ajoutée de l'industrie manufacturière et n'emploie plus que 103000 salariés. La moitié de ses effectifs sont partis en charpie.

Pourtant, l'intérêt de plus en plus soutenu des consommateurs pour le «made in France» a éclairci ce sombre tableau. Avec des signes on ne peut plus tangibles de regain de croissance.

Le chiffre d'affaires du secteur textile a regagné 1,7% en France en 2018.

Un élan entraînant une hausse inédite des créations d'emplois de 0,9%. Cette légère amélioration doit beaucoup à de grandes marques de mode haut de gamme et du luxe, indispensables donneurs d'ordre de bien des ateliers et des usines françaises.

Savoir-faire industriel

Ces rares entreprises textiles françaises ont su résister, s'adapter, en jouant de leurs expertises pour tel style ou telle matière, et en s'appuyant sur un savoir-faire et un patrimoine industriel et créatif transmis de génération en génération.

Ces PME, familiales dans bien des cas, ne pourraient vivre sans les

commandes de géants de la mode ou de la maroquinerie, tissus et toiles servant aussi bien à l'habillement qu'aux plus prestigieux des sacs à main.

Si certains vêtements ou accessoires comportant du textile sont, ainsi, confectionnés en France, une écrasante majorité restent coupés et cousus à l'étranger.

Mais, de plus en plus de ces articles, fabriqués au Portugal, au Maroc, en Inde sont en fait réalisés à partir d'étoffes - soies, lins, tweeds, velours - tissés en France, comme l'illustre un entrepreneur comme Pierre Schmitt en Alsace (*lire ci-dessus*).

L'intérêt grandissant de griffes de luxe ou haut de gamme accessibles telles Sandro ou Maje pour ces matières françaises insuffle une nouvelle dynamique. Dans les Vosges, en Alsace, en Normandie et dans le Sud-Ouest, la France réinvestit dans son industrie textile: on refile, retisse, reticote, reteint avec, au bout du fil, des créations d'emplois.

Les sites de production doivent pallier des départs à la retraite pour assurer leur avenir, mais aussi former des ingénieurs et des techniciens pour rendre les tissus toujours plus techniques ou éthiques. Autant d'emplois d'avenir. ■

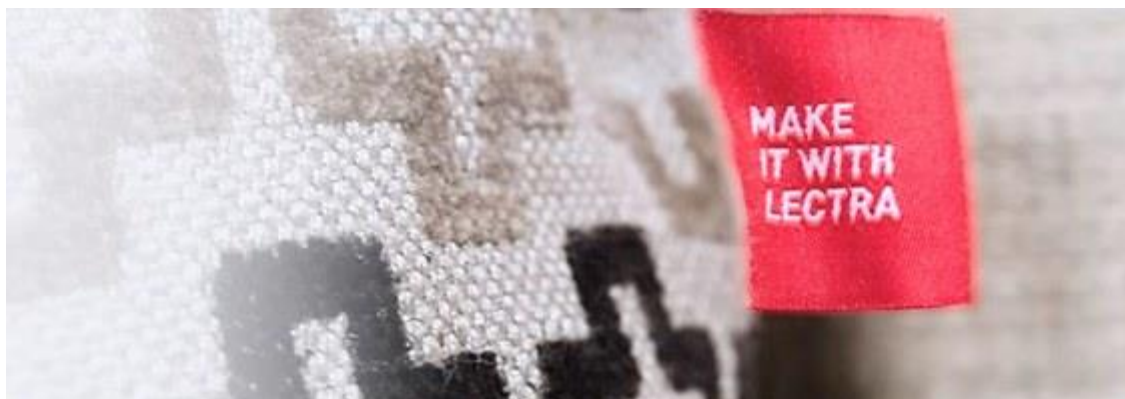
A.-S.C.

L'intérêt grandissant des griffes haut de gamme pour les matières françaises insuffle une nouvelle dynamique

Lectra vise cinq à dix acquisitions dans les deux à trois ans

INVESTIR.FR | LE 05/06/19 A 15:06

Lectra souffre de la politique commerciale américaine mais est gérée avec prudence et va réaliser une campagne d'acquisitions.



Lectra vise cinq à dix acquisitions dans les deux à trois ans | Crédits photo : lectra.com

Rencontre avec Daniel Harari, patron et actionnaire (17% du capital) de Lectra. Lorsqu'il a repris cette entreprise avec son frère en 1990 (lequel a vendu ses parts il y a deux ans pour prendre sa retraite), elle perdait un million de francs par jour. Depuis, une grande attention est portée à la gestion de la trésorerie et le besoin de fonds de roulement est négatif (15 millions, 5% des revenus). Lectra vend des logiciels et des machines à découper les tissus, dotées d'intelligence embarquée et bourrées de capteurs. Les clients sont actifs principalement dans la mode et l'automobile, mais aussi dans l'ameublement et l'aéronautique. Un vêtement sur quatre dans le monde, et un intérieur de voiture sur deux, sont conçus avec les systèmes de Lectra.

Comme les clients sont souvent basés en **Chine** et au **Mexique**, ils ont tendance en ce moment à repousser leurs investissements du fait de la politique commerciale de **Donald Trump**, qui menace leurs ventes aux **Etats-Unis**. Mais la part récurrente du chiffre d'affaires (60%) couvre 85% des coûts fixes, R&D incluse (les frais de R&D sont comptabilisés sans délai et non pas amortis progressivement). Lectra exploite une usine à Bordeaux, pour l'assemblage et la fabrication des pièces délicates.

Mode Saas

Daniel Harari nous explique que Lectra a décidé de passer à la vente des logiciels en mode Saas (abonnement) pour permettre aux clients de commencer petit et d'être facturé selon les volumes et la sophistication. Du coup, pour Lectra, les encaissements sont étalés. Cette transition se fera sentir en 2019 et 2020, s'estompera en 2021 et l'effet sera positif en 2022. Cette année, il est visé une hausse de 3 à 7% du chiffre d'affaires (383 millions d'euros en 2018) à périmètre et changes constants, avec une évolution du bénéfice opérationnel (40,2 millions l'an dernier) située entre -4% et +4%. Sans le passage en mode Saas, les ventes seraient attendues entre +5% et +8% et le résultat opérationnel entre +5% et +16%.

Plus de 200 millions pour des acquisitions

Le dirigeant a aussi décidé de recourir à la croissance externe, ce qu'il s'était interdit jusqu'en 2017, avec une trésorerie nette de 100 millions et une capacité d'endettement entre 100 et 150 millions. Il s'agit de reprendre de petites sociétés dotées d'une technologie complémentaire, réalisant jusqu'à 20 millions de chiffre d'affaires et valorisées jusqu'à 30 millions. Entre cinq et dix opérations pourraient intervenir dans les deux à trois ans. L'objectif est de garder les fondateurs (*earn out* puis *stock-options*). Mais, déjà, Lectra est le leader mondial devant son concurrent américain Gerber, dont le chiffre d'affaires est de 40% inférieur.

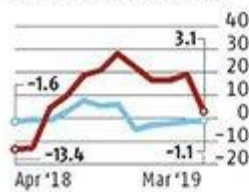
India's apparel export's share in total exports fall from 51% in FY17 to 45% in FY19

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 2019-06-03 14:45:00 - India

IN NUMBERS

Production has picked up in late 2018-19

● Manufacture of textiles
 ● Manufacture of apparels
 (Annual Growth Rate in %)



Source: Index of Industrial Production by Central Statistics Office

But export receipts contracted in same year

● Exports by value \$ bn (LHS)
 ● Annual growth % (RHS)



Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, 2018-19

The new government would have to rethink its policy on turning around India's second-largest job provider, as the textile sector continues to gasp for growth. Three years after key regulatory and labour changes were put in place, India's textile and apparel exports have declined from \$38.60 billion in 2014 to \$37.12 billion in 2018 while imports have increased from \$5.85 billion to \$ 7.31.

Particularly hit has been the apparel sector, where the time taken by the industry to adjust to the Goods and Services Tax regime, downward revision of export incentives, and a credit squeeze faced by small and medium scale enterprises, has pushed production downwards.

Trade troubles

Estimated at \$16.2 billion in FY19, India's apparel exports fell by 1.2 per cent from FY18, which in turn was 4 per cent lower than the previous year. Even the share of apparel exports in the country's total textile exports has fallen sharply from 51 per cent in FY17 to 45 per cent in FY19.

Even the share of apparel exports in the country's total textile exports has fallen sharply from 51 per cent in FY17 to 45 per cent in FY19. Industry experts attribute the fall to the ever tightening pressure on the exports markets by higher shipments from low-cost competitors like Bangladesh and Vietnam.

However, the recent slowdown in global demand has also increased competition in the markets which has coincided with taxation changes in India. Barring few months, apparel exports are continuously declining since October 2017, mainly due to stiff competition, slowdown and discontinuation of certain export incentives.

Analysts say there was a 6-7 per cent impact on costs, which hurt profitability of garment makers too. "A substantial drop in the import duty was observed after implementation of the GST which has encouraged cheaper imports. For imports from Bangladesh, there is a full exemption of basic customs duty and hence Chinese fabric is easily coming to India duty-free through Bangladesh in the form of garments," said Sanjay Jain, chairman, Confederation of Indian Textile Industries.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had slashed duty drawback rates on cotton, man-made and blended garments. "The new drawback rates are effective December 19. The policy support for the industry after GST has significantly declined by around 5.5 per cent," the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) informed the Finance Ministry in a letter.

Jobs rise slowly

And despite the ministry nor industry bodies having requisite data, it is widely accepted that the promised 10 million jobs haven't been created, three years after the imaginatively designed Rs 6,000-crore mega-package for textiles was rolled out.

The bulk of the planned capital outlay, about Rs 5,500 crore, was earmarked for an additional 5 per cent duty drawback for garments, that is, a refund of duties on imported inputs used to make export goods.

The more radical element was the increased government funding for provident funds of new employees. Those earning less than Rs 15,000 per month would be given additional government funding for the first three years on the job.

Against the earlier 8.33 per cent, the employer's contribution was raised to 12 per cent with the government providing an additional 3.67 per cent. The total bill for this was Rs 1,170 crore.

"We are set to create a database of total jobs in the sector, but data collection remains an issue since the majority of the sector remains concentrated in small and micro units," a senior official at the Handloom Commissioners office said. But textile is the most labour-intensive industry in the country and almost 65 per cent of total transactions were in physical form pre-demonetisation, he added.

This has also negated the chances of better salaries for workers and better opportunities for women, two prime focus of the government.

Hiring at firms has picked up since September last year but this is yet to make up for the massive demonetisation-induced lay-offs in most sub-sectors, said an AEPC official.

Preferential trade status for India ends on June 5: Trump

01 Jun '19



President Donald Trump announced on May 31 that the United States is ending India's designation as a beneficiary developing nation under the generalised system of preference (GSP) scheme after concluding India has not assured the United States that it will provide 'equitable and reasonable access to its markets'. India's status will end on June 5.

GSP is the largest and oldest US [trade](#) preference programme. India was the largest beneficiary of this scheme in 2017 with \$5.7 billion in duty-free imports to the United States.

"I have determined that India has not assured the US that it will provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets. Accordingly, it is appropriate to terminate India's designation as a beneficiary developing [country](#) effective June 5, 2019," Trump said in a proclamation, ignoring the plea made by several top US lawmakers.

On March 4, Trump announced his intention regarding such an action. The 60-day notice period ended on May 3.

In a statement, Coalition for GSP executive director Dan Anthony said Trump's decision will cost American businesses over \$300 million in additional tariffs every year, according to global

newswires.

"Without GSP benefits American small businesses face a new tax that will mean job losses, cancelled investments and cost increases for consumers. Only a year after the Senate and House passed a three year reauthorisation of the GSP by a near unanimous margin, the Trump administration has kicked out the GSP country that saves American companies more money than any other," he said.

Indian textiles and clothing that fall under harmonised tariff schedule starting with 42, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59, 61, 62 and 63 would be affected once the US terminates India's designation as a GSP beneficiary country. (DS)

[Click here](#) to see the list of [textile](#), apparel and travel goods that currently enjoy GSP benefit.

FOREIGN POLICY

GENERAL OBJECTIVES THAT GUIDE THE ACTIVITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS OF ONE STATE IN ITS INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER STATES.

India's Top 10 E-Commerce Fashion Brands

Published on June 13, 2019 in [Online Marketing/Style](#) by [Ricardo Minesotor](#)

Reports indicate that the number of internet users in India is expected to reach 627 million by the end of 2019. The growth has been on an upward trajectory, if you take into consideration the fact that as at 2017 July, there were 450 million users or 40% of the population. The upward trend is attributable to the penetration of internet in rural areas.

E-commerce outlook

The retail market accounts for over 10% of the country's GDP and employs 8% of the population. In monetary terms, in 2017 it brought in approximately Rs 46,15,000 crore (US \$710 billion) and by 2027, financial experts estimate that the sector will bring in Rs 1,08,58,000 crore (US \$1,672 billion).

The e-commerce platform has generated a lot of interest. The industry has approximately 147.8 million users. Experts project that by 2020, there will be 210.46 million users shopping online. The growth of the platform is due to an increase in the number of online users and the influence of millennials. Up to 28% of millennials will buy due to social media recommendation.

Food and groceries dominate the retail market at 67%, apparel and accessories 8%, jewelry and watches 8%, and others. Interestingly, the e-commerce market has electronics leading at 49%, and apparel/lifestyle at 25%. The apparel sector includes footwear, bags, belts, wallets, [watches](#), jewelry, etc. There seems to be slow uptake in the fashion sector because customers still want to see, touch, and feel what they are buying. Sellers, therefore, have to come up with innovative ways to reach customers. It is therefore not uncommon to see promotional activities like discounts and offers as a way of getting customers to buy.

However, we can expect the fashion e-commerce sector to continue on an upward growth trajectory. Clients have increasing fashion demands due to more disposable income, growing aspirations, and an increase in media exposure. The industry is embracing technological advancements and is applying innovation to personalize the experience for shoppers.

With e-commerce brands like [Stylecare](#), Myntra, Koovs, Limeroad, among others, the sector can look forward to great growth opportunities. We will look at some of the top fashion e-commerce brands in India.

1. Koovs



- Category – Shoes, Clothing, [Jewellery](#) and Accessories for Women & Men

The company started operations in 2010, and has its headquarters in Gurgaon, with an office in London. The site caters to those looking for Indian or international brands. The designers of the clothes are in London, and you can always look forward to fresh stock and great discounts.

2. Myntra



- Category – Women, Men, Kids Fashion & Lifestyle

Myntra started operating in 2007 as a shopping website. It then moved to selling mobile brands but before long ventured back into fashion. The company has its headquarters in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.

If you are looking for luxury, celebrity, and international brands, then Myntra is the perfect place for you. The company has a partnership with the actress Deepika Padukone for the All About You brand. Other brands include Forever 21, Tommy Hilfiger, L'Oréal Paris, FabAlley, French Connection by, Adidas, Puma, Reebok, Burberry, Calvin Klein, United Colors of Benetton, and Bobbi Brown among others. Even though it stocks high-end names, the prices are budget friendly.

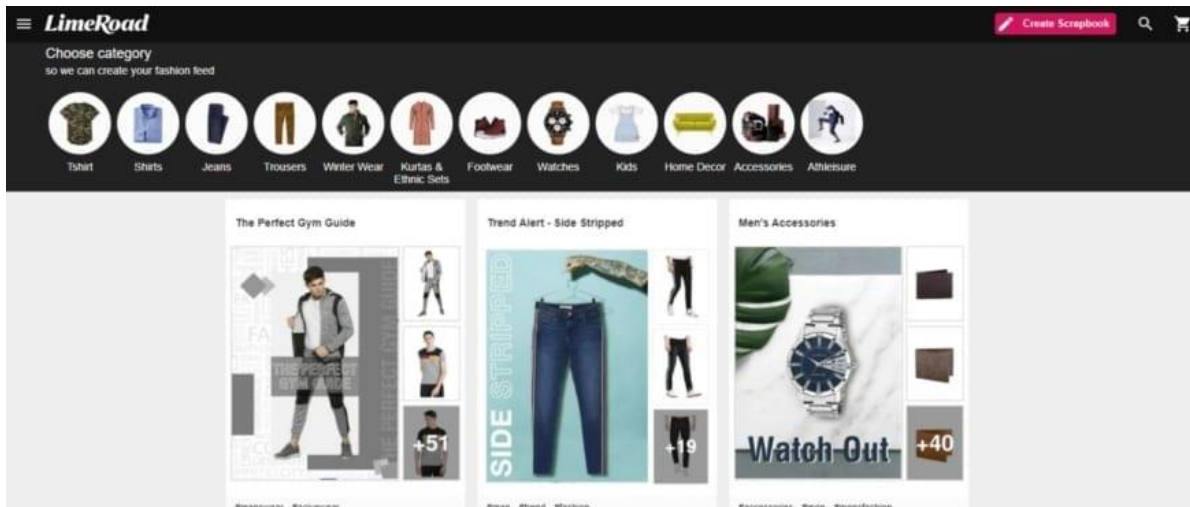
3. BigBasket



- Category – Vegetable store, food shopping online and groceries online

BigBasket started operations in 2011 with its headquarters in Bengaluru and is present in at least 30 towns and cities. It holds the distinction of being India's biggest online grocer. Innovative Retail Concepts Private Limited runs BigBasket and has more than 6 million subscribers.

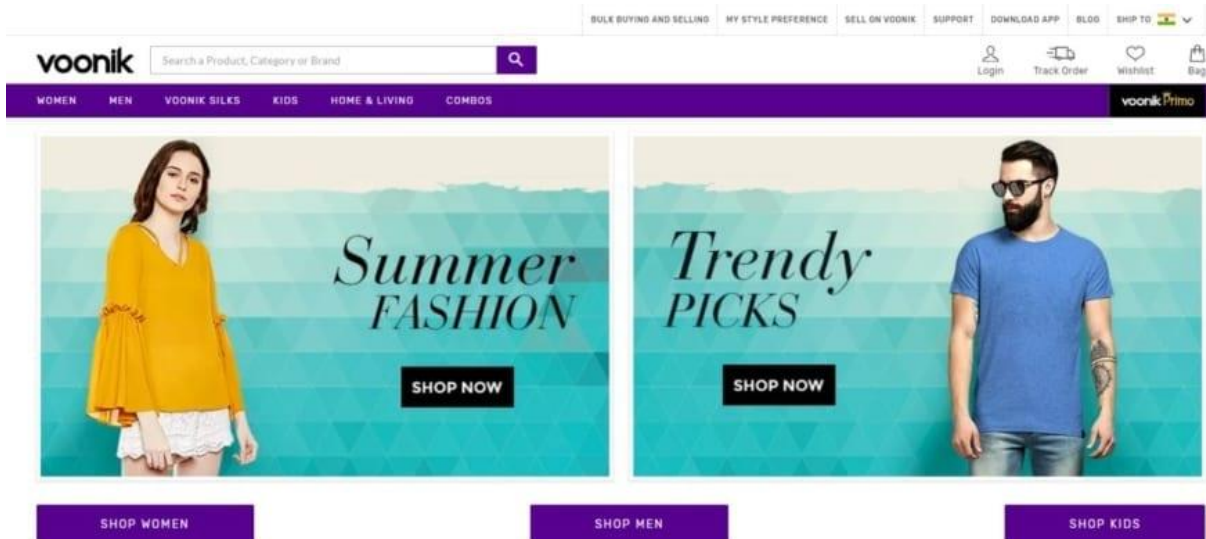
4. Limeroad



- Category – apparels, accessories, home décor items

Limeroad initially catered exclusively to women, but now stocks men's items as well. The company has zero inventories but showcases over 750 brands. You can get unstitched, semi-stitched and completely stitched clothes. Limeroad hopes to use a social approach to conquer the Indian fashion market.

5. Voonik



- **Category** – women's products only; Bras, Panties, Nightwear, Swimwear, Sportswear, Lingerie

The company started operating in 2013 to enable women to shop for underwear freely. Women can choose products as per their skin tone, body type, budget, and

style preference. Voonik prides itself on being at the forefront of innovation by exploring areas no one has thought about before.

The company launched a mobile app before setting up an online store. In 2016, it was number 2 in most downloaded fashion apps.

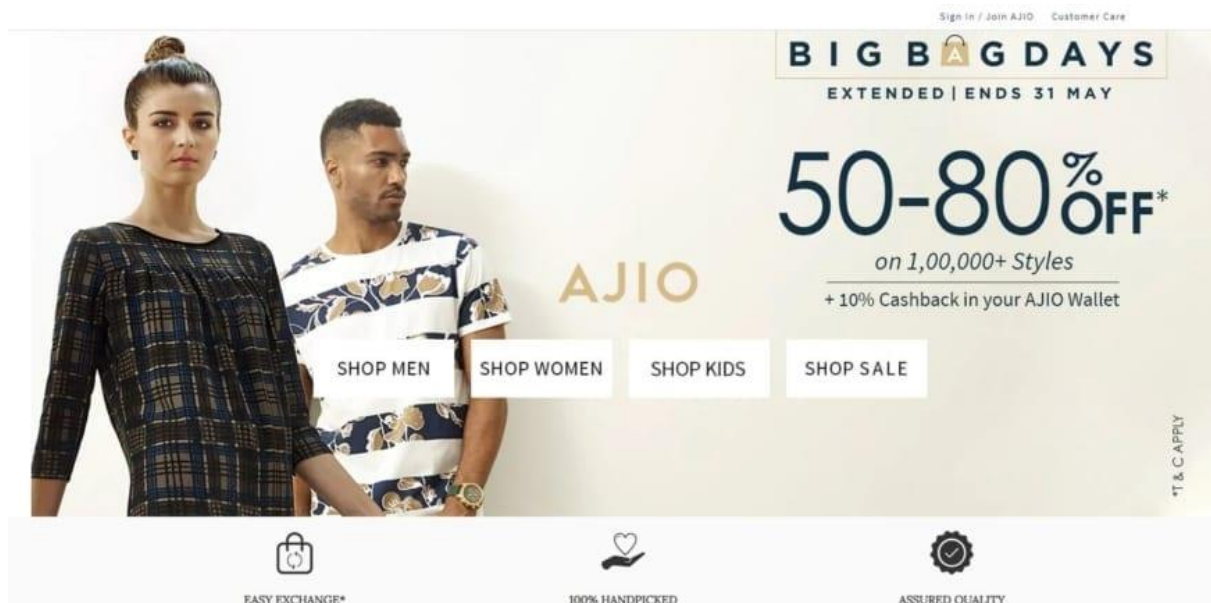
6. Abof



- **Category** – Men and women’s apparel

Abof is a relatively new entrant but is already making strides in the e-commerce fashion platform. Those who follow celebrity trends will love this platform. You can also get branded and ethnic stuff.

7. Ajio



- **Category** – Clothing, Footwear, Fashion Tech & Accessories for Men, Women & Kids

Ajio was founded in 2016 and has its headquarters in Bangalore, Karnataka, India. It stocks popular, ethnic brands and tech gadgets.

8. Jabong



Category – Clothing and apparel for men, women, and kids

Jabong stocks different brands and celebrity inspired style. The company started operations in 2011, and you will find almost everything to do with fashion and accessories, including watches, backpacks, and beauty products, among others.

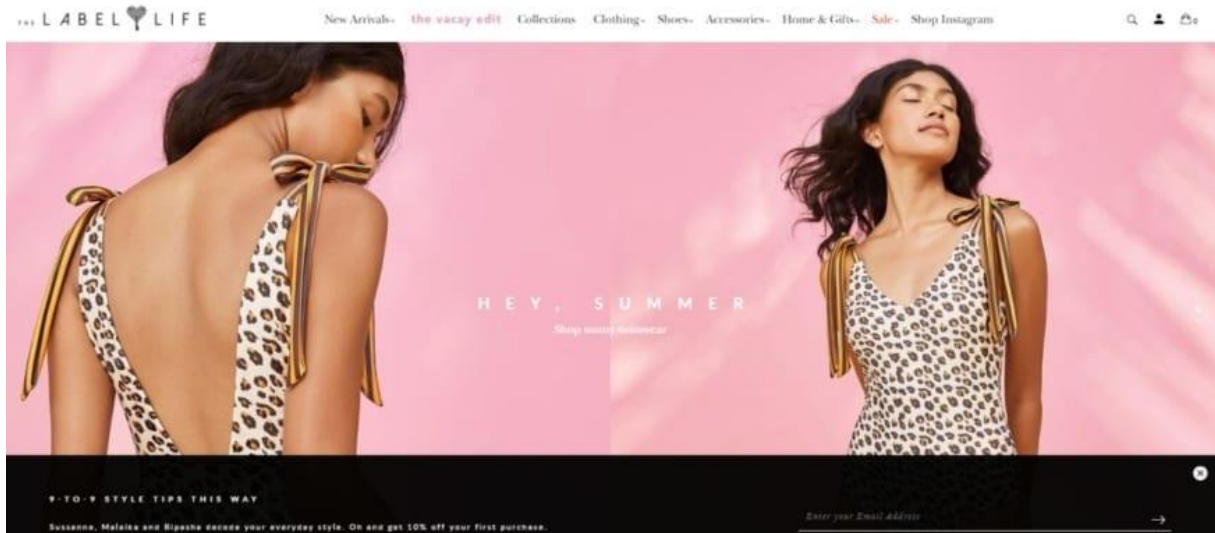
9. Lenskart



- **Category** – Sunglasses, Eyeglasses and Contact Lenses for men & women

Lenskart was the first online store dealing in eyewear in India. You can get prescription and stylish fashion eyewear from big brands from the comfort of your house. The company offers a 48-hour delivery guarantee and a return policy of 365 days.

10. TheLabelLife



- **Category** – clothes, accessories and home decor items

The founders of TheLabelLife are Bipasha Basu, Malaika Arora, and Sussanne Khan. The site is for top brands features classy, elegant brands. It has a slightly higher price point and will mainly cater to those who have no issue spending good money on fashion items. The company has physical stores in Mumbai, New Delhi and Project Eves across India.

Publié le 14 juin 2019

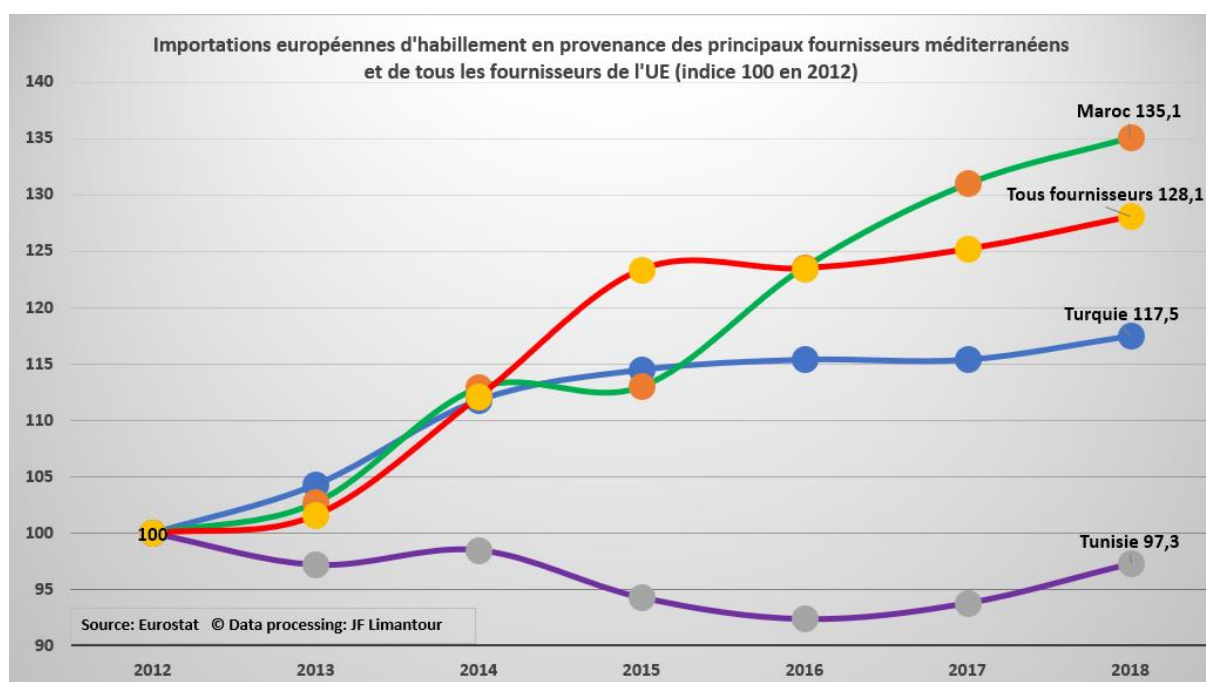


Jean-François Limantour
President of Evalliance

Industrie de l'habillement : le Maroc gagne des parts de marché en Europe !

Pour l'industrie marocaine de l'habillement, l'onde de choc provoquée entre 2005 et 2010 par le démantèlement des quotas de l'UE contre les importations asiatiques n'est plus qu'un lointain souvenir.

Depuis 2012, les exportations du secteur vers l'Union européenne ont progressé selon un excellent taux annuel moyen de 5,1 %, soit sensiblement plus vite que celui de l'ensemble des fournisseurs mondiaux de l'UE (+4,1 %) et de ses concurrents méditerranéens.



En clair, depuis quelques années le Maroc regagne des parts du marché européen, preuve indéniable de la vitalité de ses entreprises et de leur haut niveau de performances.

Au cours du premier semestre 2019, les exportations marocaines d'habillement ont à nouveau progressé de 4,8 %, confirmant ainsi leur belle trajectoire résolument positive en dépit d'une demande européenne particulièrement molle.

Et comme un bonheur n'arrive jamais seul, le Maroc enregistre depuis quelques mois la multiplication de gros investissements étrangers, non seulement en habillement mais aussi en textile, signe de la forte attractivité du pays pour les IDE.

Pour Mohamed Tazi, le Directeur général de l'Association Marocaine des Industries du Textile et de l'Habillement (AMITH), *« ces excellents résultats ne sont pas le fruit du hasard. Ils témoignent de la vitalité de nos entreprises qui multiplient les efforts de compétitivité de toutes sortes au service d'une politique industrielle et commerciale tournée vers l'avenir, organisée par l'AMITH avec le concours des Pouvoirs publics »*.

Karim Tazi retire sa candidature pour la présidence de l'Amith

Le président sortant de l'Amith, Karim Tazi, se retire de la course à la présidence de l'association des textiliens. Motif annoncé : éviter une division des professionnels.



Modifié le 04 juin 2019

"Après une tournée régionale et différentes rencontres avec les opérateurs du secteur, force est de constater que l'AMITH est menacée d'une fracture palpable pouvant conduire à une division, fragilisant ainsi l'association et sa crédibilité.

"Or, le secteur est confronté à d'importants défis, et il se doit d'être fort et uni", annonce un communiqué du candidat qui [se représentait pour un nouveau mandat](#) de 3 ans avec Abdelhai Bessa contre [le binôme Mohammed Boubouh - Jalil Skalli](#). L'élection est prévue le 18 juin.

"L'Amith est restée unie et inclusive depuis près de 60 ans et l'objectif consiste à poursuivre une dynamique initiée avec les pouvoirs publics pour le rayonnement de l'industrie de textile", affirme-t-il

Karim Tazi assure vouloir rester engagé auprès de l'association et de la nouvelle équipe.

Appel à une vision intégrée en matière de commerce extérieur

1^{er} juin 2019



Les participants à une conférence-débat tenue récemment à Casablanca, sous le thème "Accords de libre-échange: opportunité ou menace pour l'industrie marocaine?", ont souligné la nécessité de concevoir une vision intégrée en matière de commerce extérieur, tout en développant l'offre exportable, en améliorant sa valeur ajoutée et en diversifiant les débouchés.

Lors de cette rencontre animée par des institutionnels, des industriels ainsi que des chercheurs universitaires, les intervenants ont également mis l'accent sur l'impératif de mettre en place, par le gouvernement, de nouveaux mécanismes afin d'assurer le suivi et l'évaluation des accords de libre-échange (ALE) déjà signés, d'identifier des barrières non tarifaires qui bloquent les exportations nationales et de soutenir les entreprises potentiellement exportatrices.

En outre, rapporte la MAP, ils ont appelé les industriels à être plus innovants, plus entreprenants et en phase avec les enjeux et les défis d'un monde plus mondialisé et plus global.

Ainsi Abdellatif Komat, doyen de la faculté des sciences juridiques, économiques et sociales de l'Université Hassan II de Casablanca, organisatrice de cet événement, a relevé que la question de l'étude de l'impact de l'ouverture d'une et celle des ALE, en particulier, suscite une attention particulière vu la place qu'ils devraient occuper dans la réflexion autour du modèle économique à construire.

"Ce sujet est encore crucial car nous l'abordons en relation avec le secteur industriel", a-t-il ajouté, soulignant que l'existence d'un secteur industriel bien structuré est fondamentale pour disposer d'une économie équilibrée, génératrice d'une croissance régulière et soutenue, créatrice d'emplois et ouverte sur les innovations technologiques.

Rappelant que le Royaume a signé, depuis 1996, des accords de libre-échange notamment avec l'Union européenne, la Turquie, les pays arabes dans le cadre de l'accord d'Agadir (Egypte, Tunisie, Jordanie, Liban, Palestine) et les Etats-Unis, M. Komat a dressé un diagnostic de ces différents accords, tout en avançant des indicateurs macro-économiques attestant des apports et des limites des ALE signés par le Maroc. Au niveau des apports, il a évoqué l'influence positive sur le positionnement du Maroc sur de nouveaux secteurs orientés vers l'export, tels que l'automobile, l'aéronautique, l'électronique, l'industrie chimique et l'effet positif sur le développement des IDE (32 milliards de dirhams en 2017, soit plus de 3,5% du PIB). "Les ALE font également l'objet de critiques émanant, d'une part, de l'analyse d'indicateurs socioéconomiques qui en découlent (perte d'emploi, aggravation des déficits commerciaux) et, d'autre part, de professionnels de branches industrielles dont l'activité est menacée par une concurrence déloyale et par des pratiques illicites telles que le dumping", a-t-il fait savoir.

Pour sa part, Chafik Essalouh, directeur des études et de la coopération internationale à l'Administration des douanes et impôts indirects (ADII), a abordé l'impact fiscal des ALE, notant que ces accords sont estimés, en 2018, à 167 milliards de dirhams (MMDH), soit 35% des importations globales du Royaume qui sont de l'ordre de 480 MMDH.

"Rapportés aux importations taxables seulement, ces accords représentent 49% », a-t-il fait préciser. Par ailleurs, il a relevé que les droits d'importations perçus, au titre de l'année 2018, se sont élevés à 9,5 MMDH, notant que si les 167 MMDH des ALE ont été soumis au régime de droit commun, ils "nous auraient rapporté pratiquement 19 MMDH de plus".

De son côté, le président de l'Association marocaine des industries de textile et de l'habillement (AMITH), Karim Tazi a indiqué que "le problème n'est pas dans la politique d'ouverture ni dans les ALE eux-mêmes mais plutôt dans la capacité à gérer et déceler s'il y a des tricheurs et des pratiques illicites". "Nous avons étudié tous les business models existants et aucun n'est viable ni peut résister à la concurrence déloyale, au dumping et à la contrebande", a-t-il soutenu.

En outre, M. Tazi a relevé que les industriels font face à des "consommateurs" qui n'acceptent plus passivement les biens qu'on leur propose et qui deviennent, eux, les vrais décideurs, ajoutant que ces consommateurs sont en train de changer tous les modèles de distribution dans le monde.



Qui sont Mohamed Boubouh et Jalil Skali, candidats uniques à la présidence et vice-présidence de l'Amith

Par Wiam Markhouss_Le 7 Juin, 2019

LEUR PROGRAMME RECOUVRE LA DEFENSE DES INTERETS DU SECTEUR, LA LUTTE CONTRE LA CONCURRENCE DELOYALE ET L'INFORMEL, AINSI QUE LA RESTAURATION DE L'IMAGE DU MADE IN MOROCCO.

Depuis quelques années, les élections relatives à la présidence de l'Association marocaine des industries de textile et d'habillement (Amith) ne suscitent plus une très grande passion dans la profession. Celles qui se tiendront le 18 juin ne dérogeaient pas à la règle. Jusqu'à lundi 3 juin, quand à la surprise générale, Karim Tazi, actuel président, et candidat pour un deuxième mandat de trois ans (2019-2022), déclare quitter la course. « Après une tournée régionale et différentes rencontres avec les opérateurs du secteur, force est de constater que l'AMITH est menacée d'une fracture palpable pouvant conduire à une division, fragilisant ainsi l'association et sa crédibilité », lance tout de go Karim Tazi, actuel président de l'Amith et [jusqu'à hier hier candidat pour un deuxième mandat](#).

C'est donc le tandem Mohamed Boubouh, administrateur du groupe Vita qui gère 9 unités industrielles (7 à Tanger et 2 à Casablanca), et Jalil Skali, DG de Palmeraie industries (Dolidol, lematelas.com, Jobelsa Automotive), qui doit convaincre les 379 industriels membres de l'Amith. L'un de leurs premiers objectifs est d'élargir l'effectif des membres grâce à un potentiel de 1 600 entreprises de textile dans le pays. « Nous avons dans notre

programme certes plusieurs points communs avec celui de Karim Tazi. Mais nous espérons surtout faire de l'Amith l'interlocuteur de référence du secteur textile au Maroc et le point d'entrée pour tout investisseur, tout client ou toute institution qui s'intéresse au Maroc», poursuit M. Skali. En résumé, un changement dans la continuité avec une nouvelle manière de faire.

Encourager l'investissement dans l'amont du textile

«Notre gouvernance tranchera complètement avec ce qui a prévalu jusque-là. On prévoit de créer une structure permanente, solide et à l'écoute des industriels, indépendamment de leur taille, de leur activité ou de leur localisation dans le territoire national. Notre but est d'utiliser l'intelligence collective et de fédérer tout le monde», déclare le DG de Palmeraie Industries. Les maux du secteur qui emploie 400 000 personnes, informel compris, sont connus : contrebande, importations massives, concurrence déloyale, rétrécissement des parts de marché des marques marocaines, difficultés de recherche de nouveaux clients...

De la sous-traitance à la co-traitance et au produit fini

«A l'export, nous avons un mono-client énorme en l'occurrence Inditex qui a façonné l'industrie du textile à Tanger. Le Maroc peut jouer un rôle crucial dans le fast-fashion en Europe et aux Etats-Unis. Aujourd'hui, la problématique des grandes marques est celle des stocks. Nous pouvons livrer des commandes entre 4 et 6 semaines et avec de l'investissement marocain en amont du textile, honorer des commandes de 40 000 à 60 000 pièces. Le Plan d'accélération industrielle (PAI) du ministère de l'industrie accompagne les entreprises dans les différents plans. Encore faut-il encourager sa mise en œuvre et atteindre tous ses objectifs», abonde M. Boubouh.

L'autre challenge du tandem Boubouh-Skali est de redonner au made in Morocco et à la marque Maroc son image d'antan. Que ce soit à l'export ou dans le marché local. «Nous espérons migrer de la sous-traitance vers la co-traitance et le produit fini. Certaines entreprises l'ont déjà fait, à l'instar de Vita Couture (marque Anae). Pour les autres, il faudra créer un bras armé pour obtenir la conformité sociale exigée par les donneurs d'ordre. Concernant la formation, les instituts doivent adapter leur cursus à la demande des industriels. Nous aspirons également à faire migrer plus d'entreprises informelles vers le circuit formel grâce à l'appui du ministère de tutelle», déclare M. Skali. En tout cas, le tandem promet de créer une cellule de veille pour détecter les actions extérieures susceptibles d'avoir un impact négatif sur le secteur (effets des ALE, des nouvelles réglementations...), et de se réunir tous les trois mois avec les acteurs du marché local afin d'étudier et de répondre à leurs doléances.

- **Mohammed Boubouh, Administrateur du groupe Vita**

Un poids lourd du secteur textile

Agé de 50 ans, M. Boubouh est ingénieur lauréat de l'ex-ENSITM, devenue aujourd'hui l'Ecole nationale supérieure d'ingénieurs Sud-Alsace. Il a entamé sa carrière dans le conseil, avant d'intégrer le secteur du textile au Maroc par le biais de la direction de deux grandes unités industrielles de Tanger.

Quelques années plus tard, il fonde son propre groupe qui compte aujourd'hui 9 unités industrielles, basées à Tanger et à Casablanca, et qui emploient plus de 3 000 salariés. Il est administrateur du groupe Vita qui détient également la marque Anae (5 boutiques au

Maroc). Ces neuf unités opèrent sur plusieurs maillons de la chaîne de valeur textile, de la plateforme de design et de créativité à l'impression digitale, et la confection en sous-traitance, co-traitance et produit fini.

- **Jalil Skali, DG du groupe Palmeraie Industries**

Il allie les expériences du public et du privé

Agé de 45 ans, M. Skali est lauréat de l'Ecole Centrale de Lyon. Il est aujourd'hui directeur général du groupe Palmeraie Industries (Dolidol, lematelas.com, Jobelsa Automotive). Avec plus de 20 ans d'expérience dans les domaines de la stratégie, de l'organisation, de la finance (CDG) et des projets de transformation, M. Skali a occupé plusieurs hautes fonctions, dans le public et le privé, dont celle de directeur général adjoint de l'Office national des pêches de 2006 à 2011.

Logistique : Des méga-camions américains entre le Maroc et l'Espagne

6 juin 2019



Le géant américain XPO Logistics, l'un des principaux fournisseurs mondiaux de solutions de transport et de logistique, a récemment commencé à exploiter une nouvelle route pour méga-camions reliant l'Espagne et le Maroc. Les camions, d'une longueur de 25,25 mètres, transportent des matières premières de l'Espagne vers le Royaume plusieurs fois par semaine, et reviennent remplis de vêtements destinés à la vente au détail.

Chaque méga-camion de XPO peut transporter une charge maximale de 60 tonnes, ce qui permet de réduire les émissions de CO2 jusqu'à 20 % grâce à une plus grande capacité de charge et aux économies de carburant.

Massimo Marsili, directeur général – transport, Espagne, Portugal et Maroc pour XPO Logistics, a déclaré que "Nous nous engageons à rendre la supply chain de nos clients plus efficaces et durables en développant des services innovants. XPO est fier d'ouvrir cette nouvelle route de transport par méga-camions à destination et en provenance du Maroc, où nous sommes l'un des plus grands transporteurs, effectuant environ 18 000 traversées par an à travers le détroit de Gibraltar".

XPO est présent au Maroc depuis 2011 depuis ses sites de Tanger et de Kénitra, au service de clients nationaux et européens évoluant dans les industries automobile, textile et alimentaire. La flotte de 15 méga-camions de XPO en Espagne est utilisée pour les clients de l'entreprise et pour son réseau de transport de marchandises palettisées.



Note JFL: (AAFA and 3 other business groups sent a joint letter to the Myanmar Government expressing concerns over serious workers rights issues.)

June 12, 2019

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counselor
Office of the President
Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Dear State Counselor:

On behalf of international garment, footwear, and travel goods buyers, we write to express our increasing concern over serious and repeated violations of the fundamental rights to freely associate, to organize, and to bargain collectively in both law and in practice in Myanmar.

Thanks to your leadership, Myanmar has transformed from a country closed off from the world due to crippling international sanctions to one of the fastest-growing garment, footwear, and travel goods suppliers in the world. In a few short years, you have transformed the industry into an export powerhouse, quadrupling Myanmar's garment, footwear, and travel goods exports to \$5.2 billion last year, and, more importantly, employs hundreds of thousands of workers.

Despite substantial and impressive progress made during the previous several years in further constructing a democratic legal framework and implementing consistent rule of law, the international apparel, footwear, and travel goods buyers we represent are nonetheless deeply troubled by recent amendments and actions which can misalign, confuse, and even derail some of this progress in implementing a consistent and democratic legal framework.

We are concerned with the implementation of, and proposed reforms to, the Labor Organizations Law (LOL) of 2011 and the Settlement of Labor Disputes Law (SLDL) of 2012, particularly on the issue of freedom of association. As detailed in the appendix to this letter, our association members are concerned that worker's rights to freely associate as union members are not being fully respected. Our members have also noted unduly burdensome approval processes for trade union registrations and industrial actions, especially the requirement of documents, procedures, and approvals which are nowhere mentioned in law.

We understand that the Assembly of the Union recently passed amendments to the SLDL and is considering several amendments to the LOL. However, these amendments, both adopted and proposed, not only fail to address the concerns raised by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and other key stakeholders, but they would make the laws worse in many respects, including but not limited to:

- Requiring trade unions to re-register every two years, which would grant the government significant leverage over unions to refrain from the full exercise of their rights lest their re-registration application be denied (LOL);
- Placing a limit of 30 days on strikes, after which workers would be required to return to work (LOL);
- Imposing imprisonment and significant fines on striking workers (*up to 104 days of wages at the minimum wage rate*), including those who engage in a strike which is technically illegal under the laws of Myanmar, but which are fully consistent with their rights under ILO Conventions (LOL)
- Failing to establish a meaningful legal framework for collective bargaining (SLDL); and
- Allowing employers to bargain collective agreements with non-union bargaining councils, against the clear advice of the ILO (SLDL)

While we are hopeful that the reforms approved to the SLDL will improve the labor dispute settlement process, it remains unclear whether the reforms will result in efficient, proper, and enforceable judgements, that workers will have access to an adequate remedy (including reinstatement), and whether the increased penalties will be enough to dissuade violations of the law.

We urge your government to work with the ILO and other stakeholders to ensure that the labor law reforms, and implementation of those reforms, meet both international law and best practices. We also urge the Government of Myanmar to respect freedom of association and other internationally-protected labor rights, and refrain from continued measures to deny these rights in practice.

With the right laws and procedures in place, and effective implementation, Myanmar can build on its success by distinguishing itself and attracting responsible businesses to create long-term relationships in Myanmar. Such an approach would benefit everyone – international buyers, local employers, workers, and the state.

We look forward to working with you to create a prosperous garment, footwear, and travel goods industry that benefits all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

American Apparel & Footwear Association
Fair Labor Association
Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability
Social Accountability International

Registration

The ILO Committee on the Application of Standards has urged the government to “ensure that the registration of workers’ and employers’ organizations is not subject to unreasonable requirements to guarantee that the right to join or establish organizations of their own choosing is not hindered in practice” and “ensure that applications for union registration are acted upon expeditiously and are not denied unless they fail to meet clear and objective criteria set forth in the law.”

The trade union registration process has not improved and appears to be getting worse. During the tripartite discussion, trade unions explained that registrar officials had denied numerous completed applications for reasons found nowhere in the law or rules. These reasons included: 1) a requirement that all executive committee members submit their curriculum vitae; 2) a requirement that all union members submit photocopies of ID cards (extremely onerous since many workers are unable to obtain government-issued IDs); 3) a requirement that the union obtain a letter from the employer acknowledging that the union has informed management of its intent to register (which essentially gives employers the ability to veto the union’s registration by withholding the letter); and 4) a requirement that the union obtain signatures from at least 10 percent of the workforce – and that these be from *non-union* members. These requirements significantly impede the exercise of freedom of association.

Unions report that the registration process can extend for several months, and in many cases end in rejection. The authorities continue to use arbitrary reasons to reject applications, the most recent being objections over the dues rate indicated in the union’s constitution. In other cases, officials have accused unions—without evidence—of forging the signatures of members and requiring the union to submit the application again with new signatures. This gives the impression that the registrar is proactively seeking to prohibit the registration of new unions.

Anti-union Retaliation

We are deeply concerned that trade union leaders and activists are routinely dismissed for engaging in legal union activity, such as organizing workers into a union, raising complaints, and seeking negotiations with management. The dispute settlement procedures in place fail to provide a remedy for affected workers and fail to sanction employers for any illegal behavior. The arbitration body and arbitration council generally apply the law poorly, and when they do so correctly, employers often refuse to respect these awards. Recently a supplier to a major footwear brand shut down the factory rather than comply with a binding arbitration decision to reinstate a union leader. The supplier subsequently shifted production to a second non-unionized factory in Yangon.

Civil Liberties

The Committee on the Application of Standards urged the government to, “ensure that workers are able to carry out their trade union activities without threat of violence or other violations of their civil liberties by police or private security.” We note that the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law enacted in 2012 has been used extensively to detain peaceful protesters speaking out on matters of public interest, including workers. We note that in February 2019, several trade union leaders were arrested in Mandalay under this law for having peacefully protested the labor law reform process and the failure of the government to protect workers from anti-union discrimination. The authorities have claimed that only residents of Mandalay may protest there, which is an unjustifiable limitation on the right to peacefully assembly. Since then, the accused have had to travel to Mandalay numerous times to attend multiple *pro forma* court hearings, which has caused them to lose work time and incur significant expenses.

GSP as a 'bait', Pompeo in Sri Lanka to push the (SOFA) military deal

Fri, 2019-06-14 16:08 — editor

By **Daya Gamage** – Asian Tribune Political Note

Washington, D.C. 14 June, (Asiantribune.com):

Washington – quite obviously to fulfill one of its foreign policy objectives in the Indo-Pacific Region – is sending a high-level delegation next week to Sri Lanka to discuss the 'continuation' of the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) with the government when the Secretary of State Michael Pompeo is scheduled to visit Colombo in the following week on June 27 at a time Sri Lanka has expressed some skepticism of several (highly questionable) terms of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) the US wants Sri Lanka to accept.



United States Secretary of State Michael Pompeo

This is a typical Washington strategy holding the current lucrative American market for Sri Lanka's exports under the March-2018 renewed GSP which is expected to lapse in December 2020 as a bait to bring pressure to agree to the

conditions laid out in the Colombo US Embassy classified Diplomatic Note to Sri Lanka Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) which the Asian Tribune got hold of.

The leaked 'classified' Diplomatic Note to the MFA dated 28 August 2018 to which the Asian Tribune had the opportunity of accessing was used in our report titled 'US troops in Sri Lanka: Classified US Dip Note reveals' - <http://asiantribune.com/node/92763> - in which we commented **(Quote)** Following the discussions between the representatives of the United States Government and the Foreign Ministry of the Government of Sri Lanka, the Embassy of the United States of America in Sri Lanka in a 'Confidential' note addressing the Foreign Ministry dated 28 August 2018 recalls the agreement between the two governments, and reiterates the mutually-agreed upon clauses that are incorporated in the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) which Asian Tribune construed as inimical to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

The 'Asian Tribune' is in a position to disclose what Washington endeavors to achieve at the expense of Sri Lanka's sovereignty providing a reading of this 'classified' document it has possessed through its investigative endeavor, the total repulsive nature of the 'contents' of the SOFA now under discussion between the two governments. **(End Quote)**



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jacob Crowe salutes the Sri Lankan navy's SLNS Samudura as the USS Spruance pulls into Hambantota, Sri Lanka, April 18, 2019.

Washington designed to hold the GSP Talks as a prerequisite to induce Sri Lanka to agree to the conditions proposed by Washington to finalize the SOFA

agreement which is well connected to the June-2017 renewed Acquisition and Cross-Service Agreement (ACSA) which facilitates the United States to station American military, its advisors and operators on Sri Lankan soil. The renewed ACSA which runs into 83 pages is still kept a secret by both Sri Lanka and the United States rushing through a GSL cabinet meeting, not tabled in Sri Lanka's legislature.

A similar tactic was used by Washington in mid-1980s when trade talks were in progress regarding the 'Textile Quota' to the American market when representatives from the US Trade Representative Office used the issues of human rights and the importation of movies pressurizing Sri Lanka to award a fair share of imports to two major Sri Lankan cinema companies as a prerequisite to increase the textile quotas. It worked as witnessed by this writer who was then a state department employee at Colombo's diplomatic mission as a political specialist who attended the talks as an observer.

Both Colombo and Washington are well aware that 27 percent of exports from Sri Lanka arrive in the American market, and that Sri Lanka heavily depends on this market. Sri Lankan exports indicate that nearly 57% is exported to EU and USA. It shows 27% of exports are shared by USA and the majority 30% is shared by EU. Nevertheless, out of this 27 percent approximately 70 to 75 percent are textiles/garments which are out of the quota system as it enters the American market as normal exports.

3,451 different products from Sri Lanka are eligible to enter the United States duty-free under the GSP program. US has been the leading buyer of Lankan exports over the years and it continued its lead even last year. Sri Lankan exports to United States is now almost at 3 billion US dollars threshold for the first time.

In the heat of the GSP trade talks between Sri Lanka and the United States the following week – on June 27 – Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will arrive in Colombo, as the spokesperson of the state department put it "Secretary Pompeo will express America's solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka as they stand united against the despicable Easter Sunday terrorist attacks. He will also discuss promising opportunities for US-Sri Lanka cooperation based on shared commitments to a free and open Indo-Pacific region", and added, during the visit to Indo-Pacific region on June 24 through June 30, to "broaden and deepen America's partnership with key countries to advance their shared goal of a free and open Indo-Pacific."

The catch phrase is *“He will also discuss promising opportunities for US-Sri Lanka cooperation based on shared commitments to a free and open Indo-Pacific region”* in which the proposed clauses of the Diplomatic Note that Washington is serious about will form the discussions Secretary Pompeo will have with top GSL political authority.

The ACSA and SOFA are vital components of Washington’s “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Region” policy. The US has signed these two agreements with nations along the Indo-Pacific region. The United States, during the past eighteen months, has enhanced its military presence in the Indo-Pacific region. Washington has recognized Sri Lanka’s location in the region as a geo-strategically vital for its operation in the Indo-Pacific to confront China’s economic-military expansion.

The Islamist terrorist attack on three Catholic churches in Colombo and a protestant church in the eastern city of Batticaloa, and three Five Star hotels in Colombo that took the lives of 250 persons seem to have been a concern for Washington on eve of Secretary Pompeo’s visit to the Asian region.

With Sri Lanka at the center of Washington’s Indo-Pacific Region Military Policy as a strategically located nation, Pompeo made reference to Sri Lanka in his interview with America’s premier TV network CBS on April 24 highlighting ISIS penetration in the region and how Washington looks at the developed scenario following Islamist terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka on April 21.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo wants everyone to understand that the bombings in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday provide a justification for the war on terror which has become a permanent and dominant feature of US foreign policy. His tone in the CBS interview sounded almost thankful for the atrocity when, in its immediate aftermath, he proclaimed that the “vile attacks are a stark reminder of why the United States remains resolved in our fight to defeat terrorism.”

Columnist Peter Isackson of the widely-read media outlet Fair Observer says: “This challenge of taking down these networks is something the United States is going to have to continue to stay right on top of.” By “stay on top of” he means “follow through” or possibly “remain in control,” but the expression also conveys the idea that the US sits above everyone else and manages their affairs.

Secretary Pompeo told CBS “Yeah, almost certainly the case that they show no sign of ideologically having waived from their desire to conduct attacks on the West. And that means we’re going to have to be vigilant for an awfully long time.”

Commenting on the above pronouncement Peter Isackson opines: The US needs a reason to be seen as indispensable in its actions across the globe. The “desire to conduct attacks on the West” ensures that indispensable status. Some might find it peculiar to hear Sri Lanka referred to as “the West”? For Pompeo, nothing could be more natural. Sri Lanka is a province of the empire, just like neighboring India, a nation with four times the population of the United States that has now learned it no longer has the freedom to purchase oil from the most convenient and trusted supplier.

Washington’s desire for the sustainability of its military build-up in the Indo-Pacific Region and Sri Lanka’s strategic location right at the center of the Region, the vitality of the 83-page US-SL signed ACSA which will put American boots on Sri Lankan soil along with US Department of Defense officials and the importance of Colombo agreeing to the proposed clauses forwarded to Sri Lanka’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs through a Diplomatic Note dated 28 August 2018 that could form the SOFA will be talking points during Secretary Mike Pompeo’s discourse with Sri Lankan political authority. Of course, Pompeo is aware that an ISIS penetration in Sri Lanka and the surrounding area could be an hindrance to America’s military design in the Indo-Pacific region.

The hint for the above talking points and Washington’s projections came from the state department spokesperson, while announcing Secretary Pompeo’s visit to the Asian region, when she said “He will also discuss promising opportunities for US-Sri Lanka cooperation based on shared commitments to a free and open Indo-Pacific region.”

The GSP-PLUS talks next week is a ‘dress rehearsal’ to Secretary Pompeo’s ‘real display’ on June 27 in Colombo.

The United States diplomatic mission in Colombo is well aware of Mr. Pompeo’s ‘real display’ and the GSL-‘response’ to that ‘display’ while suspicious if a future government would fall in line to fulfill Washington’s designs in the Indo-Pacific region when a senior official of the American Embassy, who wished to remain anonymous, told a group of selected journalists in Colombo that the US expected future Sri Lankan governments to respect the international obligations taken on by the current UNP-led administration, and that the last three years had seen an expansion in US-Sri Lanka relations and whether that change would continue under a new government was yet to be decided.

- Asian Tribune –



Les professionnels tunisiens du textile se mettent à l'heure de l'habillement durable

7 juin 2019

La Fédération tunisienne du textile et de l'habillement (FTTH), en collaboration avec le Centre technique du textile (Cettex) et le bureau d'études AS International, organise, jeudi 13 juin au siège de l'Utica, à Tunis, un atelier intitulé «Tunisia Sustainable Fashion».

Le consommateur, partout dans le monde, est de plus en plus sensible aux modes de production des vêtements qu'il achète et à leurs éventuels impacts socio-environnementaux. Verrons-nous bientôt des vêtements garantis développement durable? Verrons-nous bientôt inscrit sur les étiquettes des produits textiles ou d'habillements un nouveau symbole qui ne se fonde plus uniquement sur la compétitivité-prix du produit textile ou du prêt-à-porter ?

Il y a une décennie, une trentaine d'importants donneurs d'ordres, gros distributeurs et chaînes de prêt-à-porter se sont associés pour créer la «Sustainable Apparel Coalition» (Coalition pour un habillement durable) dont le but est de réduire l'impact écologique et social de la fabrication des vêtements, et de tracer chaque étape de la fabrication de l'habillement pour rendre cette industrie plus écologiquement responsable.

En 2012, cette coalition rend public un outil permettant de mesurer l'impact environnemental des produits textiles : l'indice Higg. Grâce au Higg Index, l'environnement devient un critère mesurable de compétitivité, au même rang que le critère financier. Il sera donc possible de contrôler l'impact environnemental d'un tee-shirt, de son design à sa fabrication, jusqu'à sa vente. Les industriels pourront alors contrôler l'ensemble de la chaîne de production, de la matière première au produit fini.

Aujourd'hui, cette coalition regroupe plus de 200 membres et représente plus de 40% de la chaîne d'approvisionnement mondiale du vêtement. On compte parmi ses membres des marques comme Nike ou Levy's ou encore H&M et Aldo, des distributeurs comme Wal-Mart, Patagonia ou Mammüt.

Le choix stratégique de maîtrise de la filière initié par la FTTH et matérialisé par le «Pacte de croissance et de compétitivité» conclu entre le gouvernement et la Fédération, invite à investir cette piste. D'autant qu'elle constitue une voie idoine à une meilleure insertion du textile et de l'habillement «Made in Tunisia» dans la chaîne de valeur mondiale du secteur.

C'est dans ce cadre que la FTTH, en collaboration avec le Cettex et AS International, l'un des plus importants réseaux mondiaux d'expertise française de la qualité textile, organise, jeudi 13 juin au siège de l'Utica, un atelier intitulé «Tunisia Sustainable Fashion» pour présenter et proposer aux industriels textiles tunisiens une stratégie et des objectifs de performance environnementale pour les prochaines années (FTTH) ; ainsi que des outils reconnus et universels de mesure de la performance (SAC); un accompagnement sur le management de la performance environnementale (mesure, progrès, communication) (COse361/Cettex); et un système de vérification (audits) pour authentifier et pérenniser la démarche.

L'objectif est de faire du «Made in Tunisia» une marque forte et durable.

Source : communiqué.



La Tunisie exporte des jeans en Europe pour 1,322 MrDT en 2018

📅 30 Mai 2019 | 17:09 📄 ECONOMIE, Tunisie



Les exportations tunisiennes de jeans en 2018 ont atteint le montant de 1,322 milliards de dinars tunisiens (MrDT). Ce qui classe notre pays au 1er rang des fournisseurs de l'Italie et au 4e de ceux de la France.

L'activité de confection de jeans en Tunisie est couverte par environ 500 entreprises employant 57.000 personnes. La quasi-totalité de ces entreprises sont exportatrices.

En janvier 2019, les exportations globales du secteur du textile-habillement ont atteint environ 707 millions de dinars (MDT).

A l'instar de la multinationale WIC, installée dans plusieurs localités du gouvernorat de Bizerte et qui emploie actuellement 4.500 personnes et produit environ 6 millions de pièces par an, de nombreuses entreprises étrangères de renommée opèrent en Tunisie dans le secteur du textile et de l'habillement, dont le fidèle allemand Van Laack, ou encore Gartex, Lee Cooper, et bien d'autres.

Le savoir-faire tunisien dans le textile s'expose à Barcelone et à Madrid

29 mai 2019

Le CEPEX organisera des journées de contacts professionnels B-to-B dans le secteur textile-habillement intitulées "Jornadas de Tunez Moda Dias", à Barcelone (le 2 juillet 2019) et à Madrid (le 4 juillet), lit-on dans un communiqué publié mercredi 29 mai.



L'action qui s'inscrit dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du plan triennal 2017/2019, décrété par le gouvernement au profit de la relance du secteur textile et habillement, vise à valoriser l'image de l'industrie tunisienne du

textile-habillement auprès des milieux professionnels espagnols afin d'approcher davantage les opérateurs tunisiens de textile habillement à leurs homologues espagnols et à explorer de nouvelles opportunités d'exportation et de partenariat pour consolider la position de la Tunisie sur ce marché porteur.

L'événement Jornadas de Tunez Moda Dias constituera une occasion pour les professionnels espagnols de découvrir les univers produits dédiés à la sous-traitance, la co-traitance et le produit fini pour le prêt à porter, la maille, la lingerie et balnéaire, le jeans et sportswear en plus des accessoires et des services, représentés par des entreprises Tunisiennes sélectionnées pour leur compétitivité, leur haut niveau de qualité de services, leur technicité et leur créativité confirmées sans négliger leur engagement dans le respect des délais de livraison et la sécurité des approvisionnements, ajoute la même source.

A noter que l'Espagne est un marché de 46,7 millions d'habitants en 2018 (soit 9% du marché de l'UE) ; c'est le 5ème client de la Tunisie avec une valeur de 109 millions d'euros et le 6ème fournisseur de la Tunisie.

Les principaux fournisseurs de l'Espagne sont : la Chine, le Bangladesh, la Turquie, l'Indonésie, l'Inde, le Pakistan, le Maroc et la Tunisie avec une valeur de 88,8 millions d'euros.

Les principaux produits exportés vers l'Espagne en 2018 sont les Pantalons jean, les vêtements de travail, les maillots de bain, les vêtements pour bébé, la lingerie femme...

Le Programme promotionnel à l'étranger du secteur TH au titre de l'année 2019 du CEPEX prévoit d'organiser 14 actions promotionnelles à l'étranger dans 7 marchés cible : France, Italie, Allemagne, Pays-Bas, Russie, Royaume-Uni et Espagne avec la participation de 150 entreprises.



Lancement du projet du textile tunisien durable

13 juin 2019

Par : WMC avec TAP

Le projet " Tunisia Sustainable Fashion " (textile tunisien durable) a été lancé, jeudi 13 juin à Tunis, lors d'un atelier de travail organisé par la FTTH (Fédération tunisienne du textile et de l'habillement) en partenariat avec le CETTEX (Centre technique du textile) et la SAC (Sustainable Apparel Coalition).



Le projet porte sur l'évaluation et le benchmarking de l'impact environnemental de l'industrie textile/habillement et l'élimination des impacts environnementaux négatifs de cette industrie, en vue de faire du textile tunisien, un secteur écologique.

Il comprend plusieurs étapes, dont la première est une phase pilote ciblant 10 entreprises, alors que la deuxième étape portera sur la rédaction d'un

rapport global sur l'industrie tunisienne et la formulation des recommandations destinées à la FTTH et aux instances officielles de la Tunisie.

Quant à la troisième étape, elle portera sur le management de la performance environnementale de toute l'industrie tunisienne et la généralisation du projet pilote avec la construction et l'adoption officielle d'un plan d'amélioration continue avec la mise en place d'une procédure de reporting environnemental continue.

Pour le président de la FTTH, Hosni Boufaden, le projet permettra aux entreprises du secteur de définir leur stratégie en matière d'adaptation aux exigences environnementales et de piloter leur performance dans ce domaine en vue de répondre aux évolutions futures du marché.

Ce marché, a-t-il dit, est en transition vers un développement durable. La création de la " Sustainable Apparel Coalition ", qui regroupe les plus importants donneurs d'ordres mondiaux du textile et de l'habillement n'en est que l'illustration la plus éloquente. Cette coalition s'est fixée comme but de réduire l'impact écologique et social dans la production des vêtements, aux niveaux de toutes les étapes de fabrication afin de rendre cette industrie plus écologiquement responsable et la doter d'un avantage concurrentiel majeur, lit-on dans les documents de présentation du projet.

Il y a une décennie, "une trentaine d'importants donneurs d'ordres, gros distributeurs et chaînes de prêt-à-porter se sont associés pour créer la " Sustainable Apparel Coalition " (Traduction : Coalition pour un habillement durable) dont le but est de réduire l'impact écologique et social de la fabrication des vêtements et de tracer chaque étape de la fabrication de l'habillement pour rendre cette industrie plus écologiquement responsable.

En 2012, cette coalition a rendu public un outil permettant de mesurer l'impact environnemental des produits textiles en l'occurrence l'indice Higg. Grâce à ce Higg Index, l'environnement devient ainsi un critère mesurable de compétitivité, au même rang que le critère financier.

Cette coalition regroupe, actuellement, plus de 200 membres, représentant plus de 40% de la chaîne d'approvisionnement mondiale du vêtement dont des marques internationales telles que Nike, Levy's ou encore H&M et Aldo.

Après le marasme des dernières années, le secteur a retrouvé ses couleurs en 2018, année durant laquelle les exportations du secteur ont progressé de 17,8% après l'accroissement de 16,4% en 2017. Ce dynamisme s'est poursuivi durant les premiers mois de 2019, selon Hosni Boufaden.

TUNISIE

13/06/2019 16h:09 CET

L'Europe à la mode tunisienne: L'événement fashion, tunisien et écolo

La mode, la fripe, l'artisanat... L'écologie, l'environnement, le style unique...

Par Ayda Labassi

Pendant des décennies, la Tunisie a accueilli les usines de textile de marques de prêt-à-porter européennes, mettant à leur disposition une main d'oeuvre hautement qualifiée, mais aussi concurrentielle. N'y trouvant plus leur compte, beaucoup ont délocalisé leurs pôles de fabrication.

Parallèlement, toutes ces décennies ont témoigné du déclin de la place de l'artisanat tunisien au profit des industries.

Pourtant, le savoir-faire est resté vivant. Confiné mais bien vivant.

"L'Europe à la mode tunisienne", le 14 juin 2019, aux thermes d'Antonin

Dans ce contexte, et à l'occasion de la Fashion-Week de Tunis, qui se tient du 12 au 15 juin, la Délégation de l'Union Européenne en Tunisie a mis en place "L'Europe à la mode tunisienne". Un événement qui vise à "promouvoir des marques, des labels et des créateurs représentatifs de la diversité de la scène 'mode' du pays", souligne dans son édito Nadia Baccouche Le Gendre, la Directrice artistique.

Elle nomme : les créateurs Ali Karoui et Amin Hajri. Les marques de prêt-à-porter Lyoum et My Little Bagatelle. Le label 'anti-fashion' Salah Barka. Leizu, la marque traditionnelle et la boutique second-main Filupo.

"Valoriser la diversité des styles, les savoir-faire et le patrimoine artisanal tunisien. Telle est la volonté de la Délégation de l'Union Européenne qui souhaite soutenir l'artisanat notamment le secteur de la mode pour favoriser l'innovation et la création dans ce secteur riche de son passé et de son avenir", indique Nadia Baccouche Le Gendre.

Pour l'Ambassadeur de l'Union Européenne en Tunisie, Patrice Bergamini, la mode, au-delà de la consommer, parle "emplois et économie durable".

La Tunisie est au coeur de ces changements autour de la mode, la fripe, l'artisanat... L'écologie, l'environnement, le style unique...

"J'ai souhaité cette année mettre la journée de l'Europe à la mode tunisienne, en invitant 7 créateurs aux Thermes d'Antonin. Ils auraient pu être bien sûr plus nombreux tellement la nouvelle Tunisie regorge de jeunes talents", s'est-il exprimé dans un édito.

Salah Barka

L'un des précurseurs du recyclage, le styliste tunisien Salah Barka a un regard différent sur la mode, l'anti-fashion, tout en veillant à valoriser le patrimoine culturel tunisien. C'est en chinant qu'il fait sa recherche de tissus pour ensuite les transformer en pièces uniques, écologiques et éthiques.

Fi Lupo

Le concept-store de vêtements vintage a été fondé en 2016. Sis à La Marsa, derrière une petite façade jaune, on trouve à l'intérieur les couleurs, les motifs et toutes les différentes formes qui forment cet univers unique. Les pièces aussi sont uniques. On ne les trouvera certainement pas dans tous les coins de rue. Chacun trouvera parmi leur sélection son style propre à lui, loin des tendances, loin des codes! En avant le recyclage, l'écologie, l'économie circulaire...

Ali Karoui

C'est par ses créations qui subliment les silhouettes qu'on reconnaît son génie. Chaque année, celles-ci sont portées par les plus grandes stars sur le tapis rouge cannois et font sensation. 'Habilleur des stars', il a en outre habillé Adele Exarchopoulos, Sarah Marshall, Haifa Wehbe, ou encore Hend Sabry.

My Little Bagatelle

Kenza et Soraya, créatrices de la marque My Little Bagatelle choisissent soigneusement les tissus. Des tissus naturels et nobles, entre Hayk, coton, voile de coton... pour créer des pièces élégantes, adaptées à toutes les morphologies et tous les âges.

Lyoum

Créée par Claire et Sofiane Ben Chaabane, la marque de prêt-à-porter Lyoum ('Aujourd'hui') a su s'imposer tout naturellement sur la scène de la mode en Tunisie. Lyoum propose un style urbain, contemporain, où le style traditionnel s'y place parfois subtilement.

Amin Hajri

Avant d'intégrer Esmod Tunis, Amin Hajri avait suivi une licence en Design Produit à l'école des Beaux-Arts. Il a su conjuguer ses compétences et son sens artistique dans ses créations. Coupes contemporaines, tissus sophistiqués et broderies rappelant le savoir-faire artisanal, c'est ainsi que se composent les créations d'Amin Hajri.

Leizu

Leizu propose des habits traditionnels sophistiqués, caftan, sari, fouta... Cousus dans des matières soigneusement sélectionnées et donnant un style intemporel, beau et harmonieux. On y sent le patrimoine, l'héritage, le savoir-faire...

Itinérance

Association artistique, à dimension sociale, Itinérance va présenter 20 chemises brodées unisexes. "Des pièces à verser aux débats que suscite le statut de la femme dans le pays", lit-on dans le dossier de presse.

C'est dans le cadre d'un projet où l'association vise à sortir cinq éditions de vêtements dans cinq pays de la région Méditerranée, en y engageant les acteurs locaux du domaine de la mode.

Growth in modern textile industry of Yorkshire

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 2019-06-03 16:30:00 - United Kingdom



The growth of Yorkshire's booming modern textile industry has the potential to lead worldwide, industry leaders say, held back only by the search for new career entrants.

The creative industry has seen huge global growth, the region's manufacturers have told The Yorkshire Post, developing a reputation for quality while leading advances in technology.

Ahead of a festival across Kirklees to showcase opportunities, they warn that the only aspect hampering global recognition is a persistent image of Yorkshire's ageing textile past.

"Bringing in the best in technology can set us apart as world leaders for the next generation," said Bill Macbeth, OBE, managing director of the Textile Centre for Excellence (TCoE), which represents over 100 businesses in the region including Burberry. "We are not a museum piece industry. We are looking to the future."

Technology

Kirklees' textile industry dates back to the 1400s, with many of Yorkshire's mill towns built on this heritage. It is as booming today as it ever was, argues Mr Macbeth, with the region now taking great strides in capitalising on huge advances in technology.

"A lot of people think the textile sector has gone," said Mr Macbeth. "That couldn't be further from the truth. It's massive - the value of 'made in England', of 'made in Huddersfield', has never been more hopeful. We've seen real growth in the sector."

The production value of textile manufacturing in the UK was £9.1bn in 2016, with the industry employing 90,000 people including 8,100 in West Yorkshire alone.

Economic modelling suggests the industry has added a further 10,000 new jobs, and contributed £500m more to the UK's economy each year since that time.

"Companies are very busy - the fabrics that we market here go to the best markets in the world. And it's still growing," said Mr Macbeth. "The advancement of technology is a fabulous opportunity for us. The number one issue is making sure we have the young people, in our creative industry, to make it happen."

WOVEN Festival

Kirklees Woven Festival, celebrating the area's industrial heritage as it looks to its future, launches over eight days from Saturday.

There will be 70 events, including mill tours, markets and a textile trail, organised by Kirklees Council and festival curators Hatch.

An event from the TCoE on June 14 will focus on how science and creative innovation has created the textile industry that exists today as well as opportunities.

The festival will also include work from young people at 15 schools across Kirklees, with a catwalk show to be held at the University of Huddersfield featuring their designs on future fashions.

29 mai 2019

Commerce international: Déclaration commune EURATEX, EBCA & AAFA

L'objectif principal de la **Confédération européenne du vêtement et du textile (EURATEX)** est de créer au sein de l'Union européenne un environnement propice à la fabrication de produits textiles et d'habillement. La fabrication de textiles et de vêtements est un pilier essentiel de l'économie locale dans les régions de l'UE. Les fédérations membres d'EURATEX représentent dans l'Union européenne quelque 171 000 entreprises représentant un chiffre d'affaires de 178 milliards d'euros et employant 1,7 million de travailleurs.

L'**Alliance européenne des vêtements de marque (EBCA)** est une coalition de marques de vêtements de vente au détail européennes et mondiales ayant une forte empreinte européenne, qui travaillent ensemble pour promouvoir des chaînes de valeur mondiales équitables. Entre nous, nous représentons plus de 60 marques et employons plus de 150 000 personnes dans nos établissements européens.

L'**American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)**, qui représente plus de 1 000 marques de renommée mondiale, est le porte-parole de confiance de la politique et de la politique de l'industrie du vêtement et de la chaussure, de son management et de ses actionnaires, de ses 4 millions de travailleurs américains et de sa contribution de dans les ventes au détail annuelles américaines.

EURATEX, EBCA et AAFA sont profondément préoccupés par les mesures commerciales prévues par l'UE et les États-Unis à la suite des deux affaires de l'OMC sur le différend relatif aux grands avions civils. L'imposition de droits de douane supplémentaires sur les produits de voyage, textiles et vêtements va avoir des conséquences néfastes pour les entreprises et les consommateurs des deux côtés de l'Atlantique.

La liste préliminaire des produits américains visés comprend les fils (aramides et polyester à haute ténacité), les textiles de maison (tapis, literie, couvertures), certains articles vestimentaires (robes, pulls, costumes, maillots de bain) et les articles de voyage

(sacs à main). La liste de l'UE comprend le coton brut et les déchets de coton, ainsi que les articles de voyage, y compris ceux en matières textiles.

Par conséquent, EURATEX, EBCA et AAFA s'opposent fermement aux tarifs additionnels pour les raisons suivantes:

- Les articles ciblés n'ont aucune incidence ou relation avec le différend sous-jacent concernant les gros avions civils.
- Les droits de douane supplémentaires vont nuire aux exportations vers les États-Unis et l'UE, et donc réduire la compétitivité des entreprises de textile et de vêtement de l'UE et des États-Unis.
- La hausse des tarifs nuit également aux producteurs et distributeurs américains et européens des articles tarifés. S'appuyant sur les tarifs élevés déjà payés, ces tarifs supplémentaires alourdissent les coûts des chaînes d'approvisionnement, au détriment des emplois dans le secteur manufacturier et des investissements dans l'innovation.
- Les droits supplémentaires imposés par les États-Unis et l'Union européenne pourraient bientôt être imposés, ce qui créerait une incertitude dans le secteur, mettrait en péril les ventes futures et favoriserait l'imprévisibilité limitant les investissements ;
- Les relations commerciales à long terme entre les entreprises européennes et américaines sont menacées par ces tensions.

Enfin, EURATEX, EBCA et AAFA exhortent les gouvernements européen et américain à intensifier les négociations commerciales sur les produits industriels afin d'éliminer les droits de douane et de réduire les barrières commerciales afin de promouvoir une coopération réglementaire efficace.

Denim production sees potential to thrive: experts

VNA FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 - 9:57:00 [PRINT](#)



Illustrative photo (Source: VNA)

HCM City (VNA) – Local producers have been able to ensure material supply for denim production, with localization rate in denim trousers reaching 55 – 60 percent, said Vice General Secretary of Vietnam Textile & Apparel Association (VITAS) Nguyen Thi Tuyet Mai.

Mai released the information at a workshop on the sidelines of the 4th Denimsandjeans.com Vietnam Show, that took place in in Ho Chi Minh City on June 12 and 13.

According to her, both domestic and foreign firms in the field have been actively investing in modern production assembly and technology. Particularly, Vietnamese companies are striving to increase their involvement in production, including design

work.

Currently, the sector has formed a complete supply chain in denim fabric production as it is capable of supplying itself with fabric and yarn.

However, the number of enterprises operating in the denim industry remains modest. The proportion of denim products, meanwhile, makes up only 10 – 20 percent in the structure of Vietnam's garment-textile exports.

Vietnamese garment-textile firms are changing their production models towards meeting standards required by free trade agreements signed by the country and taking part in the global supply chain. As such, the VITAS said it is a favourable time for foreign companies to approach the Vietnamese market for machine-equipment supply and technology transfer.

Asia Division Director Jordi Juani of the Spanish finishing specialist for sustainable clothing Jeanologia stressed the importance of switching to more advanced production models, as the current denim production poses a threat to the environment.

So far this year, textile and garment export turnover is estimated at 9.43 billion USD, an increase of 9.8 percent from the same period last year.-VNA

Exportations de textile-habillement en forte croissance

10/06/2019 11:22

Au cours de cinq premiers mois de l'année, les exportations nationales de textile et habillement ont dégagé 14,5 milliards de dollars, soit une hausse de 9,11% en variation annuelle et équivalent de 36,3% du plan annuel.



Dans l'entreprise du textile-habillement Kydo à Hung Yên.

Les exportations du textile ont atteint plus de 11,2 milliards de dollars, celles de tissus, de 856 millions de dollars, et celles de fibres textiles, de plus de 1,6 milliard de dollars.

Toujours sur cette même période, les importations et exportations des matières premières textiles sont estimées à 9,3 milliards de dollars, en hausse de 12% sur un an.

Les exportations de textile et habillement devraient rapporter 40 milliards de dollars cette année, soit une progression de 10,8% par rapport à l'année dernière, a prévu l'Association du textile et de l'habillement du Vietnam (VITAS).

Ce secteur devrait afficher un excédent commercial de 20 milliards de dollars cette année, toujours selon la VITAS.

Ces objectifs se basent sur le succès connu en 2018, avec un chiffre d'affaires à l'exportation de plus de 36 milliards de dollars, en hausse de 16% sur un an. Avec ce résultat, le Vietnam est devenu l'un des trois plus grands exportateurs de textile-habillement au monde.

Vietnam's garment export growing since last 5 months

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 2019-06-03 17:00:00 - Vietnam



Vietnam has gained nearly USD12.1 billion from exporting garments and textiles in the first five months of this year, posting a year-on-year increase of 10.3 percent.

Revenues of the country's garments and textiles exported to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) soared 31.6 percent, to South Korea up 16.3 percent, to the United States up 9.8 percent, and to Japan up 6.5 percent.

In May alone, the garment and textile export turnovers reached USD2.6 billion, gaining a year-on-year increase of 10.8 percent.

Total export turnovers of the local garment and textile industry may reach USD40 billion this year, forecast the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association.

Vietnam's textile industry strives to find new markets

VNA THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019 - 15:55:00 [PRINT](#)



Illustrative image (Photo: VNA)

Hanoi (VNS/VNA) - Vietnam's textile and garment industry is striving to achieve export turnover of more than 40 billion in 2019, a year-on-year increase of 14-15 percent.

Data from the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) showed that since the beginning of the year, the textile industry has achieved positive results. Compared to the same period last year, the industry has grown by more than 12 percent.

The industry has posted growth in production of costumes (up 8.8 percent), fabric made from natural fibres (3.9 percent), synthetic fibres (19.5 percent) and casual clothes (8.7 percent).

So far this year, textile and garment export turnover is estimated at 9.43 billion USD, an increase of 9.8 percent from the same period last year.

According to Le Tien Truong, general director of the Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex), Vietnam's garment export industry is growing. Orders to Vietnamese enterprises have increased by 8-10 percent over the same period in 2018.

Truong also emphasised the initiative of textile enterprises in seeking new markets. A market tour by Vinatex and 10 other large businesses in May 2019 to seek importers in Canada – a member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) – shows the determination of industry leaders to increase Vietnam's market share abroad.

"Meetings with importers have been taking place, and a number of importers with revenue of up to 1 billion Canadian dollars such as VF, Atlantic Sportswear and Giant Tiger have contacted Vietnamese textile enterprises," Truong said.

In April, the International Exhibition of Textile and Garment Industry - Fabric & Garment Accessories in HCM City served as another opportunity for textile enterprises to expand their market. With more than 1,000 international suppliers attending from 24 countries, the exhibition helped businesses get information about the latest production technologies and find ways to meet the needs of domestic and international buyers.

Vietnam's textile and garment is appreciated by foreign partners for both its quality and order fulfilment time.

Cao Huu Hieu, Vinatex's managing director, said that medium and large textile enterprises in Vietnam have worked to meet social responsibility and Green Label criteria from partners.

However, the sector also faces a number of challenges. For example, increased trade stress is affecting service prices.

In addition, strong exporting countries consider Vietnam a rival to curb. In order to continue growing at the same rate, enterprises need to innovate with specific solutions. They must develop a competitive tool set including focusing on technological innovation, saving energy and improving the productivity of synthetic factors through solutions such as automation.

It is necessary to link businesses through common information, artificial intelligence and big data, Hieu said. — VNS/VNA