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Australia to impose 5pc duty on Pakistani textile

Business



Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Peter Heyward while addressing the fourth annual dinner of the Pakistan Australia Business Forum (PABF) said that his government would facilitate Pakistan by revising down its tariff regime greatly on the import of Pakistani textiles beginning next year.

The maximum tariff to be imposed would be 5 per cent, he added. This step will also help Pakistan in balancing its trade which is still in favour of Australia.

He said the forum was a key partner in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Australia. It represents wider Pakistani business community while showcasing Australia and the business opportunities. It helps promote growth in bilateral trade and investment while they expect to see high-level political visits in both directions late this year and early in the next.

He added that they would continue to encourage Pakistani business people to look at the opportunities that exist and take advantage of them to grow their own businesses. Moreover, the ICC World Cup will draw the attention of cricket playing nations to Australia which is a considerable attraction for Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Patrick Kearins, the trade commissioner at the Australian High Commission said that Australian companies were willing to impart technical training to Pakistani youth that would also help Pakistanis to reduce unemployment and develop their career. The Australian companies will help Pakistan in bilateral trade, education, agriculture, livestock and energy sector.

He added that Pakistan had unique position in the region and good potential while trade relationship would help both the countries in promoting trade. Pakistan can take advantage of Australian technology especially in the field of energy, engineering and livestock.

He said the energy sector had been especially earmarked for cooperation between the two countries, saying that Australian companies were internationally renowned in the field. Education and training was another field of endeavour, he mentioned, adding that currently there were half-a-million foreign students pursuing studies at Australian seats of learning. Australia, he said, would take all steps to facilitate the entry of Pakistani students into Australian universities.

Earlier, Pervez H Madrazwala, Chairman PABF, said their forum was all about Pak-Australia business relationship and they wanted to extend more business cooperation in agriculture, engineering, electronic and electrical fields, dairy and livestock business. Pakistan has lot of potential in these fields, especially textile.

Bangladesh home textile sector faces negative growth in first 2 month of FY2014-15

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 09-10-2014 05:36 - Dhaka



Bangladesh home textile sector faces negative growth during the first two months of the current fiscal year 2014-15. The major factors which count for blocking the growth of country's potential home textile exports are European Union GSP facility for Pakistan, appreciation of the local currency against the US dollar and recent political turmoil.

According to Jahangir Alamin, President of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, Bangladeshi-made home textiles are lagging behind Pakistan in terms of cost-competitiveness, one of the major causes of setback.

Moreover, the appreciation of taka against the dollar and recent political instability also cast a negative impact on the overall export growth in this sector.

The industry fetched \$115.99 million in July-August period of the current fiscal, showing a 0.79 per cent negative growth compared to the same period of last fiscal, as per the data of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

In the just-concluded fiscal year 2013-14, the country received \$792.53 million from home-textile exports. The figure was \$791.52 million in FY 2012-13.

Earnings stood at \$906.07 million in FY of 2011-12, some \$788.76 million in 2010-11, \$539.28 million in 2009-10 and \$313.51 million in 2008-09 respectively.

According to a recent study by Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI) Bangladesh is likely to face strong competitive pressure from Pakistan in home-textile trade.

Pakistan has used the new GSP scheme more effectively than Bangladesh. Bangladesh's export to the EU market during the first five months of current calendar year grew by 11 percent while Pakistan's by 27 percent.

Due to the EU's new GSP scheme, Pakistan will be the main competitor of Bangladesh on the EU market and Bangladesh may face pressure in the days to come. Home-textile products will be the main victim of the new system, said BFTI director Dr Mostafa Abid Khan.

The buyers were worried over timely supply on their orders due to the political turmoil for last two years. During the period, many of them have shifted a portion of their orders to other destinations, he added.

Besides, an inadequate supply of gas and power to industrial units severely hampers production. The fuel crunch forced many to generate energy by alternative means, resulting in a rise in the cost of production.

The western consumers' buying capacity also plunged in recent times due to economic recession over there. This resulted in a declining demand for such products.

According to Zaber and Zubair Fabrics, country's largest home-textile maker, export of home textiles during recent years increased in terms of value because the buyers paid higher due to the price hike of raw materials such as raw cotton and yarn.

Home-textile-export growth remained stagnant during the last two fiscal years, but quantity of export did not decline. Now the prices of raw materials have fallen, so the rates of products.

According to BTMA, some 17 mills produce about 556.39 million metres of home textiles annually. Bangladesh exports home textiles such as bed-sheets, bedcovers, pillow covers, cushion covers, curtains, rugs, quilt, kitchen aprons, gloves, napkins and tablecloths to European Union countries, the USA, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Japan and Dubai.

Bangladesh is the leader on the EU market but yet to grab the US one.



Meeting with Evalliance Delegation in Paris, France

20 Oct 2014 / 12:00 AM

H.E. Sun Chanthol, H.E. Rith Chanol, First Secretary of the Royal Embassy of Cambodia to France, and Her Excellency Sun Soveasna, Counselor of the Royal Embassy of Cambodia to France met with a delegation of Evalliance led by Mr. Jean-Francois LIMANTOUR, President, at the Residence of the Ambassador of Cambodia to France on October 20, 2014. The delegation discussed the cooperation between Evalliance and Cambodia to improve the image of Cambodia's textile and apparel industry, increase value added, support training programs, promote and to expand exports of apparel made in Cambodia to Europe.

The Evalliance delegation will visit Cambodia from October 27-29th to meet with the Garment Manufacturing Association of Cambodia, Ambassador of France to Cambodia, the Euro Chamber of Commerce, AFD, and others to implement cooperation between Evalliance and Cambodia.



November 13, 2014 04:56AM



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Cambodia to raise monthly minimum wage for garment workers to 128 USD for 2015

Published: 12-Nov-14 02:24PM

PHNOM PENH (Xinhua) -- Cambodia on Wednesday decided to increase the monthly minimum wage in the garment sector to 128 U.S. dollars, up 23 percent from the current 100 U.S. dollars, Labor Minister Ith Samheng said.

"After a confidential vote by the representatives of the Labour Ministry, the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia, and the trade unions, the majority vote agreed to increase the monthly minimum wage for the garment sector to 128 U.S. dollars for 2015," the minister told reporters after a voting session. "The new minimum wage will be implemented from Jan. 1, 2015 onwards."

The garment and footwear sector, the kingdom's largest foreign currency earner, comprises 960 factories with approximately 620, 000 workers, according to the Ministry of Labour.

The sector exported products in equivalent to 4.44 billion U.S. dollars in the first nine months of this year, up 6 percent over the same period last year.

- See more at: <http://www.thecambodiaherald.com/cambodia/cambodia-to-raise-monthly-minimum-w>
Cambodia to raise monthly minimum wage for garment workers to 128 USD for 2015

Cambodia increases garment industry minimum wage

Updated 6:28 am, Wednesday, November 12, 2014

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Cambodia agreed Wednesday to raise the minimum wage in its important clothing industry by 28 percent to \$128 a month, falling short of labor unions' \$140 proposal.

The [Labor Advisory Committee](#), representing employers, workers and the government, originally agreed on a \$123 minimum wage. A [Labor Ministry](#) statement said it was increased to \$128 after instructions were received from long-serving Prime Minister [Hun Sen](#) to do so. The new wage level takes effect at the beginning of next year.

Two years ago, a militant union campaign to double the then-minimum wage of \$80 in the textile, garment and footwear sector resulted in clashes with police and a consequent crackdown on public protests. A \$100 level was set for 2014, and the unions scaled back their demand for the negotiations over the 2015 level. Employers had proposed the minimum wage be set at \$110 for next year.

The clothing industry is Cambodia's biggest export earner, employing about 500,000 people in more than 500 garment and shoe factories. In 2013, the Southeast Asian country shipped more than \$5 billion worth of products to the United States and Europe.

Besides, an inadequate supply of gas and power to industrial units severely hampers production. The fuel crunch forced many to generate energy by alternative means, resulting in a rise in the cost of production.

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Bangladesh is the leader on the EU market but yet to grab the US one.

EVAlliance in Cambodia textile and garment tie-up

By Stuart Todd | 10 November 2014

Font size                    



A Ministry of Commerce representative, GMAC chairman Van Sou leng and Evalliance president Jean Francois Limantour at yesterday's signing. [Vireak Mai](#)

France to train garment firms

Fri, 31 October 2014

[Chan Muyhong](#)

French textile and garment association Evalliance yesterday signed an agreement with the Garment Manufacturers Association of Cambodia (GMAC) to provide training for middle-management workers in the industry.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Phnom Penh, Van Sou leng, chairman of GMAC said the agreement aims to increase Cambodian garment factories' value-added efficiencies by producing more sophisticated products, which the sector then hopes to export onto the EU nations.

"Cambodian factories are trying to move up from just sub-contracting, taking designs and fabrics from the buyer," leng said.

Figures from GMAC show that Cambodia's garment exports to the EU stood at \$1.4 billion in 2012. That figure increased to \$1.8 billion at the end of 2013.

According to the agreement, Evalliance will send experts from France's fashion industry to provide design and style training to middle-management workers. The agreement also states that both parties will increase data and information sharing and develop new business-to-business communication streams.

Jean Francois Limantour, president of Evalliance, said that Cambodia had untapped potential to export larger quantities and higher valued garment products.

“First goal is to increase the export. The second one is to increase competitiveness of Cambodian textile and apparel industry noticeably by increasing its valued-added value, increasing quality and its creativity,” Limantour said, adding that the first training program is expected to begin in December.

Ken Ratha, spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce, welcomed the initiative and said the training should prompt more production of raw materials here in Cambodia.

“We are losing a lot of value-added to importation of raw materials into the industry. If we can develop garment products locally by using locally made materials, it will increase value-added significantly,” he said.

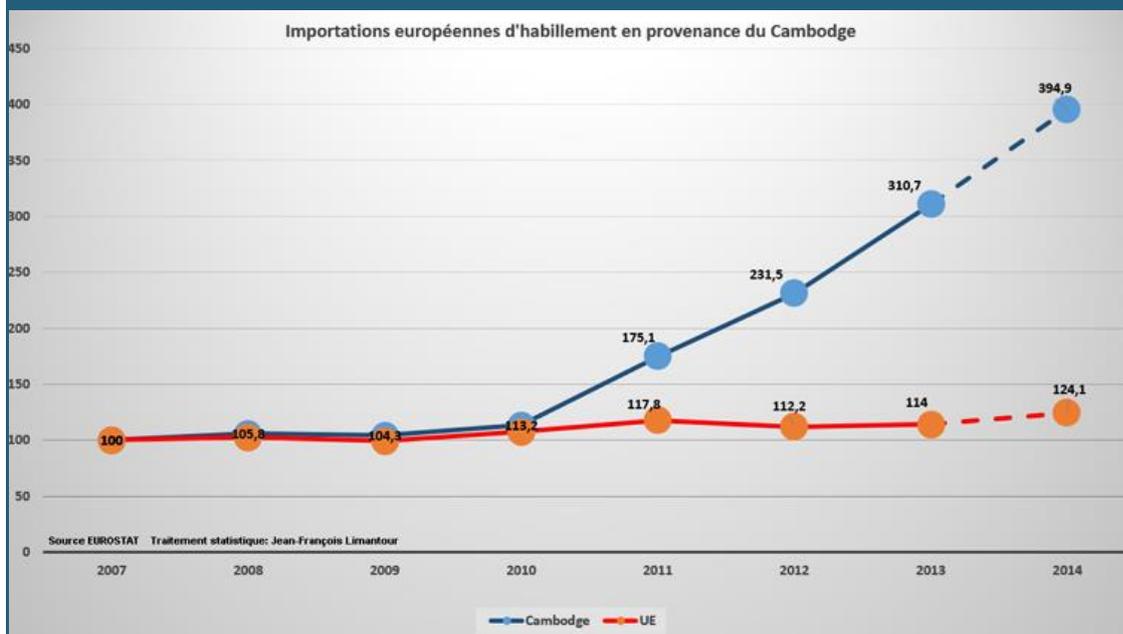
“There will be fabric and colouring factories. And we will be able to see our workers switching from labour intensive to becoming skilled labour,” Ratha added



Très forte progression des exportations d'habillement du Cambodge vers l'U.E !

mardi 11 novembre 2014

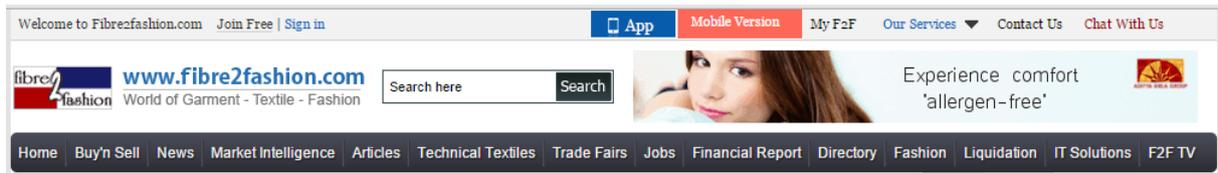
Le Cambodge est le huitième fournisseur d'habillement de l'Union européenne. Depuis 2010, ses exportations connaissent une croissance exceptionnelle de 36,7 % l'an en moyenne ! Dans le même temps, les importations européennes d'habillement de toutes origines n'ont progressé que de + 3,6 % par an, soit dix fois moins vite !



Parmi les principaux fournisseurs d'habillement de l'U.E, le Cambodge est sans conteste le pays dont les exportations progressent le plus rapidement.

L'attractivité du Cambodge repose sur deux principaux facteurs de compétitivité :

- des coûts salariaux relativement faibles. Actuellement, le salaire minimum est de 100 dollars, soit environ 80 euros
- un accès à droits nuls pour ses exportations de vêtements vers l'Europe, quelle que soit l'origine des tissus utilisés ; ceci au titre du régime préférentiel "Tout Sauf les Armes".



Evalliance & GMAC sign MoU to support Cambodian garments

November 06, 2014 (France)



The French textile and garment association (Evalliance) has entered into an agreement with the Garment Manufacturers Association of Cambodia (GMAC) to promote the Cambodian textile and garment industry.

According to the agreement, multi-year project of Euro-Cambodian cooperation in the textile, apparel and fashion industries has been launched with objectives that include increasing the Cambodian clothing exports to the European Union, accelerate the transformation of the competitive sector towards activities with higher added value, allowing companies to become Cambodian joint contractors of Europe, encourage investment and the presence of European firms in Cambodia, and improve the conditions of the textile and clothing sector in Cambodia and correspondingly restore its international image.

With the launch of the Euro-Cambodian program, a permanent meeting place will be built in Phnom Penh for Evalliance, the Cambodian authorities, and various French and European factories established in Cambodia.

According to the program, business development missions will be conducted in Europe and Cambodia, a comprehensive program of vocational training will be developed in Cambodia, and an effective business intelligence system will be implemented. (GK)

Fibre2fashion News Desk - India

China fixes wool import quota at 287,000 tons for 2015

October 07, 2014 (China)



The Ministry of Commerce, Government of China, has fixed wool import quota at 287,000 tons and for wool tops at 80,000 tons for 2015.

China has kept its import quota of wool and wool tops unchanged since 2006, even though the country has become the world's largest wool processor and consumer in recent years.

The Ministry said that the wool and wool tops import quotas would be implemented on a 'first come, first serve' basis.

The Commerce Department has been designated as the authority for issuance of agricultural import quota certificate to qualified applicants. The Department will stop accepting applications when certificates are issued for the fixed import quota, the Ministry said in a statement.

Enterprises that have imported wool or wool tops with import quota licenses in 2014 and have not violated any regulations would be eligible for applying to the Commerce Department for seeking import quota in 2015.

Moreover, newly operational companies with a processing capacity greater than 5,000 tons would also be eligible to apply for the import quota, according to the Ministry.

On receipt of online application, the Commerce Department will notify online about the approval in five working days. (RKS)

Ethiopia - next stop for textile industry?

Swedish clothing retailer H&M wants to set up shop in Ethiopia, since production costs there are cheaper than in the Far East. Other clothing manufacturers are hesitating. Could Ethiopia become the next Bangladesh?



Ethiopia's economy just keeps growing - since 2007 at times with double-digit leaps and bounds. "The Economist" projects that the country will experience annual growth of 7 to 8 percent through 2016.

Ethiopia's government is apparently placing special emphasis on the textile industry - by 2016, the country aims to export more than a billion dollars worth of apparel. Factories established by the likes of H&M are more than welcome.

According to a supplier, the Swedish chain wants to produce more than a million items of clothing per month in the East African nation. A company spokesperson confirmed that test runs have already been ordered from Ethiopian producers.

Cheaper than China

Many producers have in the past relocated production to countries that offered cheap labor, like Bangladesh or China. But in such countries, social standards have risen along with wages - while the world seems to be examining production conditions increasingly critically. So producers have started considering new options for cheap labor.

On the African continent, Morocco and Tunisia are known as clothing production countries, mostly for discount apparel. Other African countries, like Ghana or Kenya, don't play much of a role in the fashion industry, according to GermanFashion, a German industry association.

Ethiopia offers a number of advantages, said Thomas Ballweg, a procurement and technical consultant at GermanFashion. "On the one hand are the lower costs - much lower than in China - with 80 million people living there. And, it's near the sea - and quick to get to Europe via the Suez Canal," Ballweg said.

This could shorten delivery time by a third compared with coming from the Far East. In addition, Ethiopia's climate and that of neighboring countries is well-suited for the cultivation of cotton, Ballweg emphasized. As long as the cotton was of high enough quality, clothing producers could save on expensive import by using local materials.

No new Bangladesh

Apart from H&M, British supermarket chain Tesco and Ireland-based discount textile company Primark also produce in Ethiopia, according to GermanFashion. Observers warn that Ethiopia could become another Bangladesh, with textile factory workers laboring under scandalous conditions. Reports recur of Bengali factories burning down and causing numerous deaths. In April a textile factory collapsed, killing more than a thousand people.



Companies are concerned about their brands' reputation, Kannengiesser thinks

Christoph Kannengiesser of the German-African Business Association told DW he can't imagine such a fate for Ethiopia - even discount apparel companies like H&M or Primark are concerned about their reputation.

"For a company with a brand name that relies on its clientele's approval, it would be a disaster for it to become known that social or environmental standards are not being kept," Kannengiesser said.

He said standards set by the International Labor Organization and World Trade Organization are high enough, adding that that numerous non-governmental organizations and other independent groups monitor production conditions in countries with cheap labor.

Chance for society

Unlike in the electronics industry, workers in the textile industry do not need to be highly qualified, which Kannengiesser pointed out, allows members of lower social classes a working future - a benefit to all of society in the long term.

"The more people who are working - and the more people who are able to feed themselves, pay for health care and education for their children - the better the chances are for the educational level of society to increase," Kannengiesser said. He pointed to such developments in Asia, which were only made possible by investment in the textile industry.



Ethiopia's textile industry has a long tradition - and a great need for modernization

Ethiopia's textile industry goes back to 1939, when the first factories were established during Fascist Italy's occupation of the country. During the Cold War, foreign communists collaborated with Ethiopia's then communist government in the textile sector. Some of those plants are still in service.

But the country's infrastructure is poor: Roads are bad and only 15 percent of the population has electricity.

Drop in the bucket

H&M has said that it does not intend to reduce or close production at locations in Asia. And GermanFashion doesn't think that Ethiopia will develop into a new textile hub - the country's production is far too small relative to global production.

Of the 13 billion euros (\$17.4 billion) made each year from clothing imports to Germany, Ethiopia produces just a fraction of a percent. The value of Ethiopian textile imports to Germany in 2012 was 22 million euros (\$29.4 million), Ballweg said.

"That's just a drop in the bucket and not the huge market some make it out to be," he said.

"We haven't seen that yet."

Ethiopian textile exports are growing: TIDI

October 13, 2014 (Ethiopia)

The earnings from exports of textiles and apparel by Ethiopia have been growing during the implementation of the Government's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), the Textiles Industry Development Institute (TIDI) of Ethiopia has said.



Presenting a report on performance of the Ethiopian textile and clothing industry in the Ethiopian fiscal year 2006 that ended in August 2014, TIDI director general Sileshi Lemma said, the earnings from exports are growing but at a slow pace.

Ethiopia earned US\$ 62.2 million from textile and clothing exports in Ethiopian fiscal year 2003 (2010-11), which increased to \$111 million last fiscal, Mr. Lemma said. However, last fiscal's earnings of \$111 million has been much lower than the \$350 million target set for the year, he added.

For the ongoing fiscal year, TIDI has set a target of \$435 million for textile and garment exports. To achieve the target, TIDI will work towards strengthening capacities of industries and addressing other challenges.

Shortage of raw material is one of the problems faced by the Ethiopian textile and clothing industry. At present, cotton is grown on over 125,000 hectares of land in the country.

To meet the growing demand for cotton, the Government is working towards increasing the land use for cotton cultivation and also on improving cotton production. The Government has also resorted to importing cotton as a short-term measure to address the challenge of scarcity of raw material, Minister of Industry Ahmed Abitew said recently.

Garment, yarn and fabric are the top textile products in terms of export revenue for Ethiopia, while Germany, Turkey and China are the main destinations. (RKS)



Note aux exportateurs vers l'Union européenne Formalités douanières à partir du 1^{er} octobre 2014¹

A partir du 1^{er} octobre 2014, les exportations vers l'Union européenne (EU) originaires du Burundi, des Comores, de Haïti, du Lesotho, du Mozambique, du Rwanda, de Tanzanie, d'Ouganda et de Zambie ne seront plus couvertes par le régime du Règlement d'accès au marché 1528/2007 (RAM) mais par celui du régime « Tout Sauf les Armes » (TSA) du Système des Préférences Généralisées (SPG). Sous le régime TSA, l'Union européenne octroie un accès sans tarif et sans contingent à toutes les exportations originaires des pays les moins avancés (PMA).

Les régimes RAM et TSA offrent tous deux un accès sans tarif et sans contingent au marché européen. La seule conséquence pratique à partir du 1^{er} octobre 2014 sera le changement dans les procédures douanières :

1. Pour bénéficier des préférences tarifaires de l'UE à taux zéro, les produits doivent être accompagnés par un document prouvant leur origine. A partir du 1^{er} octobre 2014, seul le formulaire « Formule A » (Form A) du SPG/TSA pourra être utilisé comme certificat d'origine et non pas le formulaire « EUR1 » utilisé jusqu'à présent sous le régime RAM.
2. Les formulaires « EUR1 » émis avant le 1^{er} octobre 2014 ne seront plus acceptés comme preuve d'origine pour obtenir un traitement préférentiel dans l'UE à partir du 1^{er} octobre 2014. L'exportateur aura la possibilité de demander la délivrance a posteriori du formulaire « Formule A » (Form A) du SPG de façon à bénéficier du tarif préférentiel, sous réserve que les marchandises soient conformes avec les règles d'origine du SPG. Les déclarations sur facture peuvent être utilisées également mais seulement pour des montants inférieurs à 6000 euros.
3. Concernant les règles d'origine, certaines dispositions ou des règles spécifiques aux produits sont différentes sous le régime TSA, comme par exemple celles concernant le cumul de l'origine. En cas de doute, il est conseillé de se référer aux textes de la législation européenne en vigueur. Ces textes sont accessibles aux adresses indiquées ci-dessous.

POUR PLUS D'INFORMATIONS :

EU Export Helpdesk pour les pays en développement :

<http://exporthelp.europa.eu/thdapp/index.htm?newLanguageId=FR>

SPG de l'Union européenne – Règles d'origine :

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/customs_duties/rules_origin/preferential/article_839_fr.htm

¹ Ce document est établi uniquement dans un but d'information et ne peut en aucun cas remplacer ou servir à interpréter les dispositions légales en application. Pour accéder à ces dispositions légales, prière de se référer à la législation européenne appropriée.



UNION EUROPÉENNE

DELEGATION EN REPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI

Le Chef de la Délégation

Port au Prince, le **02 OCT. 2014**
ARES(2014)

Son Excellence
Monsieur Wilson LALEAU
Ministre du Commerce
et de l'Industrie

Objet : Transmission de la "note aux exportateurs vers l'Union européenne – Formalités douanières à partir du 1^{er} octobre 2014

Monsieur le Ministre,

Conformément à la note citée en objet ci-jointe, je tiens à vous informer qu'à partir du 1^{er} Octobre 2014 les exportations vers l'Union européenne originaires d'Haïti ne seront plus couvertes par le régime du règlement d'accès au marché 1528/2007 (RAM) mais par celui du régime "Tous sauf les Armes" (TSA) du système des Préférences Généralisées (SPG).

Dans ce contexte, à partir de cette date les formulaires "EUR1" actuellement utilisés pour la preuve d'origine ne seront plus valables pour obtenir un traitement préférentiel et doivent être remplacés par le formulaire "Formule A" (FORM A) du SPG/TSA.

A cet égard, je vous saurai gré de bien vouloir informer les entreprises concernées afin qu'elles ne rencontrent pas de désagréments à l'entrée de leurs produits sur le marché européen.

Pour plus d'informations les textes législatifs sont accessibles sur les deux sites internet listés dans la note annexée à cette lettre.

Mes services restent disponibles pour vous fournir, le cas échéant, toute information additionnelle qui serait utile.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le Ministre, en l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Javier Niño Pérez
Ambassadeur

P.J: Note aux exportateurs

c.c: M. Marc LAROSE, Directeur du Commerce extérieur, MCI
M. Chenet St Vil, Coordonnateur BACOS
M. Didier Fils-Aimé, Président CCIH



AGOA – Les produits malgaches de nouveau exonérés



07.11.2014 | 9:31

Le secteur textile-habillement devrait renouer avec les performances d'avant 2008. Les exportations malgaches ne seront plus taxées à l'entrée des Etats-Unis.

Un avantage non négligeable. Les conteneurs de produits en provenance de Madagascar qui entrent aux États-Unis ne devront plus désormais payer la taxe douanière fixée à 14 500 dollars par conteneur. Cette disposition sera possible dans le courant de ce mois de novembre selon les déclarations de Eva Razafimandimby, directeur exécutif du Groupement des entreprises franches et partenaires (GEFP). C'était hier, en marge des assises sur le textile-habillement et accessoires qui se sont tenues à la Chambre de commerce et de l'industrie Antaninarenina. Dans quelques jours, un représentant du gouvernement américain sera attendu à Madagascar pour annoncer officiellement l'entrée en vigueur du Visa Appareil pour Madagascar. Il s'agit d'un droit accordé par le gouvernement américain à un pays lui permettant d'importer des matières premières à n'importe quel pays tiers, qui lui permettra d'exporter vers les Etats-Unis des produits textile et des articles d'habillement sans droit de douane et de quota. Les tissus doivent cependant être coupés et cousus à Madagascar.

Réinvestissement

Au début du mois d'octobre, le Conseil des ministres a émis un décret relatif au système de Visa pour les articles textiles et vestimentaires. Il décrit entre autres les responsabilités de chaque département ministériel. « Ce n'est pas tout le monde qui peut signer une autorisation d'exportation. Il faut que tout soit officiel », indique toujours le directeur exécutif. Le retour de Madagascar parmi les pays bénéficiaires de l'Agoa a été annoncé au mois de juin par le Président des Etats-Unis, Barack Obama. De ce fait, les taxes douanières sont levées. Elles

permettront d'effectuer des investissements dans le secteur. « Il y a des entreprises qui peuvent envoyer deux containers par semaine vers les Etats-Unis. Elles doivent payer ces 14 500 dollars de taxe par containers. C'est de l'argent qui entre aux Etats-Unis mais maintenant cette somme va nous revenir et pourra être réinjectée dans le secteur, par exemple par la création d'emploi », poursuit Eva Razafimandimby.

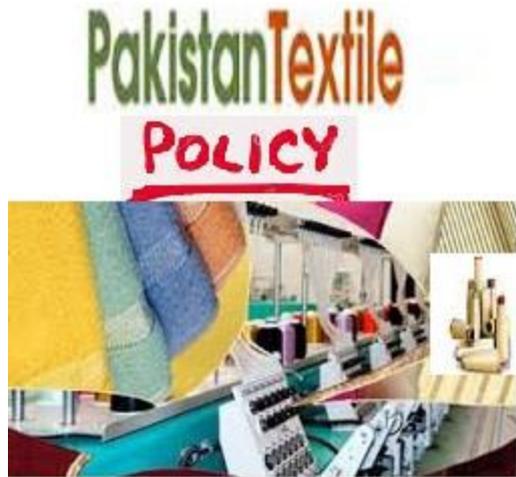
Le renforcement de capacité et la formation professionnelle sont importants pour que la main-d'œuvre soit plus performante et compétitive d'où l'objet des Assises sur le textile. Elles ont porté sur différents secteurs dont le développement rural, le BTP et les ressources stratégiques, le tourisme. Une stratégie nationale de développement des compétences sera par la suite élaborée et devrait être finalisée au début de l'année 2015.

Selon Patricia Djivadjee, directeur de la formation professionnelle continue et du renforcement de capacité auprès du ministère de l'Emploi, de l'enseignement technique et de la formation professionnelle, l'objectif visé par ces assises est de permettre à la main-d'œuvre disponible de répondre aux besoins des entreprises. Pour le secteur textile, la création massive d'emplois demeure une réalité, aujourd'hui les marchés locaux et internationaux sont loin d'être saturés.

Lantoniaina Razafindramiadana

Pakistan exporter disappointed with the delay in approval of the second five year textile policy 2014-19

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 03-11-2014 05:18 - Lahore



Pakistan exporters disappointed with the decision of the Economic Coordination Committee to delay the approval of the second five-year Pakistan textile policy 2014-19 for another couple of weeks, as they were eagerly awaiting cash incentives for their future exports and investments.

The textile policy was originally due in September. The sooner the policy is finalised, the better for the industry and textile exports, as the Heimtextil fair [in Germany] is fast approaching.

According to reports, the ECC had discussed the draft policy in its meeting on Thursday, but Finance Minister Ishaq Dar formed a committee to review it and suggest changes in it by the middle of this month. Now the package will be put before the ECC after November 15 for approval.

The exact details of the incentive package proposed in the policy are not known so far. However, it is expected to target a doubling of textile exports from the current \$13bn to \$26bn in five years. Various cash incentives, credit subsidies and tax exemptions will set the government back by over \$1.25bn.

Around one-third of this amount will be allocated for the outstanding claims filed by manufacturers and exporters for refunds under the previous textile policy for 2009-14, and the remaining amount will be available for initiatives to be undertaken under the new policy.

The industry is expecting priority energy supply, tax-free import of machinery and other equipment, establishment of textile parks to encourage value-addition, creation of an investment support fund and duty drawbacks of up to 3pc on incremental export basis and value-addition.

The draft incentive package isn't much different from that in the preceding textile policy, which was implemented only partially because of unavailability of promised funds .

Ijaz Khokhar, chairman of the Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA), is of the view that Pakistan has failed to take advantage of the trade concessions given by the European Union under the GSP Plus scheme because of lack of support from the government.

The Pakistani policymakers do not realise that government investments in the value-added textile industry are investments in the country's future. Textile is the backbone of Pakistani economy and will always continue to dominate it. The government need to heavily invest in textile infrastructure, human resource training and research for boosting exports of value-added textiles and developing products. Without the help from government, the country cannot take full advantage of the EU trade concessions.

Arshad Aziz, a former Prgmea chairman from Karachi, argued that the country can not increase its exports despite the increased access to the EU market because most value-added textile producers were in 'ICU (intensive care unit)' on account of liquidity crunch, energy shortages, lack of access to cheaper credit and uncertain conditions in the country.

In fact, textile exports have declined by almost 4pc from \$3.56bn to \$3.42bn in the first quarter of this financial year, from a year ago.

According to All Pakistan Textile Mills Association Pakistan lost \$1.2bn in textile export revenue between April and September, mainly on account of energy shortages in Punjab, where three quarters of the industry is located. The export revenue losses could shoot up to \$2.2bn during the current year if uninterrupted gas and electricity are not provided to factories for the rest of the year.

So far, the decline in exports is in single digits, but it will widen soon if the government doesn't help the industry with its problems, warned M.I. Khurram, a leading knitwear exporter and former chairman of the Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers Association.

Khokhar said that Pakistan's rivals are already capturing its share in the world market. If they have raised their export if they had prepared well for GSP Plus. But the government didn't pay attention to prepare and reap the benefits of the trade concessions. They can still recover lost ground, provided the government is ready to do what it must to help the industry.

The textile policy was being awaited because the different incentives could help exporters. Still, the announcement of the package alone will not do the trick. The government will be required to implement the incentives it plans to give the exporters

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Experts urge Pakistan to ban harmful chemicals in textiles

November 12, 2014 (Pakistan)

A strict legislation to stop the use of restricted chemicals and dyes in Pakistan's textile industry should be brought about, said speakers at Pakistan's global textile conference on resource efficiency.

The conference was organized by the Training and Development Centers of the Bavarian Employers' Associations (bfz gGmbH), one of the largest private providers of vocational training in Germany, in collaboration with Pakistani business associations including Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA).

Many textile industry units in different processes make unnecessary use and waste a lot chemicals and dyes which create serious environment and health problems along with adding to the cost of production. Many textile manufacturers use sub-standard and banned chemicals and dyes to sell their finished products at lower prices in local market, said one of the speakers at the conference.

The textile experts attending the forum from Germany, Austria, and Bangladesh emphasized that resource efficiency is a key to cost reduction in the manufacturing industries of Pakistan and crucial for social compliance with the demand of international buyers.

The main session of the conference was on chemical management with keynote speakers Kazy Mohammad Iqbal Hossain from C&A, one of the biggest European retailers, and Dr. Jurgen Hannak, a freelance expert on resource efficiency and environmental management.

Mr. Iqbal Hossain emphasized on increasing requirements and tightening controls of international buyers in respect to chemical management along the textile supply chain. Dr. Jurgen Hannak from Austria explained how manufacturers can approach these challenges and ensure safe usage, storage, and transport plus appropriate disposal of chemicals.

Dr. Bilquis Yasmeen, Senior Consultant at VRI-USA Inc. gave an introduction to productivity enhancement through material efficiency followed by a case study on a six sigma project at AB Mauri Pakistan Ltd.

The team of bfz gGmbH presented services offered by project ESPIRE, started by bfz gGmbH, to support the industry to improve resource efficiency and occupational health and safety.

In Pakistan, bfz gGmbH is collaborating with PHMA, Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA), Towel Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (TMA), Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM), and Pakistan Cloth Merchants Association (PCMA).

ESPIRE is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via Sequa gGmbH. (GK)

First Edition Of Texworld Istanbul Fully Booked

FRANKFURT — November 4, 2014 — Texworld Istanbul, the long-awaited apparel fabrics and accessories fair both in Turkey and surrounding regions, is celebrating its premiere at Istanbul Lütfi Kırdar International Convention and Exhibition Center on 04-06 November 2014. With this fair, Messe Frankfurt, worldwide leader in textile fairs, has expanded its fair portfolio in Turkey. The trade fair is fully booked. 10 countries are represented by 115 exhibitors from China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey.

Texworld Istanbul includes all product groups that are part of Messe Frankfurt's apparel fabric brand events around the world. The exhibitors will present cotton, embroidery and lace, knitted fabrics, wool and wool blends, silk and silky aspects, functional fabrics, linen, prints, design offices, accessories, fibers and yarns and denim. Therefore, the exhibitors at Texworld Istanbul reflect the entire market for apparel fabrics and accessories.

The Pakistan participation will present cotton and functional fabrics whereas the Taiwanese group will showcase blended fabrics, knitted and functional fabrics for leisurewear and sportswear. India, South Korea and Indonesia will display embroidery and lace, silk and silky aspects. Additionally, Turkey, South Korea and Taiwan will offer products for the knitwear sector. In addition, Taiwan, India and Pakistan will also present fibers and yarns in a separate product group area.

"The launch of Texworld Istanbul marks a very exciting point in the development of Messe Frankfurt in Turkey", explains Detlef Braun, Member of the Executive Board of Management of Messe Frankfurt Exhibition GmbH. "In the last ten years, our company has led the path for many Turkish textile professionals to a variety of international markets by offering high-quality fairs all across the globe. Now we are bringing the international fashion fabrics manufacturing base to Turkey."

On the occasion of the official start of Texworld Istanbul, Messe Frankfurt and the Turkish Uludag Textile Exporters' Association (UTIB) will commit themselves to further expand their successful cooperation. "Therefore, Messe Frankfurt and UTIB will sign a Memorandum of Understanding during the fair confirming the importance of our worldwide textile fairs for the Turkish textile and apparel industry," says Braun.

Focus on Turkey, Middle East and the Gulf States, Central Asia, Russia, Eastern Europe and North Africa

Texworld Istanbul will assemble the entire line of professionals and buyers from all fields of the apparel industry: fashion brands, garment manufacturers, private label producers, textile retailers and wholesalers, mail-order companies, large scale retailing, chain stores, department stores, trading companies, agents, designers, buying offices, sales representatives, trend scouts, etc. Pre-fair online registration indicates the big interest from international and Turkish visitors.

Texworld Istanbul is targeting buyers and professional visitors from Turkey and from the surrounding regions, including the Middle East and the Gulf States, Central Asia, Russia, Eastern Europe and North Africa. "Istanbul is a very convenient location for all these countries, with several daily flight connections to all major business centers in those regions. This will add to the dynamic trade environment of Texworld Istanbul, which will be a new meeting point for Asian and global fashion fabrics manufacturers and their buyers from those fast-moving regions", explains Tayfun Yardım, Deputy General Manager, Messe Frankfurt Istanbul.

Istanbul's central location between Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, enhances the importance of Texworld Istanbul. In addition, the easy access in terms of visa requirements from surrounding regions and the potential of unexplored apparel production markets in these regions contribute to the decision to organize a textile fair in Turkey.

Trend Forum and Seminar Program
During Texworld Istanbul, visitors have the opportunity to explore the Trend Forum which has been designed by Texworld's Art Directors Louis Gerin & Gregory Lamaud. The Trend Forum will put on display selected fabrics and accessories from participating exhibitors. Six themes of influence have been disclosed in the "Impulse" trend book: Spontaneous Attraction, Brutal Poetization, Innocent Appropriation, Anonymous Quintessence, Abrupt Veins, dedicated to denim, and Fragmented Relics for accessories. The season's colourways tend towards subtle hues, with subdued vivacity: "latent strength as a source of impulse" emphasises Louis Gérin. Interpreted in 44 shades with poetic names dreamt up by the passionate colourists.

There will be dedicated seminar sessions by Texworld's Art Directors Louis Gerin & Gregory Lamaud as well as Peclers Paris presentations by Alexandre Fleveau & Maguelone Pare-Harroc. Vakko Esmod Istanbul Fashion Academy will give a seminar by Nadia Haouach & Dominique Boillot.

Prominent support for Texworld's first edition in Istanbul Elif Cıgızođlu, one of the most successful and prominent fashion designers in Turkey, has announced her support and excitement for having Texworld in Istanbul after Paris and New York, especially considering the importance of Istanbul in apparel design. "For many years I have visited Texworld in Paris to discover new fabrics which I use in my collection designs. I believe that Texworld Istanbul will contribute a lot for both fashion and textile sectors", states Elif Cıgızođlu.

She is also happy to announce that there will be more joint efforts with Messe Frankfurt Istanbul for the upcoming show in April 2015.



Press release

[VIETNAM](#) Brussels, 29 September 2013

EU and Vietnam complete ninth round of FTA talks

The EU and Vietnam completed the ninth round of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The talks were held in Danang, Vietnam, from 22-26 September.

Both teams made good progress on finding common ground on all outstanding issues and are looking for a swift conclusion to the negotiations.

In this latest round, talks intensified in all areas of the proposed FTA. Four chapters – trade in goods, services, investment, and state owned enterprises – saw particular progress in the technical discussions. Work was almost completed on trade and sustainable development and the chapter on cooperation was closed. The chief negotiators also had intense discussions on all outstanding key areas.

The talks aim at an ambitious and comprehensive agreement on goods, services and investment. In addition to eliminating tariffs and non-tariff barriers, negotiators are tackling other trade-related issues, such as public procurement, regulatory issues, competition, trade and sustainable development, and Geographical Indications. Once in place, the agreement will further strengthen EU-Vietnam trade and investment ties and create more predictable business opportunities on both sides.

The negotiating teams were headed by Helena König, acting Director in the European Commission's Directorate General for Trade and Vietnamese Vice-Minister for Industry and Trade Tran Quoc Khanh.

The chief negotiators will meet again at the beginning of October. Vietnamese Prime Minister Dung is also set to visit Brussels on 13-14 October. He will meet Commission President Barroso to take stock of progress so far and to agree a common approach and timelines for conclusion of the talks.

Background

The EU and Vietnam, one of the 10 members of ASEAN, announced the start of bilateral FTA negotiations in Brussels in June 2012.

The EU and Vietnam have strong trade ties. Vietnam is the EU's fifth largest trading partner within ASEAN (and 30th out of the EU's total trade). In 2013, two-way trade amounted to €27 billion. The EU is one of the largest foreign direct investors, committing €1.37 billion in total.

Vietnam is the third ASEAN country to hold FTA negotiations with the EU after Singapore and Malaysia, and followed by Thailand.

While pursuing a bilateral approach, the EU is not losing sight of the ultimate goal of achieving an agreement with ASEAN as a whole, one of the most dynamic regions in the world. The EU is therefore looking to reach an ambitious agreement with Vietnam that is coherent with other individual FTAs with ASEAN member states.

Figures for EU-Vietnam trade in goods (2013):

- EU exports to Vietnam: €5.8 billion
- EU imports from Vietnam: €21.3 billion
- Total trade in goods: €27.1 billion

EU exports are mainly high tech products including electrical machinery and equipment, aircraft, vehicles, pharmaceutical products and iron and steel. Vietnam's key exports to the EU include telephone sets, electronic products, footwear, textiles and clothing, coffee, rice, fishery products, and furniture.

Last update 07:50 | 02/11/2014

Vietnam may lose competitive advantage of tariffs

VietNamNet Bridge – Preferential tariffs may no longer be a competitive advantage for Vietnamese goods over those from China in the Japanese and South Korean markets after the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement is signed.

The 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are in negotiations with six other countries – China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand – over RCEP, which may be finalized by the end of next year.

Claudio Dordi, technical assistance team leader of the European Trade Policy and Investment Support Project (EU-MUTRAP), told a conference in HCMC last weekend that he did not know the extent to which the 16 parties of RCEP would open their markets as negotiations are ongoing.

However, RCEP can facilitate a flow of goods that may leave negative impact on Vietnamese exporters. China, Japan and South Korea can hardly enter into a free trade agreement (FTA) but this might become a reality following the conclusion of RCEP.

Once RCEP comes into force, domestic companies might grapple with difficulties. Thanks to ASEAN+1 (ASEAN plus Japan) and the Vietnam-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, Vietnamese-made textile products enjoy a preferential tariff in Japan while similar items from China are subject to 15-20% tariffs. Moreover, Japan applies a tariff of 5% to Vietnamese leather-footwear items but 30% to those from China.

When Japan and China ink an agreement on export-import duties within the RCEP framework, Vietnamese goods would certainly lose the competitive advantage of tariffs in Japan. Other underdeveloped countries like Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar will face the same issue.

RCEP, on the other hand, will bring some advantages to Vietnam. Claudio Dordi said based on six agreements within ASEAN+1, goods from ASEAN countries must have a regional content ratio of at least 40% to get preferential tariffs when they are exported to Japan, South Korea and India.

Meanwhile, inputs for Vietnamese-made products are mainly from China; therefore, the three nations do not accord Vietnam low tariffs. If RCEP allows the 16 participating countries (including China) to add input value, Vietnamese goods can enjoy preferential tariffs on the Japanese market.

In addition, as for commitments to services market openness, laborers of the RCEP countries can move freely among the 16 nations, which ASEAN members including Vietnam will have to cope with. Claudio Dordi said the country should be aware of the rule on material origin and the transfer of labor when negotiating RCEP.

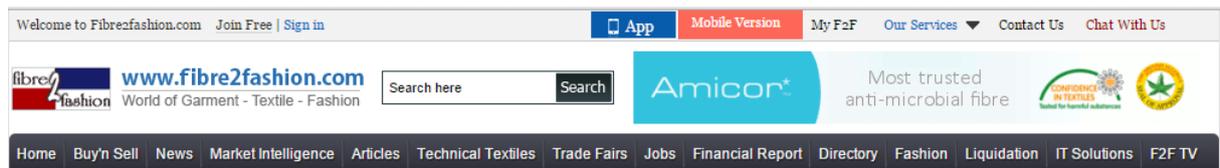
RCEP will be in harmony with agreements and regulations stated in the ASEAN+1 deals in terms of rules on material origin, trade facilitation, removal of trade barriers and decrease of tariffs.

Negotiations on RCEP started last year following the initiatives of China and Japan. Until now, ASEAN and six partner countries have organized five rounds of talks and two ministerial meetings within the framework of the ASEAN economic ministerial meetings in 2013 and 2014.

The participating countries have set up seven working groups and four subcommittees to make recommendations and suggestions and to consult one another in fields under negotiation, especially trade, services and investment.

The 16 parties agree to negotiate seven fields including trade, service, investment, economic cooperation, intellectual property and dispute resolution. They also discuss other issues on the principal of consensus. RCEP has many open regulations, allowing other countries to join even after the conclusion of negotiations.

SGT/VNN



Vietnamese garment sector to improvise production methods

November 11, 2014 (Vietnam)

The garment and textile sector of Vietnam is set to redesign its production methods in order to retain its position as one of the top garment producers in the global market, Vietnam News reported.

Le Tien Truong, the general director of Vietnam Textiles and Garment Group (Vinatex), said that after years of manufacturing processed products, Vietnamese garment enterprises had gained much experience in manufacturing, management, and labor which serves as a foundation for the garment firms to shift to FOB (freight on board) and original design manufacturer (ODM) models.

Vinatex would soon implement the ODM model, which will allow the company to define the chain linkage of dye-textile-garment and improve its business effectiveness index and operations to meet production targets for the domestic and international markets, Le Tien Truong said.

Nguyen Xuan Duong, the chairman of the management board of Hung Yen Garment Corporation Joint Stock Company, said the textiles, garment, and the dyes sectors need to work together in order to implement the ODM model.

However, to work with the ODM model, the garments and textiles sector have to overcome their weaknesses in the areas of product development, marketing and chain linkage, as well as set targets for the sector and draft a material industry development plan, Nguyen said.

Dang Phuong Dung, general secretary of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS), said in spite of a 19 percent year-on-year increase in Vietnamese garment exports, these are still highly dependent on imported materials.

Dang said only 30 percent of fibre produced in Vietnam could be used by the textile industry as much of the fibre quality remains below standard. Vietnam presently meets only one percent of the domestic demand for cotton and 20.2 percent of demand for textiles.

Sectoral participation in the global supply chain is passive as the local garment sector is mainly focused on manufacturing processed products and lacks product model designers. Businesses that produce processed products are also passive in seeking and expanding markets, Dang said.

Ho Thi Kim Thoa, the Deputy Industry and Trade Minister of Vietnam, said the current world trend in garments includes the development of a package supply chain and e-commerce trading, both of which remain a challenge to Vietnam. (GK)

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Vinatex urges garment sector to retain market position

November 04, 2014 (Vietnam)



The garment and textile sector in Vietnam has to work towards maintaining its market position, in order to prevent decline, according to Hoang Ve Dung, the deputy general director of the Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex), the Vietnam News reported.

Dung advised the local garment and textile industry to focus on improving their marketing strategies and boost trade promotion, to maintain existing customers and retain the financial status of the textile sector.

He said that business plans should be strictly aimed at maintaining the textile industry's existing market share. To this end, domestic businesses should become more proactive by participating in public events such as fashion shows and exhibitions.

The Vietnamese garment sector is facing fierce competition from Bangladesh, India and Indonesia, which have more material and labor resources. Local garment and textile businesses have been greatly affected by other nations, especially China, which can lower product prices to attract customers.

But the Vietnamese businesses have already started renovating their methods of production from outsourcing activities to Freight on Board and an Original Design Manufacturers model, which is a step in the right direction, Dung said.

Free trade agreements between Vietnam and the EU and the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, and the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) bring hope for the future of the Vietnamese textile and garment industry. As per the TPP, 90 percent of Vietnamese exports to countries in the TPP will not attract tariffs, which provides attractive opportunities to Vietnamese industry.

These agreements will open up future opportunities for the sector, but first businesses need to focus on improving their competitiveness, Dung said.

Vietnamese garment and textile exports jumped 18.9 percent in the first nine months of 2014 to US\$ 15.5 billion, mainly due to growth in traditional markets such as the US, the EU, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Vinatex raised around VND1.22 trillion or US\$ 58.10 million through an initial public offering (IPO) in September, 2014. Vinatex, which has around 120 subsidiaries, has targeted an export turnover of \$3.6 billion by 2015 and \$5 billion by 2020. (GK)

Vietnam minister says TPP talks nearing completion following Beijing meeting

UPDATED : 11/13/2014 12:18 GMT +



The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) negotiations could be concluded in the near future as world leaders are inching closer to an agreement on the proposed trade pact, Vietnamese Trade Minister Vu Huy Hoang said Wednesday.

The TPP talks were initiated in March 2010 and there

has been some success after nearly five years of negotiating, Hoang told reporters onboard his plane to Hanoi from Beijing, where he attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, running from November 10 to 11.

The leaders of the 12 countries involved in negotiating the trade pact on Monday convened a high-level meeting at the U.S. embassy in Beijing to discuss TPP issues and eventually released a joint statement.

The leaders said they “welcome the significant progress in recent months” that “sets the stage to bring these landmark TPP negotiations to conclusion,” according to the Trans-Pacific Partnership Leaders’ Statement posted on the White House website.

The statement was released by leaders of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam.

“We are encouraged that ministers and negotiators have narrowed the remaining gaps on the legal text of the agreement and that they are intensively engaging to complete ambitious and balanced packages to open our markets to one another,” the document reads.

“With the end coming into focus, we have instructed our ministers and negotiators to make concluding this agreement a top priority so that our businesses, workers, farmers, and consumers can start to reap the real and substantial benefits of the TPP agreement as soon as possible.”

The meeting in Beijing resulted in more positive results than the one in Bali, Indonesia, last year, according to Minister Hoang.

“All of the 12 leaders agreed that this is the crucial time for the TPP talks, and it’s time to have the political determination to settle a deal in the near future,” Hoang said.

The world leaders said in the joint statement that their fundamental direction to their trade ministers throughout the TPP process “has been to negotiate an outcome that will generate the greatest possible benefit for each of our countries.”

“Continued engagement will be critical as our ministers work to resolve the remaining issues in the negotiation,” according to the document.

Also on Monday, the TPP trade ministers made a joint report to their leaders, which said the key remaining challenge to conclude the trade deal is “identifying the pathway to conclusion of ambitious packages of commitments that will open our markets to each other.”

These include packages of commitments for goods, services, investment, financial services, temporary entry of businesspersons, and government procurement, according to the report posted on the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative’s website.

“Ministers made further progress in narrowing the gaps between us on these issues in Beijing, and our discussions will guide the work of our negotiating teams in the weeks ahead,” the document reads.

Rules of origin

Minister Hoang said one of the biggest challenges for Vietnam in the TPP talks is the rules of origin, which the trade ministers’ report said are “critical to facilitating and strengthening production and supply chains” between the TPP countries.

The TPP member countries must ensure that no other nations can take advantage of the trade deal to export goods to the bloc, according to some Vietnamese negotiators.

But Vietnam’s textile, garment, and footwear industries currently rely heavily on raw materials imported from non-TPP countries.

Vietnamese textile and garment businesses face a huge challenge from the “yarn forward rule of origin,” which means that all items in a garment from the yarn stage onward must be made in one of the countries that is party to the TPP agreement, according to the American Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam.

“In simple terms, the ‘yarn forward’ rule means that the benefits of the agreement accrue to regional producers rather than outside players such as China,” the business association said on its website.

But Hoang said there are some “possible solutions” to the issue at the moment.

“The 12 countries have made substantial progress on common rules of origin on the majority of products ... We have set out a plan for concluding the remaining work to complete the rules of origin that support seamless supply chains,” the TPP trade ministers said in the report.