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Asia garment industry faces Africa as emerging competitor

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January

2015

Workers assemble shirts in a garment factory in Hong Kong, China. The country has already lost its appeal as cheap garment producing country with current wages at around $500 a month in major industrial hubs along the country's coast and $250 in the interior.

By Arno Maierbrugger/Gulf Times Correspondent/Bangkok

It was a turbulent year 2014 for Asia's textile industry: Soaring labour wages in China, violent workers' protests in Cambodia and collapsing factories in Bangladesh were just some of the bad news that made it into headlines. The events, however, are pointing at the fact that the entire industry in the Far East seems to be in transition.

China has already lost its appeal as cheap garment producing country – with current wages at around $500 a month in major industrial hubs along the country’s coast and $250 in the interior –, and foreign apparel retailers have turned to factories in Bangladesh and Cambodia in recent years.

Bangladesh’s textile sector has grown to a $25bn industry that employs 4.4mn people, and Cambodia`s grew to $5.5bn with more than 650,000 factory jobs.

But workers in these cheapest garment production countries are increasingly agitating for better pay. Bangladesh last year raised the minimum wage for the country’s garment workers by 77% to $68 a month following serious labour disputes. In Cambodia, the labour ministry in November 2014 set the new monthly minimum wage for the country’s garment workers at $128, up from some $75 a month just a few years back and now almost double than in Bangladesh.

For big global textile brands sourcing from these countries, such as Swedish chain H&M, Spain’s clothing giant Inditex or US-based WalMart, the slightly higher wages are only marginally affecting their business model because labour costs in the global textile retail industry make not more than 2% or 3% of the entire production costs including expenses for marketing, transport, sales, duties and taxes.

Higher wages are mostly just squeezing the profits of local textile production companies.

However, textile retailers already found alternatives to Asia as a production hub. H&M, together with Tesco and Primark, have begun sourcing clothes from Ethiopia, an African country without industrial minimum wages where unskilled garment workers receive$35 to $40 a month, clearly undercutting labour costs in Bangladesh. Foreign textile investors are highly welcomed and benefit from an abundance of cheap labour – with urban unemployment rates close to 20% –, cheap energy and locally produced cotton. In neighbouring Kenya, the textile industry is also expanding. Monthly salaries there are at around $120, but the government is trying to lure manufacturers with generous incentives.

Observers say that East African countries could have the potential to become a serious alternative to East Asia in terms of textile manufacturing. Apart from lower labour costs, it is quicker and cheaper to ship textile products from Africa to the main markets in Europe and the US, rather than from more distant countries in the Far East. African countries also have duty-free access to the US textile market under a special trade agreement signed in 2000. And by utilising and expanding native cotton production, producers could avoid expensive import by using local materials and aggregate the economic value of the industry in the respective countries.

For East Asian nations, the transition lies in a shift to a more value-adding industry.

ILO-BFC and GMAC Working hand-in-hand to Eradicate Child Labour in Cambodia's Garment Industry

Dec 16 2014 — in: Latest News, Media Center, Press Release

International Labour Organization

Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia

Press Release
For Immediate Release
16 December 2014

ILO-BFC and GMAC Working hand-in-hand to Eradicate Child Labour in Cambodia's Garment Industry

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia – The International Labour Organization (ILO) - Better Factories Cambodia and the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC) will sign an agreement aimed at abolishing child labour in Cambodia's garment industry on 18 December 2014 at 3 pm at the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training.

The agreement emphasizes collaboration between GMAC and BFC in the process of identifying and remediating any confirmed cases of child labour. When workers under the age of 15 are identified, they are offered access to suitable vocational training institutes and are paid the equivalent of their average monthly factory pay until they reach 15. GMAC will ensure financial support for age confirmation and remediation costs from its member factories.

International Labour Organization

Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia

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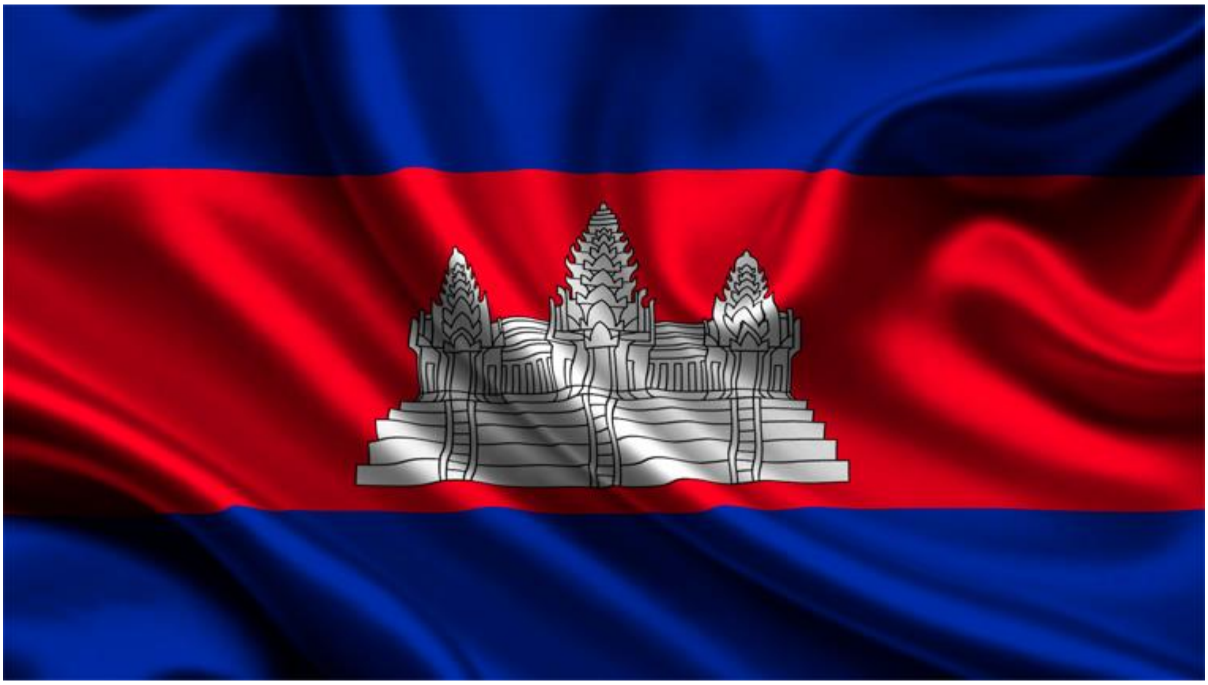
Published on Tuesday, 16 December 2014

Child labour tackled in Cambodia

Written by Tommy Lee



CAMBODIA – The International Labour Organisation's Better Factories Cambodia (BFC) is set to sign an agreement to help identify and resolve confirmed cases of child labour, expected to be completed this week. The BFC's partnership with the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC) will reportedly help offer workers under the age of 15 access to suitable vocational training, and will work to ensure they are paid the equivalent of their average monthly factory pay.

The government has previously committed to combating child labour in Cambodia by aiming to reduce cases from 16.5 per cent (1999) to zero by 2016, but BFC's latest annual synthesis report, released in June, noted that confirmed child labour cases have risen from one per cent in 2012, to four per cent in 2014. The BFC's program manager Jill Tucker, however, states that program monitoring has indicated a decline of cases in the past year.

Van Sou Leng, president, GMAC, said: "This agreement further solidifies our commitment and provides a positive remediation for those underage workers that slip through the crack and are found working in our member factories."

Last month the Cambodian government agreed to raise the minimum wage for garment workers by 28 per cent to US$128, but labour unions – who have protested profusely throughout the year – are said to be stilling campaigning for US$140.

Earlier this year, low wages and poor working conditions in Cambodia's garment factories were put to blame for the hospitalisation of more than a hundred workers and the death of two others, further adding to the pressure from protesters and unions for the government to raise the minimum wage and improve working conditions.

Web: http://betterfactories.org/

Cambodia to soon have National Silk Board

December 22, 2014 (Cambodia)

The National Silk Board (NSB), an industry body that aims to tighten regulations and boost investor confidence in Cambodia's silk industry, is set to open by next year, the Phnom Penh Post reported.

Speaking at a workshop aimed at building networks between raw silk producers and silk product makers, Pheanuroth Sisowath, adviser to the planned NSB, said both investment and export opportunities would increase once a body was established to help coordinate the industry's efforts.

Sisowath said the Cambodian silk industry is considered significant to economic growth and once the NSB is established, there will be a lot of funding to boost the sector.

Policies related to the formation of NSB have been finalized and would be soon submitted to Council Ministers to review, then to the Cambodian Prime Minister to sign off, he said.

According to reports, Cambodia's natural silk industry is on the verge of extinction due to the widespread use of pesticides that have severely damaged the health of silkworms, leading producers to rely on imported synthetic fibres to meet demand.

Men Sinoeun, executive director of Artisan Angkor Cambodia, an organisation that helps support Cambodian handmade products, said the production of golden silk, which is sourced from a silkworm from Cambodia, has decreased from 10 tonnes per year in 2008 to less than 1 tonne per year in 2014.

Meas Sorphorn, deputy director of the National Silk Center, which provides training on silkworm breeding in Siem Reap province, said silkworms living in polluted environments produce poor quality silk, and less of it.

When farmers use pesticides in their fields, the pesticide smell is carried in the wind to silkworm dwellings, making less healthy, he said.

According to Mom Sothoeuth, a silk producer from Banteay Meanchey province, a price increase of golden silk from $60 per kilogram five years ago to $90 per kilogram today, has not provided producers with an incentive to remain in the industry.

With the establishment of the National Silk Board, Cambodian silk market is expected to expand and grow, she said. (GK)

AWP / 02.01.2015 19h30

Coton hebdo: les prix repartent en baisse dans un marché sans grand volume

New York (awp/afp) - Les cours du coton ont perdu du terrain cette semaine, dans un marché aux faibles volumes en l'absence de nombreux courtiers, et sont repartis dans une fourchette de prix qu'ils peinent à quitter depuis début novembre.

Le rebond des cours au-delà des 61 cents observé la semaine dernière aura été de courte durée.

Des craintes sur la mise à disposition sur le marché de réserves de fibre blanche en Inde "ont annihilé toute velléité du marché de partir en hausse et ont notamment provoqué une forte baisse des prix ce jour-là", ont relevé les experts de la maison britannique Plexus Cotton.

En conséquence, les cours sont "retombés dans cette fourchette de prix comprise entre 58 et 61 cents de laquelle ils essaient d'échapper" depuis début novembre, ont souligné les analystes.

Autre facteur baissier, le dollar a poursuivi son avancée par rapport à un panier de grandes devises mondiales, rendant les matières premières moins attractives.

Pour que les conditions d'un rebond de long terme des prix du coton soient réunies, "il est plutôt de bon augure de commencer l'année sur un marché plutôt baissier à l'approche de la saison des semis", ont analysé les experts de Plexus.

En effet, des prix bas décourageraient les producteurs à planter de la fibre blanche pour choisir d'autres cultures plus rentables, ce qui pourrait "entraîner une réduction importante de la production au cours de la campagne prochaine" et apaiser la situation de surplus prévue cette année, ont-ils avancé.

La semaine, écourtée en raison de la fermeture des marchés financiers jeudi pour le Nouvel An, a été par ailleurs marquée par une plus grande volatilité et par des volumes généralement bas.

La livre de coton pour livraison en mars, le contrat actuellement le plus échangé sur l'InterContinentalExchange (ICE), cotait 60,37 cents vendredi en cours de séance contre 61,78 cents en fin de semaine dernière.

L'indice Cotlook A, moyenne quotidienne des cinq prix du coton les plus faibles sur le marché physique dans les ports d'Orient, valait 68,55 dollars les 100 livres contre 69,95 dollars vendredi dernier.

DAILY NEWS EGYPT
Egypt's Only Daily Independent Newspaper In English

Government decides on support for textile workers, adopts industry as national project

Mohamed Ayyad / December 30, 2014

Prime minister appoints ministers of industry and agriculture and Egyptian Chamber of Textile Industries to agree on cotton cultivation policy

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Important decisions were made to develop the textile industry, Prime Minister Ibrahim Mehleb said (DNE File Photo)

Prime Minister Ibrahim Mehleb said the government has decided to give full support to textile workers to revive the industry, adding that important decisions were made to develop the industry.

Daily News Egypt received a statement of Mehleb's meeting on Tuesday discussing the issues of the textile industry, while creating a map for its development. The meeting was held in the presence of the Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Mounir Fakhry Abdel Nour, the chairman of the Cotton and Textile Industries Holding Company, chairman of the Egyptian Chamber of Textile Industries, and chairman of General Union of Textile Workers.

Mehleb demanded that two urgent meetings be set, the first including the ministers of industry and agriculture and officials of the Egyptian Chamber of Textile Industries. In this meeting, they will agree on a policy for cotton cultivation. The second meeting will decide on a road map to develop the textile industry into a national project. This followed a conference that was held earlier this week, in which these recommendations were added.

The textile industry is going through several crises, including the absence of a clear policy to cultivate cotton and the low liquidity in factories. There are also issues faced from customs smuggling, which is a threat to the local industry. The government is exerting efforts to improve the industry and lower the rate of losses in its treasury.

In the opening of a Sunday conference on “a roadmap to save the textile industry”, Minister of Manpower Nahed Al-Ashry confirmed the importance of solving the textile industry’s issues in order to maintain it.

Al-Ashry said Mehleb has formed a committee of several ministers to discuss the industry’s problems.

According to Minister of Finance Ashraf Salman, the government is currently conducting consultations with consultants specialised in this industry, to develop an investment plan timetable.

The return on investment will be the basis for commencing the technical restructuring of companies.

It is expected, according to the investment minister’s recent remarks, that the study will be completed in early 2015. It is aimed to improve the situation of companies and to face the losses that hinder their growth, providing new plans for the industry’s development.

A source from the Holding Company for Spinning and Weaving, affiliated to the Ministry of Investment and followed by more than 20 subsidiaries, said that managing the company’s urgent obligations is the most important undertaking. These include wages and salaries, annual bonuses and the provision of raw materials. The source added that these are its most important obligations towards its subsidiaries to increase productivity, improve quality, develop sales, reduce the deficit and assure the continuation of the production process all production sites.

3 Egyptian conditions for developmental projects to be implemented by China

Daily News Egypt / December 23, 2014 /

Real figures for China's imports to Egypt not less than $22bn

By Shaimaa Elise

President Abdel Fattah Al -Sisi has placed special focus during his visit to China to talk about infrastructure projects, according to Egyptian-Chinese Business Council (ECBC) member Sherif Al-Gably.

Al-Gably added that particular emphasis was placed on the pursuit of Egypt for investments in infrastructure, energy, railways and ports development. He added that a range of Chinese and Egyptian companies participated in a meeting on Tuesday.

"Al-Sisi put the most important Egyptian conditions and criteria in the projects to be implemented by China in Egypt, which is represented in three conditions: implantation at a reasonable cost, the least possible time and the best quality," added Al-Gably.

Al-Gably declared that the number of agreements will be decided on Wednesday, but could be over 20 investment agreement to serve development projects in Egypt.

"President Al-Sisi did not mention obstacles or hindrances on Egyptian exports to the Chinese market, because Egyptian exports to China are very small, but the focus is on how to take advantage of the tremendous technological power of China," revealed Al-Gably.

Economic expert and director of the Center for Economic Studies Salah Goda said Egypt is heading for China because of global trends leaning towards Chinese influence. He expects that at the beginning of 2025, China will be the foremost country in the world economically, followed by India, rather than the US.

Goda said Egypt has not taken advantage of its relationship with the US since the 1970s. He added that economic cooperation with the US has yet to produce great economic development.

He revealed that Chinese imports to Egypt are not less than $22bn, due to contraband passing through customs ports.

"China can help Egypt in several areas, especially in textile industry, where China has a comparative advantage in this area," said Goda.

The trade exchange between Egypt and China during the period between January and September 2014 reached approximately $8.5bn, an increase of 16% compared to 2013.

Chinese investments in Egypt this year amounted to approximately $468.5m, with the number of Chinese companies operating in Egypt listed at around 1,198.

These companies are concentrated mostly in the industrial sector and financing services, according to the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI).

Egyptian exports to China amounted to $922m and Chinese exports to Egypt amounted to $7.6bn, bringing the balance of trade deficit between the two countries to $6.7bn.

Egyptian exports witnessed a marked decline during the first nine months of 2014 due to the decrease in petroleum exports prices by 46%. This was in addition to the decline in non-oil exports by 22%. Egyptian imports from China have achieved a significant increase during this period, having recorded about $7.6bn, an increase of 31% compared to the same period last year.

The main Egyptian exports to China are petroleum products, marble, granite, iron ore and citrus, while the main Chinese exports to Egypt include garments, mobile phones and other products.

Le fabricant de textiles connectés Cityzen Sciences va lever 100 millions d'euros

par Vivien Guyot - déc 30, 2014

L'entreprise française Cityzen Sciences créée en 2008, spécialisée dans la conception de textiles connectés, va lever 100 millions d'euros début 2015.

Sur le marché de l'***Internet des Objets*** les frenchy connectés ont la côte, après la levée de fonds deSigfox au début du mois, les investisseurs internationaux s'intéressent de près à la fibre textile intelligente du projet Smart Sensing de **Cityzen Sciences**, présente dans le D-Shirt. La société française vient de signer un partenariat avec l'équipementier **Asics**, et s'apprête à contracter avec une autre marque japonaise.

La technologie du français Cityzen Sciences intègre au sein du tissu, des capteurs pour **mesurer l'activité**, le **rythme cardiaque**, la **fréquence respiratoire**, la **posture**… le ***wearable computing*** prend ainsi tout son sens, plus de bracelets connectés ou autre moniteur de fréquence cardiaque, simplement des vêtements intelligents, prêts à porter et lavables en machine.

Citizen Sciences ne se contente pas de produire de la fibre textile connectée, avec **Citizen Data**, le français se positionne en tant que plateforme « ***Big Data*** » pour le traitement des données issues des **capteurs biométriques**. De cette manière, la société peut proposer un service complet : hardware et software pour une expérience complète et personnalisée.

La technologie Smart Sensing peut s'intégrer dans différents usages :

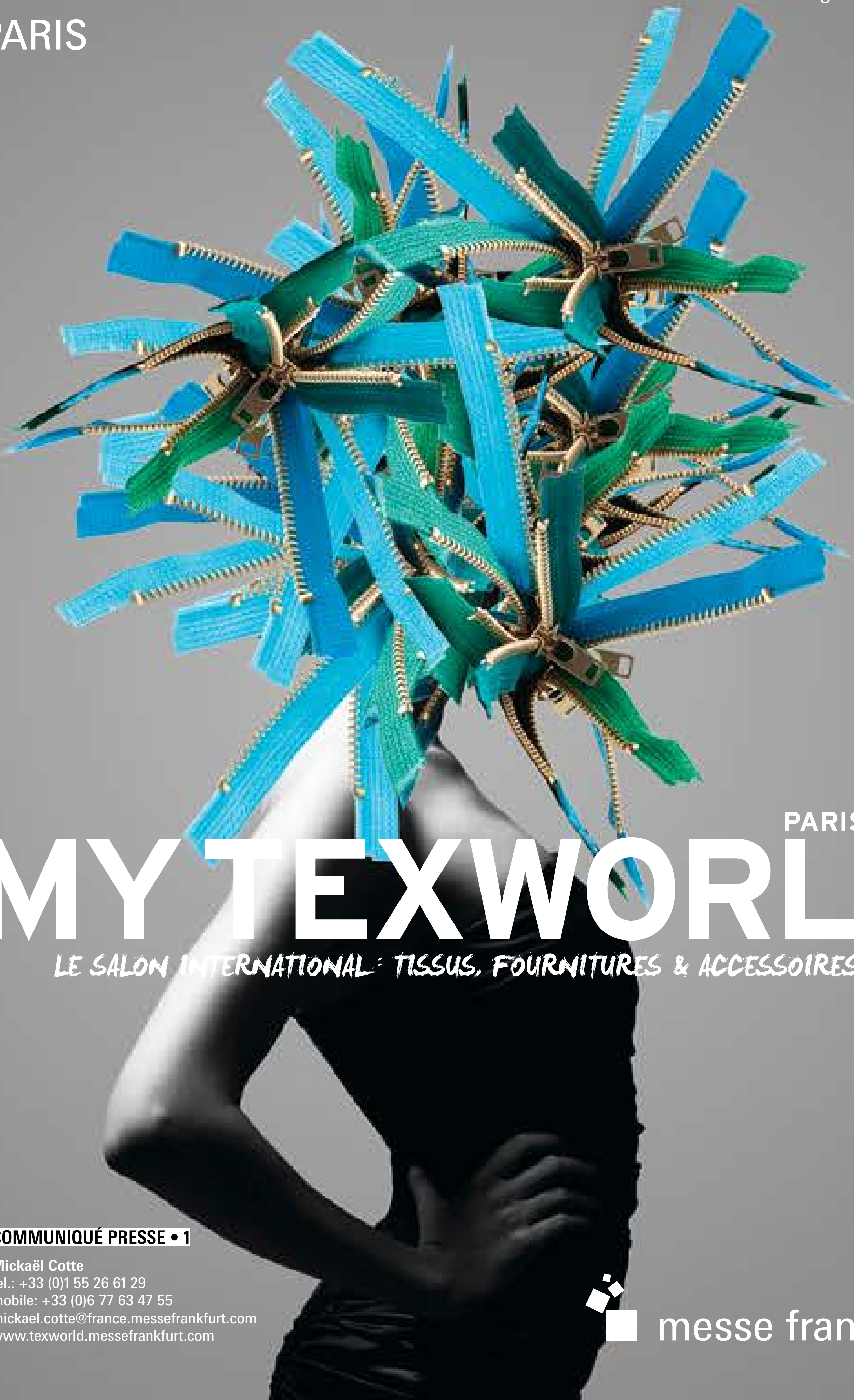
- Dans le domaine **sportif**, les athlètes peuvent monitorer leurs séances sportives afin d'améliorer leurs performances.
- Dans le secteur de la **santé**, les médecins peuvent surveiller à distance leurs patients et être alertés en cas de problème. Un outil particulièrement adapté pour le suivi de patients atteints de maladies chroniques.
- Les équipes de Cityzen Sciences travaillent même à l'intégration de leur textile connecté dans les **sièges de pilote d'avion** pour suivre leurs fonctions vitales en plein vol. Il n'y a qu'un pas pour l'appliquer au **secteur automobile**.

L'autonomie, encore un défi à relever :

Pour l'instant, le D-Shirt fonctionne avec un petit boîtier amovible rechargeable, chargé de collecter et de transférer les données sans fil au smartphone de l'utilisateur. Selon Le Figaro, Citizen Sciences travaillerait déjà avec des entreprises partenaires à la conception de capteurs autonomes, en mesure de convertir les mouvements et la chaleur du corps en énergie.

TEXWORLD
PARIS

Lundi - Jeudi
9-12 février 2015
Paris Le Bourget, France



PARIS
MY TEXWORLD
LE SALON INTERNATIONAL : TISSUS, FOURNITURES & ACCESSOIRES

COMMUNIQUÉ PRESSE • 1

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Taux d'inscription exceptionnel pour l'édition de février 2015

Texprocil, fédération des cotonniers indiens, renforce sa présence sur le salon

Saison d'été riche en découvertes

La prochaine édition de Texworld qui aura lieu du lundi 09 au jeudi 12 février 2015 enregistre un taux d'inscription exceptionnel ! Les exposants venant des principaux pays producteurs de textiles, la Chine, la Corée du Sud, l'Inde, la Turquie, le Pakistan, renforcent leur intérêt pour le marché européen dont la demande reste une des plus fortes avec celle des Etats-Unis.

«Nous nous réjouissons de cette excellente performance. Le contexte de la filière textile et mode est plus favorable et incite les tisseurs à participer à Texworld Paris. Notre comité de sélection se félicité du grand nombre de demandes reçues, des propositions de plus en plus qualitatives.» déclare Michael Scherpe, Président de Messe Frankfurt.

De nombreuses sociétés, tous secteurs confondus, ont confirmé leur participation dès la fin du salon, en septembre dernier. Avec les dernières confirmations en cours et les nouvelles sociétés choisies par le comité de sélection du salon, celui-ci affichera complet très prochainement.

TEXPROCIL, FÉDÉRATION DES COTONNIERS INDIENS, RENFORCE SA PRÉSENCE SUR LE SALON

Le coton est la matière la plus demandée à Texworld. Un secteur du salon toujours en développement qui accueillera Texprocil, The Cotton Textiles Exports Promotion Council, avec près de 35 exposants. Celle-ci assure la promotion des cotonniers indiens, mais aide également les soyeux, les dentelliers et les brodeurs pour venir exposer à Texworld.

LE SALON INTERNATIONAL: TISSUS, FOURNITURES & ACCESSOIRES

LE SALON INTERNATIONAL : TISSUS, FOURNITURES & ACCESSOIRES

Texprocil participe habituellement aux éditions d'hiver de septembre. En étant présente à l'édition d'été de février prochain, elle renforce ses actions pour gagner plus de parts de marché en Europe. Toutes les sociétés exportent déjà une belle partie de leur production principalement en Europe et aux Etats-Unis.

Les cotonniers indiens sont reconnus et appréciés par les acheteurs européens pour la qualité et la variété de leur offre pour l'Homme/Femme/Enfant : coton bio, Better Cotton Initiative, cotons imprimés, voiles de coton, le denim, les toiles pour le shirting et pour les pièces du bas.

Avec une production estimée 6,74 millions* de tonnes métriques, l'Inde, actuellement deuxième pays producteur de coton dépassera la Chine et prendra la première place l'année prochaine selon le Cotton Association of India.

*Bloomberg.com du 20 août 2014

EDITION D'ÉTÉ RICHE EN DÉCOUVERTES

La jeune création internationale sera au rendez-vous de février prochain ! Texworld accueillera notamment le Frankfurt Style Award. Ce concours, bien connu dans les pays germanophones, promeut la jeune création depuis 2007. Il a acquis une dimension internationale grâce à l'appui des acteurs de la filière textile&mode dont S.Oliver, des sociétés comme l'Aéroport de Francfort et des médias.

Style pointu, éclectique, contemporain et responsable par des créateurs issus d'universités, d'écoles de mode et de design internationales. Dans l'attente de ce rendez-vous, nous vous invitons à (re)voir et diffuser les défilés des créateurs qui ont marqué le salon de septembre dernier.

Lien à copier :
http://fr.messefrankfurt.com/paris/en/media/textile-technologies/press-texworld/Video.html

Pour la diffusion, cliquez sur le bouton « Share ».

La prochaine édition de Texworld aura lieu du lundi 9 au jeudi 12 février 2015 à Paris Le Bourget.

Toutes les informations sur les salons textiles organisés par Messe Frankfurt dans le monde sont disponibles sur: www.texpertise-network.com

Messe Frankfurt en chiffres
Avec un chiffre d'affaires d'environ 543* millions d'euros et une équipe de 2026* employés, Messe Frankfurt s'inscrit parmi les premiers organisateurs de salons professionnels à l'échelle mondiale. Le groupe possède un réseau de 28 filiales et environ 50 partenaires de distribution internationaux. Messe Frankfurt est ainsi présent au service de ses clients dans plus de 150 pays. Plus de 30 sites dans le monde accueillent des manifestations « made by Messe Frankfurt ». Messe Frankfurt a organisé 114* salons en 2013, dont plus de la moitié à l'étranger.
Le parc des expositions de Messe Frankfurt avec 578 000 mètres carrés de surface, comporte actuellement dix halles et un centre de congrès. L'entreprise est détenue à 60 pour cent par la ville de Francfort et à 40 pour cent par le Land de Hesse.
Pour plus d'informations : www.messefrankfurt.com
* Chiffres provisoires (2013)

Le salon international: tissus, fournitures & accessoires

COIMBATORE, DEC 23:
Textile industry in Tamil Nadu looks to move up in the value chain for which it has the potential and looks upon the Centre to take the necessary steps in this regard, according to D Prabhu, Secretary, Texpreneurs Forum, Coimbatore.

He felt that the troubles that Russia was witnessing are temporary and it offered a huge market for the Indian textile sector.

Speaking to newsmen in Coimbatore on Tuesday ahead of the programme on `Make in India-textile industry-opportunities & challenges' being organised by a group of textile associations in Western Tamil Nadu here on Saturday, he said the spinning mills in the state accounted for consumption of 30 per cent of the cotton produced in the whole country.

Their share of yarn exports was nearly 60 per cent. The industry in the State accounts for exports of textile goods worth ₹75,000 crore a year. The value-added garments' export was worth ₹30,000 crore.

He said despite its achievements, the industry has also been facing several headwinds in the past four or five years like the unprecedented fluctuation in cotton prices and competition from countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Vietnam in garment export. There were also opportunities galore with economic boom leading to market expansion in India. The different segments in the entire textile value chain-from spinning to knitting, dyeing, weaving etc engaged professional experts to study issues concerning the sector that threw up three important issues.

It was at that time the Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced his 'Make in India' programme to make the country a global manufacturing destination and take the contribution of manufacturing sector to the country's GDP from ~15 per cent to 25 per cent. A presentation of the study will be made at the seminar which would be attended by Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Commerce & Industry and Pon. Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, he said.

Prabhu, explaining the three key issues that impacted the textile sector, said bilateral trade agreements between countries had an impact on the industry. For instance, Pakistan enjoyed a duty-free status for its textile exports to the European Union, a luxury that was not available to India. The four agreements that required government attention were India-Bangla agreement (South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA), India-Latin America, India-EU and India-Russia agreements. While the industry wants the India-Bangla agreement to be tweaked a bit, Indo-Russia agreement was yet to be finalised.

He said the industry wants textiles to be included in the India-Latin America trade agreement. Though Indian textile industry has a sizeable share of EU market, it was facing threat from competing countries that enjoy preferred duty treatment. The industry also wants to highlight the need to keep the manufacturing cost under check to remain competitive in the global arena. He cited the case of countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh which were nibbling at India's market share as their manufacturing cost was lesser than in India. It would also impress upon the Centre with its response to certain policies that were under the consideration of the Centre before they were finalised.

Asked whether the current moment was appropriate to ink a trade deal with Russia when its currency rouble was tumbling due to falling oil prices and due its stand off with the West over Ukraine, Prabhu felt that it was time for the industry to find newer markets for its goods rather than depend only on the US and EU. He said Russia was importing annually ₹80,000 crore worth of textiles of which India's share was `very negligible'. Russia was a big consumption market and he felt that its problems would ease over a period of time.

He said barring clusters like Karur and Tirupur, others in Tamil Nadu in the textile sector were lower on the value chain because of which their margins were very thin. Unless the manufacturers in this sector moved closer to the customers by adding value to their products, they would not be able to bear the relentless cost increase. Hence the aim of the industry participants was to move up the chain to be at the top end of the value chain (garment production). There were certain weak links like processing which they want the GoI to address so that the industry could reach its full potential. He said the textile ministry was `endorsing our view' and had already discussed issues with the Union Textile Minister and Textile Secretary.

The seven associations that are participating in the programme are Tamil Nadu Spinning Mills Association, South India Hosiery Manufacturers Association, Karur Exporters Association, Erode Textile and Garments Exporters Association, Tamil Nadu Autolooms Cloth Manufacturers Association, Texpreneurs Forum and Andhra Pradesh Spinning Mills Association.

(This article was published on December 23, 2014)

India expects to consolidate its position in textile sector over the coming years

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 2014-12-28 11:00:00 - New Delhi

The Indian textile industry plays an important role of the largest contributing sectors in the country's exports by contributing nearly 13.25% to the country's total exports basket with exports to the tune of $41.57 billion (about Rs. 2,65,100 crore) in FY2013-14.

Of which the Ready Made Garments (RMG) contributes to a lion's share of global trade with a chunk of 55% in the total exports. India is ranked sixth with exports to the tune of $16 billion, which is around 40% of the country's textiles exports.

This year, India jumped up two places over Germany and Italy to occupy the stage at number two position, next to China, in textile exports. The textile industry has two broad segments, namely handloom, handicrafts, sericulture, powerlooms in the unorganized sector and spinning, apparel, garmenting, made-ups in the organized sector.

The last year had witnessed a slackening of this activity, but the process was revived with the Centre coming out with a slew of schemes and incentives to further strengthen the industry. Apart from the Rs.520 crore allocated for setting up of 13 new Integrated Textile Parks (ITPs), the government has decided to extend duty free entitlement to garment exporters for import of trimmings, embellishments and other specified items increased from 3% to 5%.

According to Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Textiles Minister, this initiative is expected to generate an additional RMG exports estimated at Rs.10,000 Crore.

However, despite contributing to a considerable amount of the exports from India, the textile segment is yet to be tapped to its total inherent potential, particularly in the handloom sector. There has been no dearth of initiatives from the part of the governments over the years to give momentum to the growth of this sector by setting up Integrated Textile Parks (ITPs) in various sub-segments of the industry.

Another significant decision taken by the government this year was the dropping of the proposal for imposing duty on branded items thus providing relief to the entire value chain. The government has decided to extend 24/7 customs clearance facility at 13 airports and 14 sea ports resulting in faster clearance of import and export cargo.

According to the Textiles Ministry, the plan to set up the new ITP's is estimated to bring in private sector investment of about Rs.3,240 crores into the sector and generate direct employment for about 35,000 persons over the next three years.

In addition, a fresh advertisement would be issued calling for proposals for more ITPs for utilization of the balance provision during the 12th plan period. Proposals are also on the anvil to synergize handloom, handicraft with tourism has been worked out in consultation with Ministry of Tourism.

The plan envisages traditional handloom weavers/handicraft artisans' villages for development as "Adarsh Gram" as tourists destinations. In addition to this, setting up of Trade Facilitation Centre and Craft Museum in India's silk hub, Varanasi, to facilitate weavers, artisans and entrepreneurs to boost their marketing activities in domestic as well as international markets.

According to the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, India contributes about 11% to industrial production, 17% to the manufacturing sector, and, 2% to the GDP, and is the second largest employment provider after agriculture.

The fundamental strength of this industry flows from its strong production base of wide range of fibres/yarns from natural fibres like cotton, jute, silk and wool to synthetic/man-made fibres like polyester, viscose, nylon and acrylic. India has the potential to increase its textile and apparel share in the world trade from the current level of 4.5% to 8% and reach $80 billion (about Rs.5,10,000 crore) by 2020.

The report of the Working Group constituted by the Planning Commission on boosting India’s manufacturing exports during 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17), envisages India’s exports of textiles and clothing at Rs.3,86,814 crores by the end of March, 2017. In the global exports market of clothing, India is ranked the fifth largest exporter, trailing Bangladesh, Hong Kong, EU and China.

Apparel exports from India is expected to increase to $82 billion (about Rs.5,23,000 crore) by 2021 from $31 billion (about Rs.2,00,000 crore) in 2011. Total cloth production in India is expected to grow to 112 billion square meters by FY17 from 62 billion square meters in FY11.

Some more amazing textures of India’s Textile Industry. India is the second largest exporter of textiles, next only to China. India is second largest cotton and cellulosic fibers producing country in the world, second largest producer of silk and contributes about 18% to the total world raw silk production, the largest producer and second largest exporter of the jute goods.

India also has the 3rd largest sheep population in the world, having 6.15 crores sheep, producing 45 million kg of raw wool, and accounting for 3.1% of total world wool production. India ranks 6th among clean wool producer countries and 9th amongst greasy wool producers and ranks fourth in the world in the synthetic fibres/yarn segment.

India is expected to consolidate its position in the coming years. According to the Ministry of Textiles, the domestic textile and apparel industry in India is estimated to touch $141 billion (about Rs.9,00,000 crore) by 2021 from $58 billion (about Rs.3,67,000 crore) in 2011.

The Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA), Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL), Indian Cotton Federation (ICF), South India Spinners Association (SISPA) and other stake holders has submitted a joint memorandum to Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce & Industry urging for a cut in duties to revive the industry.

They has also stated in the memorandum that for 'Make in India' to succeed in the textile sector, the government needs to ensure that raw material costs, costs of converting raw material to finished goods as well as the tariff should be less than or equal to international prices.

Industry also asked for removal of import duty, the special additional duty, reduction in the central excise duty from 12% to 6% and removal of the anti-dumping duty so that the industry and products become globally competitive.

Made-in-India products are expensive by 20-25% due to the high fiscal levies on man-made fibres and also the pricing policies of the few fibre manufacturers in India.

The growth rate in textiles and clothing is very low mainly because they are not able to make significant progress on the synthetic fibre front.

Mills operate with low return on investments and whenever the market improves and ROI improves, capacity addition happens quickly and once again it becomes stagnant due to short sighted policies.

The non-refund of TUF subsidies of projects worth around Rs 65,000 crore has impacted operations, with the government stopping to extend benefits during June 29, 2010 to April 2011; due to which it has created problems for the industry. They added that the textile ministry was surrendering huge funds to the government even though it was failing to meet TUFS requirements.

India exports over 30% of its total production. The country's share in the global market during January to December 2013 for cotton yarn was 32.92% (China 18.54%), cotton fabric was 3.53% (China – 44.02%), cotton made-ups was 11.25% (China – 37%) and garment was 3.86% (China – 44%). The market share in man-made fibre and its blended textile segments is very low.

According to the textile industry cut in duties would help them to improve global market share in MMF and its blended textile segments.

This article was published on December 27, 2014

ANOTHER PROMISING YEAR AWAITS INDIA'S TEXTILES EXPORTS

India is a leader in the exports of Ready Made Garments (RMG), accounting for around 55% of total global exports

A craftsman uses a handloom to produce rugs in Jodhpur, India

Indian history and tradition is woven around the sheer artistry, and pure genius that goes into the creation of intricate and intrinsic cloth patterns conceived by thousands of weavers across the length and breadth of the country.
From the mesmerising valleys of Kashmir to the serene shores of Kanyakumari, and, from the dusty and dry habitats on the Deserts of Rajasthan to the freezing terrain of the Himalayan region, India is linked, and, interlinked by a common thread of omnipresent tradition. Many villages and towns across the country reverberate with the pervasive rhythm of looms weaving out exquisite ensemble of textiles.
The textile industry is one of the largest contributing sectors of India's exports contributing nearly 13.25% of the country's total exports basket with exports to the tune of $41.57 billion (about Rs. 2,65,100 crore) in FY2013-14.

This year, India jumped up two places over Germany and Italy to occupy the podium at number two position, next to China, in textile exports. The textile industry has two broad segments, namely handloom, handicrafts, sericulture, powerlooms in the unorganised sector and spinning, apparel, garmenting, made-ups in the organised sector.

However, despite contributing to a considerable chunk of the exports from India, the textile segment is yet to be tapped to its total inherent potential, particularly in the handloom sector. There have been no dearth of initiatives from the part of the governments over the years to give impetus to the growth of this sector by setting up Integrated Textile Parks (ITPs) in various sub-segments of the industry.

The last year had witnessed a slackening of this activity, but the process was revived with the Centre coming out with a slew of schemes and incentives to further invigorate the industry. Apart from the Rs.520 crore allocated for setting up of 13 new Integrated Textile Parks (ITPs), the government has decided to extend duty free entitlement to garment exporters for import of trimmings, embellishments and other specified items increased from 3% to 5%. According to Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Textiles Minister, “This initiative is expected to generate an additional RMG exports estimated at Rs.10,000 Crore.”

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In addition, a fresh advertisement would be issued calling for proposals for more ITPs for utilisation of the balance provision during the 12th plan period. Proposals are also on the anvil to synergise handloom, handicraft with tourism has been worked out in consultation with Ministry of Tourism, said the Textiles Ministry.

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India is also expected to consolidate its position in the coming years. According to the Ministry of Textiles, the domestic textile and apparel industry in India is estimated to reach $141 billion (about Rs.9,00,000 crore) by 2021 from $58 billion (about Rs.3,67,000 crore) in 2011. Apparel exports from India is expected to increase to $82 billion (about Rs.5,23,000 crore) by 2021 from $31 billion (about Rs.2,00,000 crore) in 2011. Total cloth production in India is expected to grow to 112 billion square meters by FY17 from 62 billion square meters in FY11.

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The textile sector can look into the future with increasing optimism, going by the forecast presented by USDA and International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC). World consumption is forecast to rise by 2%, to just under 24,000,000 tonnes, with an anticipation that 2014-15 will be the fifth consecutive season to show a rise in world stocks.

Dec 24 2014 11:11AM

APTMA urges government to impose safeguard measures on yarn import from India

All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) has approached the Ministry of Textile Industry to take consequent and reciprocal measures by providing level playing field to compete with the international market place and immediately impose safeguard measures on import of Indian yarn into Pakistani commerce to stop the attrition of competitiveness of domestic textile industry.

As, India is the biggest competitor of Pakistan in the international textile arena and it is a matter of grave concern that Pakistani export markets are being slowly taken over by aggressive Indian marketing; during last one year, the Pakistani Rupee has appreciated and the differential between Pak and Indian Rupee has dropped from Rs 44.92 to current value of Rs 36.89 thus appreciating by Rs 8.03 (18 percent).

The impact of appreciation has been further aggravated by massive subsidies given by Indian Government to its export industry in the form of export subsidy @ 3% of export value, 5% relief in interest payment on capital expenditure, subsidy of Rs 1 on electricity tariff and numerous other incentives.

The import of Indian yarn into Pakistan is increasing day by day and during last three years the import of Indian Yarn has increased from 4,927 tons to 25,839 tons. It is a matter of serious concern that India has erected an invincible wall particularly against yarn imports, as a result of which there are no meaningful yarn imports into India.

APTMA in its letter to Federal Ministries of Finance and Commerce as requested that this matter involving survival of the largest industry of Pakistan be taken up with appropriate quarters including the Federal Ministries of Finance and Commerce. In view of the crisis situation they have called for action on an urgent basis.

THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE
WITH THE International New York Times

Export earnings: GSP Plus has proved fruitful but more needs to be done

By Farhan Zaheer / Photo: Ayesha Mir

Published: December 21, 2014

Textile exports have long been the backbone of foreign exchange earnings for Pakistan but value-addition and readymade garments now need to be stressed on. PHOTO: AYESHA MIR/EXPRESS

KARACHI: The duty benefits Pakistan is enjoying under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Plus scheme since January 2014 are now bearing fruit beyond the expectations of the government.

The government set a target of an additional $1 billion from the country's total exports to the European Union (EU), but after crossing the $900-million mark in the first nine months (Jan-Sep), the country can now expect to cross well over $1.2 billion by the end of this year.

The private sector and the government admit that these earnings are the pillar of Pakistan's balance of payments at a time when its overall exports are either stagnant or declining.

"The growth in exports to the EU is supporting the overall exports. Otherwise, we are all aware of its dismal state," Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan said while talking to textile exporters during his recent visit to Karachi.

Perhaps, the first thing that elevated the spirits of exporters and the government was the export figures of Eurostat – the EU's data collection agency – which reported an additional $770 million for the first eight months (Jan-Aug 2014) period.

According to the Eurostat's recent data, with additional exports of about $140 million in September 2014, the total increase in the EU's exports have already touched $910 million (Jan-Sep) 2014.

Now, one can expect that even if Pakistan adds $100 million monthly, the country can easily touch $1.15 billion during the year.

Dastgir recently announced that the country's exports to the EU have reached $5.7 billion in the first nine months (Jan-Sep 2014), up $909.1 million from $4.79 billion in the same period of last year.

"Looking at the recent figures, I think Pakistan's exports to the EU can easily increase by $1.15 billion," Pakistan Apparel Forum Chairman Jawed Bilwani said.

Textile, being the largest export industry of Pakistan, has the leading share in EU's exports as well. Optimistic textile exporters believe 2015 will be a good year as far as exports to the EU are concerned.

What will hurt?

However, there are many who think structural problems like uncertain security situation and rising cost of utilities like electricity prices are hurting the growth of exports.

"The recent growth is favourable but the country could have done an even better job because of its huge potential. Security problems and non-availability of utilities are the major problems for the Pakistani exporters," Kamran Chawla, a Karachi-based knitwear exporter, told *The Express Tribune*.

Most of the textile exporters *The Express Tribune* spoke to were pointing at problems faced by exporters instead of talking about ways to make the most of the GSP Plus scheme.

The GSP Plus scheme is likely to stay for another nine years, and the situation demands our exporters to invest in finished garments' business that provides the highest returns.

Pakistan's textile exports that constitute over 50% of the total exports is effectively stagnant at around $13 billion for the past many years because industrialists are busy producing raw-materials or basic unfinished products that do not fetch desired margins.

With over $19 billion in textile exports, Bangladesh – Pakistan's main competitor in the textile industry – has already gone too far by investing in quality readymade garments. After China, Bangladesh is the second biggest textile exporter as it has doubled its exports in the last 10 years leaving both its traditional competitors – Pakistan and India – far behind in the competition.

Instead of waiting for government incentives, Pakistani exporters need to pinpoint segments that earn higher margins and invest in them. The EU trade concession under the GSP Plus scheme is the ideal opportunity to Pakistan's textile exporters for soul searching and recovering the lost ground.

The writer is a staff correspondent

Published in The Express Tribune, December 22nd, 2014

THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE
WITH THE International New York Times

GSP Plus scheme: No end to duty concessions on export to EU, says diplomat

By Farhan Zaheer

Published: December 26, 2014

Pakistani envoy argues the country is not legally bound to keep moratorium on executions.

KARACHI: A Pakistani diplomat in Europe has held out assurance that the country is not going to lose concessions in export duty it enjoys in the European markets under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Plus scheme as Islamabad is not legally bound to keep moratorium on executions in place.

"Pakistan is not legally bound on the moratorium on death penalty, therefore, unlike the popular perception, it is not going to lose duty benefits under the GSP Plus scheme," the Pakistani envoy stationed in Europe told *The Express Tribune* on the condition of anonymity.

Pakistan is bound to implement 27 international conventions to continue with the GSP Plus scheme but these conventions do not bind the signatory to abolish death penalty, he added.

Pakistani investors and exporters, especially from the textile sector, have been apprehensive about the fate of the GSP Plus scheme since the government lifted the self-imposed six-year moratorium on executions.

BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

$5.7b

is the sum that Pakistan's exports to the EU have already crossed in the just first nine months (Jan-Sep) 2014

Just two days ago, the European Union (EU) mission in Islamabad condemned the government's decision to resume executions. However, the statement from the EU mission did not mention the GSP Plus scheme and whether the country will lose it or not, if it presses ahead with the executions.

The EU officials had been strongly urging Pakistan in recent years to continue with death penalty moratorium.

Therefore, many still believe in Pakistan that the removal of the death penalty freeze will eventually create problems for the country.

"The uncertainty among Pakistani businessmen should end now. There is no obligatory link between the GSP Plus scheme and the moratorium on death penalty," the ambassador said.

The confusion was so widespread that Federal Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastgir Khan clarified last week that within the 27 international conventions of the United Nations (UN), there was no understanding on the death penalty moratorium.

"The government's decision to hang terrorists will not have any adverse implications for the GSP Plus scheme," he had told a press conference.

The EU approved the GSP Plus scheme in December 2013 for a period of 10 years with the condition that Pakistan will ensure good governance, implement human rights, labour rights, work for sustainable development etc.

"Pakistani government has taken the right decision in the current circumstances. We have no choice but to hang those terrorists who are responsible for killing over 50,000 Pakistanis," a Karachi-based textile exporter said who sells more than half of his products to the EU countries.

"I know the Europeans abhor death penalty. Even then I expect the EU authorities will understand the viewpoint of Pakistani government," he added.

Pakistan's exports to the EU have already crossed $5.7 billion, up 16% or $910 million with its exports to the EU in the first nine months (Jan-Sep) 2014, according to Eurostat – the EU's data collection agency.

Published in The Express Tribune, December 26th, 2014

Netherlands, ILO & IFC support Pakistan's textile industry

December 22, 2014 (Pakistan)

The Government of Pakistan has joined hands with the Government of the Netherlands, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), to sustain international standards and practices in Pakistan's textile and garment sector by organizing the first buyers' meeting in Islamabad from December 15th to 16th, 2014.

The buyers' meeting was an initiative supported by the Government of Pakistan and aligned with the common objective of improving productivity and compliance to all the requirements under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Plus status. With the European Union (EU) approval of preferential access for Pakistani products to the EU market, under the GSP, there is great opportunity for Pakistan to further increase their exports to the EU and meet the quality, environmental, labour, and health & safety standards required.

The meeting was aimed to bring together buyers, brands, manufacturers, Government, workers and employers organizations, in order to create a platform for dialogue to improve their cooperation towards a sustainable growth of the sector, improving competitiveness and compliance with international standards.

The event brought together a number of buyers and brands including GAP, Wal-Mart, Target, H&M, Adidas, Levi Strauss, Inditex, Primark, Li & Fung, El Corte Ingles, PVH, Hema, and C&A, who expressed their commitment to sustainable practices, improving compliance and reporting on environmental, labour and health & safety standards and their implementation in the textile and garment sector in Pakistan.

Present at the forum, Mr Pir Syed Sadaruddin Shah Rashidi, Federal Minister Overseas Pakistani and Human Resource Development said, "We recognize the significance of Pakistan's garment and textile industry to the country's economic growth. The step towards establishing a buyer's forum will help in making significant progress towards ensuring decent working conditions in the sector".

Netherlands ambassador, De Vink said, "The Netherlands is in discussion with ILO regarding financial support to a major project to improve labour conditions in Pakistan. Strengthening the capacity of the inspectorate, the role of employers and workers in the factories, and the role of global buyers is very important in this respect."

Pakistan is the 4th largest producer of cotton with the third largest spinning capacity in Asia after China and India, and contributes 5 per cent to the global spinning capacity. The garment and textile industry continues to be the second largest employment generating sector for both skilled and unskilled labour in Pakistan. (GK)

BUSINESS RECORDER
Founded by M. A. Zuberi
Pakistan's Premier Financial Daily

Exports of textile materials post 12.89pc increase in five months

Tuesday, 23 December 2014 15:28
Posted by Parvez Jabri

ISLAMABAD: The exports of textile materials from the country during first five months of current financial year registered an increase of 12.89 percent as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-November, 2014 textile materials worth $200.029 million exported which were recorded at 177.377 million in same period of last financial year.

According the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, textile group exports from the country during period under review witnessed increase of 0.93 percent as compared to the exports of corresponding period of last year.

Textile products worth $ 5.718 billion exported during the period from July-november, 2014 as compared to $ 5.665 billion of same period last year, said data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

According the data knitwear, bed wear exports recorded 11.68 percent and 0.89 percent increase respectively as about 52,086 thousand dozen of knitwear worth $ 1.024 billion exported duirng last five months as compared to 43,563 thousand dozen of knitwear valuing 916.99 million of same period of last year.

Same time, about 136,260 metric tons of bed wear valuing $899.731 million exported during the period under review as against the exports of 133,110 metric tons of the product worth $ 891.815 million of corresponding period of last year.

Meanwhile, exports of towels and readymade garments grew by 5.28 percent and 9.74 percent as about 72,109 metric tons towel worth $ 313.417 million exported as compared the exports of 64,562 metric tons valuing $297.690 million of same period last year.

During the period under review about 12,542 thousand dozen of readymade garments worth $826.836 million exported as against 11,497 thousand dozen valuing $753.441 million of July-November, 2013-14.

However, from July-November, 2014 exports of raw cotton and cotton yarn decreased by 12.25 percent and 9.31 percent respectively. During the period under review 60,807 metric tons of raw cotton exported worth $ 89.264 million which was recorded at 62,105 metric tons valuing $111.976 million of same period last year.

In last five months of current financial year exports of cotton yarn came down to 293,297 metric tons worth $ 818.397 million from 296,500 metric tons costing $ 902.40 million in period under review.

The textile products which remained in down track duirng first five months of current financial year including cotton cloth by 12.86 percent and cotton carded or combed by 95.93 percent respectively.

The textile products which registered positive growth in their exports including yarn other then cotton by 2.49 percent, tents, canvas and synthetic textile by 144.21 percent respectively where as the other textile materials exports also grew by 12.89 percent during period under review

L'UE donne le tarif zéro aux importations des Philippines

Anne-Sophie Castro

|

dimanche 28 décembre 2014

Le Parlement Européen a terminé la dernière phase du processus d'intégration des Philippines dans le Système Généralisé de Préférences Plus (GSP+), qui permet l'entrée des exportations du pays asiatique sans coûts tarifaires.

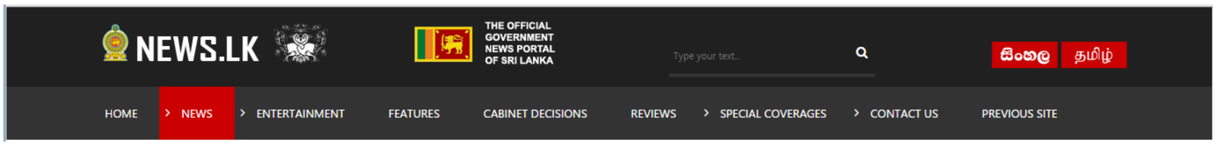
Les Philippines étaient déjà bénéficiaires du système GSP pour ses exportations vers l'Union Européenne. Avec la nouvelle catégorie, le pays asiatique obtient le tarif zéro pour toutes les ventes aux pays communautaires, y compris les vêtements, qui jusqu'à présent avaient une taxe tarifaire de 5 à 9 pour cent.

Aux Philippines, comme dans d'autres pays du sud-est asiatique, l'industrie textile a gagné en importance au cours des dernières années dû à la perte de compétitivité en Chine. Cependant, les Philippines sont loin d'atteindre le poids industriel textile d’autres régions comme le Bangladesh, le Cambodge, le Vietnam ou le Sri Lanka.

131,4 millions d’euros achetés en vêtements venant des Philippines

D’ailleurs, parmi les principaux fournisseurs de vêtements de l’Union Européenne, les Philippines occupent la 49ème place. Entre janvier et octobre 2014, les pays européens ont acheté des vêtements fabriqués aux Philippines d’une valeur de 131,4 millions d’euros, soit 5,3 pour cent de plus que l’an dernier à la même période.

D’autres pays qui bénéficient du système GSP+ sont le Bangladesh et le Pakistan, entre autres. Malgré les critiques de la patronale européenne du textile, l’Union Européenne donne accès sans coûts tarifaires aux exportations des principaux fournisseurs mondiaux de tissus et de vêtements.



03
January

Sri Lankan Handlooms access the competitive international market

Sri Lanka is capable of producing various handloom textile products to foreign markets. There is an increasing demand for Sri Lankan handloom textile products in foreign countries. Italy, Germany, France, UK, Norway, Netherlands, Maldives and Thailand are the main export markets for Sri Lankan handloom textile products.

The combination of traditional designs blended with modern trends in modern material woven in new processing techniques has made export quality Sri Lanka Handlooms access the competitive international market. Sri Lanka exports curtaining, table linen, bed linen, kitchen linen, upholstery and dress fabric and other products to foreign markets. The products in demand in the local market are curtaining, table linen, bed linen furnishing, cushion covers, sarongs and sarees. Currently, cotton and silk yarn is imported from India and Korea, monthly. Around 900 private handloom producers inclusive of small, medium and large-scale are operating in the country.

The handloom textile industry is a highly labour intensive, export oriented rural based industry. However, lack of weavers and the high production cost has hampered the growth of the industry considerably. There is a slight decrease in the current workforce in the industry as it is labour intensive.

Handloom textiles are produced in Sri Lanka within the confines of a small-scale industry that generate employment to rural women. Among the Handloom textiles produced are household linen such as bedclothes and towels, upholstery materials, furnishing materials such as curtaining, cushions covers, saris and sarongs. Books, notebooks, albums, and even writing pads are now clothed with this handcrafted material of textile. The handloom woven cotton and silk textiles of vibrant colors have been popular among the locals as well as the tourists.

JAAF picks 7 top logistics service providers as partners

December 24, 2014 (Sri Lanka)

The Joint Apparel Association (JAAF) has chosen seven key players from the logistics services who have played a major role in the import and export areas of the apparel sector and recognized them as ‘Preferred Partners’ for furtherance of their services in an ‘ethical, transparent and efficient’ manner as their clients in the apparel trade.

The secretary general of the JAAF, M P T Cooray, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently with seven of the main local logistics service providers bringing them closer to the apparel sector’s supply chain system with the objective of consolidating the industry’s position globally.

The companies included in the group of seven are CL Synergy (Private) Limited, DRH Logistics International, ExpoLanka Freight (Pvt) Ltd, Freight Links International (Pvt) Ltd, Hellman Worldwide Logistics (Pvt) Ltd, Scanwell Logistics Colombo (Pvt) Ltd, and Shermans Logistics (Pvt) Ltd.

The JAAF represents all stakeholders of the apparel industry, including the export-oriented industry and also the domestic manufacturers catering to the local market. The value of the business handled in both imports and exports in Sri Lanka exceeds US $6 billion, and in terms of practice, the industry aspires to be ethical, efficient manufacturers of a sustainable industry. (GK)

Turkish textile sector’s annual exports up 8 percent in 2014

2015-01-01

Turkey’s exports increased from $36.1 billion in 2002 to nearly $158 billion in 2014 and a record high in annual exports revenue after "political and financial stability” was achieved in the country, according the Turkish Exporters’ Assembly.

The textile sector's annual exports were up 8 percent, accounting for $18.7 billion. The chemicals sector came in third after its exports grew by only 2.3 percent to $17.8 billion. However, the driving force of exports was the automotive sector, jewelry sector and the Turkish defense and aviation sectors.

Figures show that neighboring Iraq remained Turkey’s second largest export destination, following Germany, despite exports to Iraq dropping by 10.1 percent to $10.6 billion in 2014. Exports to Germany increased by 11.3 percent to $14.8 billion and exports to the UK were up 12.6, standing at $9.6 billion.

Exports to the Middle East were also up by 6.2 percent to $29.5 billion, with a 61 percent increase in exports to Syria. While, exports to EU countries increased by 9.2 percent to $67.6 billion.

Turkey’s first-quarter GDP growth was 4.8 percent, but it slowed in the second quarter to 2.2 percent and dropped to 1.7 percent in the third quarter after the ISIL-provoked geopolitical crisis in Iraq and Syria affected Turkish economy.

Mehmet Buyukeksi, president of the Turkish Exporters’ Assembly, said that 2015's circumstances can be more challenging, as the U.S. Fed is expected to hike interest rates.

Higher U.S. interest rates could spur an outflow of capital from emerging markets, including Turkey, where private sector foreign debt is now at $165.2 billion.

The Federal Reserve had said it would keep interest rates near zero “for a considerable time,” but signaled on December 17, 2014 that it would raise rates some time next year.

Buyukeksi added that they need to use opportunities in exports and also create new opportunities cautiously but optimistically.

Exports to markets with which trade was minimal in the past also showed stronger figures, as sales to Rwanda surged 295 percent and exports to Suriname increased by 158 percent.

The Turkish government has set exports target of $500 billion by 2023.

Published on Thursday, 18 December 2014

US tightens textile chemicals regulations

Written by Brett Mathews

NEW YORK - The US Environmental Protection Agency has taken steps to tighten up regulations around a number of chemicals used in textile manufacturing, including nine benzidine-based dyes and DnPP, a phthalate, which is used in PVC plastics. The EPA is proposing to place the chemicals under a 'significant new use rule' (SNUR), a regulatory instrument which falls under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and which means the EPA can evaluate any intended new use of the chemical and take action to prohibit or limit that activity, if warranted. The rule requires that anyone who intends to manufacture, import, or process any of the chemicals for an activity that is designated as a significant 'new use' must submit a notification to EPA at least 90 days before beginning the activity.

In theory, the required notification provides the EPA with the opportunity to evaluate activities associated with a significant new use and, if necessary, "to protect against potential unreasonable risks, if any, from that activity before it occurs."

The latest ruling action adds nine benzidine-based dyes to the existing SNUR and closes an existing loophole to ensure that these chemicals and products containing them, such as clothing, cannot be imported without EPA review and possible restriction. EPA has investigated safer dyes and colorants as alternatives to benzidine as part of its Safer Chemical Ingredients List and Design for the Environment program.

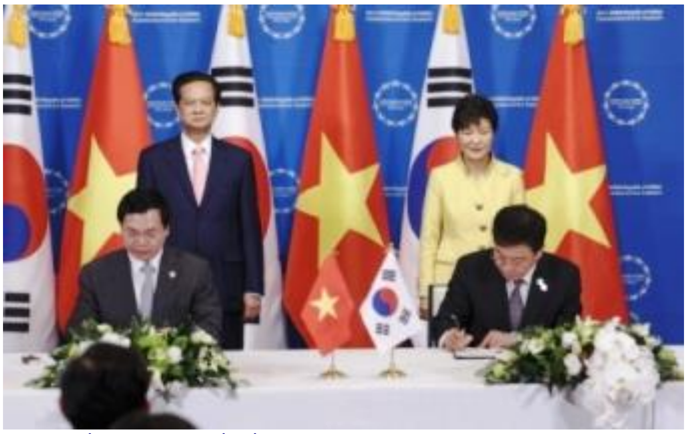
"We are committed to protecting all Americans from exposure to harmful chemicals used in domestic and imported products," said Jim Jones, assistant administrator for chemical safety and pollution prevention.

"There must be a level playing field for U.S. businesses – which is why we're targeting harmful chemicals no longer used in the U.S. that find their way into commerce, sometimes through imported products. This final action will give EPA the opportunity to restrict or limit any new uses of these chemicals, including imported goods with these chemicals."

In 2012, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed new rules designed to limit the use and import of potentially harmful chemicals found in textile dyes, pigments, flame retardants and plasticisers.

Korea-Vietnam FTA to boost bilateral textile trade

December 22, 2014 (Korea)



Korea-Vietnam FTA signing ceremony on Dec 10

The bilateral textile and apparel trade between Vietnam and South Korea is likely to get a boost once the recently concluded free trade agreement (FTA) between the two nations is implemented.

The FTA was concluded on December 10, 2014, after 2 years and four months since the negotiations began in August 2012. The FTA includes some of the items that were excluded from the earlier ASEAN-Korea FTA.

As per the FTA, Vietnam will remove import tariffs on 92.2 per cent of all products once the FTA is implemented, compared to 86.2 per cent of goods in the ASEAN-Korea FTA.

Vietnam has simplified its rules of origin and customs clearance, which will benefit textile and garments made in the inter-Korean Kaesong Industrial Complex. Korean companies specialising in cotton would benefit in price competitiveness vis-a-vis Japanese companies in Vietnam.

On the other hand, Vietnam-made garments such as men's trousers and shirts, women's suits, coats, jackets, blouses, and cotton yarn will get duty-free entry into the Korean market once the FTA takes effect.

For South Korea, Vietnam is the ninth-largest trading partner in the world, and second-largest among Asean nations. The volume of Korean exports to Vietnam increased three-fold from US$ 7.16 billion in 2009 to $21.8 billion in 2013, according to the Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

The latest FTA aims to increase the bilateral South Korea-Vietnam trade to $70 billion by 2020. (RKS)

TRADE

Newsletter - Weekly digest

EU Trade News: Vietnam, WTO

02/01/2015

EU Commissioner Cecilia Malmström on ...

02/01/2015

Vietnam

Good progress on EU-Vietnam talks

EU and Vietnamese trade negotiators met last week in Brussels for an 'inter-sessional' set of trade talks on a free trade agreement between the two sides. Lasting from 24-28 November, the talks covered a variety of issues, such as services, government procurement, competition related aspects, and intellectual property rights, and aimed to keep up the pace of negotiations before the next full round, planned for 19-23 January in Brussels. Both sides felt the talks had been fruitful and remain confident that it will be possible to conclude a deal early next year.

Read more on trade relations with Vietnam

Les négociateurs de l'UE et du Viêt Nam se sont réunis la semaine dernière à Bruxelles pour une série de consultations «intersessions» en vue d'un accord de libre-échange entre les deux parties. Les consultations, organisées du 24 au 28 novembre, ont couvert un large éventail de sujets: services, marchés publics, aspects liés à la concurrence et droits de propriété intellectuelle, notamment. Elles avaient pour but de maintenir le rythme des négociations avant le prochain cycle complet prévu du 19 au 23 janvier à Bruxelles. Les deux parties ont jugé les consultations fructueuses et restent convaincues qu'un accord pourra être conclu au début de l'année prochaine.

En savoir plus sur les relations commerciales avec le Viêt Nam

WTO

Welcome progress on Trade Facilitation Agreement

On 27 November the WTO took a series of decisions that will pave the way for implementing the Trade Facilitation Agreement. Once in force, it will help developing countries better integrate into the global economy, intensify regional integration and lift millions out of poverty.

The decisions implement the Bali agreements but also confirm WTO's role at the centre of international trade policy. The next step would be that all WTO members proceed with the ratification procedure so the Agreement enters into force as soon as possible.

Read the statement by Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner for Trade

Progrès encourageants en vue d'un accord sur la facilitation des échanges

Le 27 novembre, l'OMC a adopté une série de décisions qui rendront possible la mise en œuvre de l'accord sur la facilitation des échanges. Une fois entré en vigueur, cet accord aidera les pays en développement à mieux s'intégrer dans l'économie mondiale, renforcera l'intégration régionale et permettra à des millions de personnes de sortir de la pauvreté.

Les décisions mettent en œuvre les accords de Bali tout en confirmant le rôle central de l'OMC dans la politique commerciale internationale. La prochaine étape consistera pour les membres de l'OMC à ratifier l'accord afin qu'il entre en vigueur le plus rapidement possible.

Lire la déclaration de Cecilia Malmström, commissaire chargée du commerce

SAMEDI, 3/1/2015 11:24 GMT+7

Textile-habillement en tête des produits d'exportation nationaux

30/12/2014 | 11:13:36

Les produits du textile et de l'habillement continuent d'être en tête des exportations du pays grâce à ses stratégies judicieuses dans la gestion des activités administratives et de la production, contribuant à améliorer le prestige des entreprises nationales sur le marché mondial.

Le chiffre d'affaires à l'exportation de produits textiles pourrait atteindre 24,5 milliards de dollars en 2014, record de ces trois dernières années, dépassant l'objectif de près d'un milliard de dollars.

Ce secteur bénéficierait, ainsi, d'un excédent commercial de 12 milliards de dollars cette année, a déclaré le vice-président de l'Association du textile et de l'habillement du Vietnam (VITAS), Le Tien Truong. Selon lui, cette performance résulte des efforts conjoints de l'ensemble du secteur dans la définition des stratégies de production, dans la sélection de débouchés ainsi que l'augmentation à plus de 50 % du taux d'emploi de matières premières locales.

Actuellement, les vêtements vietnamiens sont très présents sur de nombreux marchés, notamment aux États-Unis (8,85 milliards de dollars), au Japon (2,38 milliards de dollars) et en République de Corée (1,96 milliard de dollars). Ces trois marchés représentent à eux seuls près de 70 % des exportations nationales.

Les économistes indiquent que la signature d'accords de libre-échange (ALE) bilatéraux et multilatéraux permettrait d'attirer davantage de commandes. En outre, les privilèges fiscaux prévus dans le cadre de l'Accord de partenariat transpacifique (TPP) et l'accord de libre-échange avec l'UE créeront des conditions favorables aux exportations aux Etats-Unis et sur le marché européen.

Pour un développement durable, la vice-ministre de l'Industrie et du Commerce, Mme Ho Thi Kim Thoa, a insisté sur la nécessité d'édifier un label fiable pour les produits textiles vietnamiens et suggéré aux producteurs d'améliorer leur compétitivité tout en répondant aux exigences des importateurs en termes de qualité des produits, de gestion des produits chimiques et de responsabilité sociale... -VNA