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Sommaire / Summary

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Textile et cuir : L'UGTA plaide pour la relance de la filière

le 13.01.15 | 10h00

Situation peu reluisante des filières cuir et textile en Algérie. Un plan de sauvetage de 2 milliards de dollars a été enclenché il y a déjà quatre ans sans aucun résultat palpable.

Complètement déstructurée, l'industrie manufacturière du textile et du cuir peine à sortir la tête de l'eau, malgré un plan de sauvetage de
2 milliards de dollars, dont on ignore les résultats près de quatre années après son lancement par les pouvoirs publics. Encore une fois, Amar Takjout, secrétaire général de la Fédération du textile et du cuir de l'UGTA, a appelé, hier, à créer les conditions nécessaires afin de relancer cette industrie, à commencer par l'accélération des réformes structurelles, la mise en place d'un management performant et l'obligation de résultats.

A défaut, la filière ne sera que l'ombre d'elle-même. L'Algérie fabriquait, a-t-il rappelé, hier sur les ondes de la Radio algérienne, 17 à 18 millions de paires de chaussures il y a trente ans, contre moins d'un million d'unités aujourd'hui, pour une consommation annuelle de 70 millions. Résultat : on importe près de 100% des besoins locaux, souvent en provenance des pays asiatiques, en particulier de Chine.

La filière du textile n'est pas mieux lotie. Les capacités de production des unités encore existantes atteignent à peine 25 millions de mètres par an, contre 150 à 200 millions de mètres durant les années 1980. La production locale ne couvre que 5% du marché national, dont la demande avoisine les 100 millions de mètres par an.

La contribution des industries du textile au PIB est inférieure à 2%. C'est dire l'ampleur de la désintégration d'un outil de production autrefois performant. Pendant que l'appareil productif national était mis à mal, la Tunisie, petit pays ayant peu de ressources naturelles, transforme annuellement 260 millions de mètres.

Cette situation peu reluisante de l'industrie manufacturière du textile et du cuir découle, selon le secrétaire général de la Fédération du textile et du cuir de l'UGTA, de l'absence d'une prise de conscience de l'élite politique et économique du pays, attachée seulement à tirer profit de la rente pétrolière. Les réformes économiques sont en panne.

D'après lui, que ce soit la restructuration des entreprises, l'assainissement de l'environnement économique, en passant par la résolution du problème de la dépénalisation de l'acte de gestion, tous les chantiers traînent toujours lamentablement la patte. Par conséquent, l'industrie est tombée à moins de 5% du PIB, contre environ 20% dans les années 1980. Face à ce marasme économique, marqué par la dégringolade des prix du pétrole, unique source de revenus pour le pays, le syndicaliste plaide pour une politique de substitution des importations en relançant, par exemple, l'agriculture.

Hocine Lamriben

Dhaka to host 12th textile & garment fair - DTG2015

January 13, 2015 (Bangladesh)

The 12th Dhaka International Textile & Garment Machinery Exhibition (DTG2015), jointly organised by Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), Chan Chao Int'l Co., Ltd., and Yorkers Trade & Marketing Service Co., Ltd, will be held from February 4 to 7, 2015, at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), Dhaka.

The textile fair is the largest annual and must-attend trade events in Bangladesh. During the four-day-event, over 880 exhibitors are expected to display a wide variety of state-of-the-art textiles and garments technologies, machinery, and parts.

DTG2015 offers an ideal platform for Bangladesh exporters to come into contact and deal with related manufacturers, regional agents and wholesalers, source high quality machinery, equipment and materials, under a single roof. It also introduces the latest machines and technology to the whole textile & garment industry supply chain of Bangladesh, including spinning, weaving, knitting, dyeing-printing- finishing, testing, washing, embroidery, sewing, and other related equipments, according to a press release.

More than 1060 booths spanning 16 halls would be fully occupied with world-class leading brands from 30 countries and regions. Country pavilions lead by Korea Textile Machinery Association (KOTMA), China Jiangsu Textile Machinery & Accessories Industrial Association (JSTMA) and Turkish Textile Machinery Industrialists' Association (TEMSAD) will provide visitors an impressive global experience during DTG2015.

DTG2015 provides opportunities for raising the production capacity of textile and garment factories, helps entrepreneurs to come together to derive mutual benefits and achieve common business goals. It is expected to contribute towards further development and expansion of the Bangladesh textile and garment sectors.

BTMA is a 1350-member association representing spinning, weaving and dyeing-printing-finishing mills of the country with a total investment of over €4 billion.

Chan Chao is leading in organizing exhibition and trade fair in ASEAN, South Asia, and China for nearly three decades.

The textile and garment industry is the most important segment of Bangladesh's manufacturing industry, accounting for 80 per cent of the total export earnings and employing 4.4 million people. (GK)

Trade mission to Myanmar for EU garment buyers

By Leonie Barrie | 8 January 2015

Font size Email Print


A trade mission to visit Myanmar garment factories is taking place in March

European brands and retailers are being invited to join a trade mission to Burma/Myanmar in March to learn more about importing garments from the country and making contact with potential suppliers.

The visit, which is part of the EU-funded SMART Myanmar project, will also provide an opportunity for Myanmar's manufacturers to learn more about the requirements of doing business with European brands, just-style has been told.

Currently, companies from Germany, France, the UK and the Netherlands are signed up to join the trade mission to Yangon from 22-27 March, but places are open to all EU garment buyers and investors seeking to do business with Myanmar.

However, the number of participants is limited to 20 companies, with registrations considered on a first-come first-served basis. The deadline for applications is 31 January.

The trade mission is being organised by the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry (t+m) as part of the EU-funded SMART Myanmar project - SMEs for Environmental Accountability, Responsibility and Transparency - which aims to build the sustainable recovery of the Southeast Asian country's garment industry.

Its goal is to provide insight into the industrial capacity and growth prospects of the Myanmar garment sector, through organised factory visits in Yangon as well as a one-day information event with B2B networking forum. Participants will be provided with an overview about the Myanmar garment industry and will receive detailed company profiles of potential business partners.

The visit is primarily aimed at small and medium-sized firms looking to source men's, women's and children's outerwear and underwear from Myanmar, including jackets, coats, trousers, shirts and blouses, skirts, sportswear, T-shirts und polo-shirts, bodywear and loungewear.

The local industry is mainly focused on CMT (Cut, Make and Trim) production, although some makers have successfully moved to OEM. FOB-business usually runs via agencies located in neighbouring countries. Textile production is currently still underdeveloped, so input materials have to be imported.

The situation is expected to improve significantly in the coming months through the introduction of an export credit offer.

Myanmar's garment sector currently consists of around 300 companies with some 150,000 workers. Garment exports exceeded the US$1bn mark in 2013/2014 and account for about 10% of the country's overall exports. For European importers there is the added benefit of GSP+ duty-free trade preferences.

Participants on the trade mission are required to cover all costs of travel, accommodation and meals, but local transportation and interpreters will be provided.

Mission Evalliance au Cambodge du 24 au 28 mai 2015

mercredi 14 janvier 2015

En application du protocole d'accord (Memorandum of Understanding) conclu fin octobre 2014 avec la fédération textile-habillement cambodgienne GMAC et les autorités cambodgiennes représentées par le ministère de l'industrie et du commerce, l'association EVALLIANCE va organiser au Cambodge, du 24 au 28 mai 2015, une mission partenariale euro-cambodgienne.

Cette mission d'Evalliance, composée de distributeurs, d'industriels, de formateurs, d'éditeurs de logiciels, de logisticiens, de constructeurs de matériels, de créateurs et d'experts sectoriels du textile, de l'habillement, du luxe et du cuir-chaussures, aura pour objectif de favoriser le sourcing d'habillement, les investissements, les exportations textiles européennes au Cambodge ainsi que le partenariat européen avec le Cambodge, sous toutes ses formes.

La mission de coopération consistera en des visites d'entreprises, des rencontres de B to B, des conférences économiques et des entretiens avec les autorités publiques cambodgiennes et les leaders du secteur.

Bénéficiant de coûts de production très attractifs et d'un accord préférentiel avec l'Union européenne permettant d'entrer à droits nuls sur le marché européen, le Cambodge est le fournisseur d'habillement qui progresse le plus vite en Europe depuis plusieurs années, avec un taux annuel de croissance de 35 % l'an !

Renseignements : contact@evalliance.eu

Garment Factory's Concessions End Strike

BY BEN SOKHEAN | JANUARY 14, 2015

About 1,000 workers at a Takeo province garment factory who have been on strike since Monday are due to return to work today after negotiations between union representatives and the factory wrapped up successfully Tuesday.

As workers rallied outside the gates of the Chinese-owned CS Gold Way Textile (Cambodia) Co. Ltd. on Tuesday morning, factory management agreed to all of their 29 demands with the exception of a $15 monthly transport allowance and $20 attendance bonus, which they set at $9 and $10 respectively.

The factory also agreed to scrap compulsory overtime and to pay pregnant women 50 percent of their usual salary during their last trimester, when they do not work, instead of the full amount sought by workers.

"After the negotiations, we reached an agreement that all of the workers will go back to work tomorrow…because they achieved better working conditions and received some bonus payments," said Ken Chhengleng, the deputy president of the National Independent Federation of Textile Unions in Cambodia, which represented the workers.

Factory administrative director Chhay Cheng Hav confirmed an agreement was reached, but declined to give further details.

sokhean@cambodiadaily.com

Karl Mayer to debut new 3D warp-knitted textile machines

January 08, 2015 (China)

KARL MAYER

German producer of warp knitting technologies, Karl Mayer is launching two new machines for 3D warp-knitted textiles in China.

Karl Mayer has invited specialists to an open-house event scheduled for January 22 and 23, 2015 and the new machines in the RD series will be working patterns for the shoe sector in particular.

The RDJ 5/1 is a basic machine for simple jacquard-patterned spacer fabrics and offers manufacturers of warp-knitted spacer textiles competitive advantages in a variety of applications.

However, according to Karl Mayer, its cost to benefit ratio was designed especially to meet the requirements of the shoe fabric market in China.

With two guide bars fewer than the RDPJ 7/1, the RDJ 5/1 offers adequate patterning possibilities for designing shoes and a high level of efficiency at the same time.

The configuration and features of the machines are also different. Whereas the RDPJ 7/1 can either be supplied with N or EL guide bar control, the RDJ 5/1 is available with N pattern drive only.

The width and distance between the trick plates on both machines are the same and the available gauges typical of the machines.

The RDJ 5/1 is available in gauges E 22 and E 24 and the RDPJ 7/1 EL is available in gauges E 24 and E 28 and delivery of the first new machine is scheduled for spring 2015.

On the other hand, the RD 7/2-12 EN is an efficient, all-round machine, thanks to the electronic pattern drive and offers maximum design possibilities and so can produce a wide range of different products.

With this specific feature, this sturdy, all-round machine is mainly used by shoe fabric manufacturers operating the N drive version.

Complex designs are frequently not worked with pattern discs but with pattern chains, which involves a loss of productivity.

There is now an alternative to this, i.e. a new electronic guide bar drive offering the flexibility of pattern discs and chains at a lower cost than the conventional EL pattern drive.

“The basic EL pattern drive, with its excellent cost to benefit ratio, is now available for the new RD 7/2-12 EN for the first time,” Karl Mayer informs. (AR)

Le top 10 des marques de textiles et de vêtements chinois en 2014

Par : Sofia | Mots clés : top 10,marques,textiles et vêtements ,chinois
French.china.org.cn | Mis à jour le 12-01-2015

Avec une valeur de marque de 19,749 milliards de yuans (3,18 milliards $), Bosideng est en tête de la liste « Évaluation de la marque Chine 2014 » pour les textiles et les vêtements.

Le classement a été publié le 12 décembre par l'Association chinoise pour la promotion de l'édification de la marque, une association qui vise à former des marques chinoises.

L'association a évalué plus de 500 marques chinoises, et elle les a classées en plusieurs catégories, incluant les machines, les matériaux de construction, le textile et les vêtements, ainsi que l'électronique. Jetons un coup d'œil sur les dix plus grandes marques chinoises dans la catégorie textiles et vêtements en 2014.

No 1 Bosideng

Valeur de la marque : 19,74 milliards de yuans

La Bosideng International Holdings Ltd compte un total de 13 009 points de vente en Chine, et elle vend exclusivement des vêtements en duvet sous ses quatre principales marques, notamment Bosideng, Snow Flying, Combo et Bengen

No 2 Youngor

Valeur de la marque : 18,5 milliards de yuans

La fabrication et la commercialisation de vêtements forment l'essentiel des activités du Youngor Group, et la société œuvre dans le textile et la fabrication de vêtements. Elle a été fondée en 1979.

No 3 Anta Sports Products Limited

Valeur de la marque : 11,44 milliards de yuans

Anta Sports Products Limited est une société de vêtements de sport professionnels de Jinjiang (province du Fujian, Chine de l'Est).

La compagnie œuvre dans l'innovation, la conception, la recherche, le développement, la fabrication, la commercialisation et la vente au détail d'équipement de sport.

No 4 Sunshine Group

Valeur de la marque : 10,01 milliards de yuans

Le Jiangsu Sunshine Group a été fondé en 1986, et il œuvre dans plusieurs industries comme les lainages, les vêtements, la biopharmacie et l'immobilier.

No 5 HOdo

Valeur de la marque : 8,34 milliards yuans

Le HOdo Group est un conglomérat clé de vêtements dans la province du Jiangsu. Il compte deux marques, HOdo et CELIMO, et a été fondé en 1957.

No 6 Grace Textile

Valeur de la marque : 5,66 milliards yuans

La Zhejiang Grace Textile Group Co Ltd est une compagnie de textile œuvrant dans la production et la vente de produits ménagers, notamment divers types de serviettes, tapis, peignoirs, pantoufles, chaussettes, tissus et fils.

No 7 Luthai Textile

Valeur de la marque : 5,05 milliards yuans

La Luthai Textile Co Ltd est une coentreprise qui est connue comme productrice de tissus teints en fils haut de gamme. Ses lignes de production comprennent la culture du coton, la filature, la teinture, le tissage, la finition et la fabrication de chemises.

No 8 Sunvim Group

Valeur de la marque : 4,38 milliards yuans

Le Sunvim Group Co Ltd est un groupe d'entreprises qui se concentre sur les textiles de maison et intègre plusieurs industries comme le commerce intérieur et extérieur, l'immobilier et la technologie de l'énergie. Le groupe a été fondé en 1987 et a été coté à la Bourse de Shenzhen en 2006

No 9 361 Degrees

Valeur de la marque : 3,84 milliards yuans

La 361 Degrees (China) Co Ltd est une société de vêtements de sport fondée en 2003. Son siège se trouve dans la province du Fujian, en Chine de l'Est

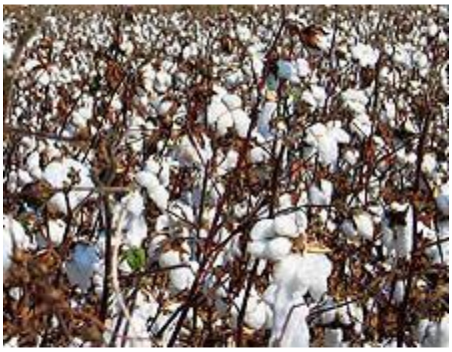
No 10 Qiaodan Sports

Valeur de la marque : 3,21 milliards yuans

La Qiaodan Sports Co Ltd a été fondée en 2002 dans la province du Fujian, en Chine de l'Est. La compagnie conçoit des vêtements, les produit et les commercialise, en plus de faire de la recherche

Egyptian govt to no longer subsidise cotton production

January 07, 2015 (Egypt)



In what may mark an end of high-quality extra long staple cotton, the Egyptian Government has decided to stop paying subsidy of 350 Egyptian pounds per qintar (160 kg) of cotton to producers, from the next agricultural season.

Last season, Government subsidies for cotton touched nearly 520 million Egyptian pounds, according to the Ministry of Finance statistics.

There is very limited demand, both in domestic and global markets for Egyptian cotton, particularly the long staple variety, and it is very expensive, Agriculture Minister Adel El-Beltagy told the state-run news agency MENA.

The minister said Egyptian textile mills have stopped using local cotton and are instead importing short staple variety, which are available at lower prices.

El-Beltagy advised farmers to plant cotton only when they have prior contracts to sell the produce.

Egypt’s cotton exports in the second quarter of financial year that began in July 2014 amounted to 109,600 metric tonnes, down 69.7 per cent compared to the corresponding period of 2013, according to the data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS).

Meanwhile, the ministries of investment and planning have agreed that the National Investment Bank (NIB) will finance the operation of the Mahalla Al-Kubra based state-owned Misr Spinning and Weaving Company. The ministries have agreed to prepare a plan to impart training to workers and address problems related to availability of raw materials, and thereby raise the Company’s production capacity. (RKS)

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

Mahalla textile workers' strike enters 2nd day

Adham Youssef / January 14, 2015

Approximately 7,000 workers at the Holding Company for Cotton Spinning and Weaving in Mahalla started a strike Tuesday, demanding an immediate restructuring of the company's leadership.

The striking workers also accused the government of abandoning the workers.

Mohamed Assad, one of the strike leaders, told Daily News Egypt Wednesday that halt to work is not mainly concerned with the financial situation of the workers. The main complaint rather is the "inefficient leadership of the administration".

He added that "a number of media outlets only focused on the financial demands and ignored the others. Also, security guards at the factory gates are preventing local journalists from entering and covering the strike."

The holding company, the syndicate, and the government are providing conflicting reports about the exact dates of distributing the late profit share, he said. He added that other demands include cancelling the government's decision to remove cotton cultivation subsidies, which will "have a negative effect on the process of production".

Last week, the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Adel El-Beltagy, announced that the state will not offer any form of subsidies for cotton farmers or spindles during the next season.

"The lack of raw materials is one of the problems facing the company," Assad added. "Although Prime Minister Ibrahim Mehleb promised the workers in previous meetings that the government will provide enough supply cotton, the promises were not met."

State media reported that the company distributed flyers promising the workers full payment of their salaries and late profits by the end of January.

However, Assad added that there are discussions between the workers to plan for a possible escalation if demands are not met.

Assad fears that the “the officials are trying to only highlight the losses of the company”, which might lead to the dissolution of a large number of workers. It may also lead to the possible closure or full privatisation of the company.

The company is one of Egypt’s major industrial infrastructures, and is reported to include more than 75,000 workers.

A flyer by the workers read: “We demand the company and the factories with enough quantities of raw material to help improve the textile industry in Egypt, as well as the payment of their profit-sharing bonus.”

Abdel Fattah Ibrahim, head of the spinning and weaving workers’ syndicate, told state media Tuesday an official letter was sent to the Ministers of Investment and Labour. The letter requested that they intervene to “have the profit shares quickly given to the workers”.

In February of last year, 13,000 workers began an open-ended sit-in in the factory in Mahalla, demanding promised bonuses and the new government-sanctioned minimum wage.

Mahalla workers staged a crippling strike in 2006 to demand bonuses and better wages, which inspired numerous other strikes by factory workers across the country.

Euler Hermes: Online trade and fast fashion are the biggest risks for Germany's textile industry

Jan 7 2015

Euler Hermes, the worldwide leader in trade credit insurance, finds both positives and negatives aspects in its latest study on Germany's textile industry. There are wide variations in risk, financing options and prospects in the textile retail trade and textile production segments.

For instance, in addition to being highly weather-dependent, the textile retail trade has struggled for years with very low profit margins and increasingly fierce competition from online trade. There are also two different sides to textile production. While many manufacturers have successfully changed their business model and now specialize in niche markets, others are still facing strong Asian competition and the resulting price wars. At the same time they are being forced to market up to 12 collections per year to keep up with fast-moving consumer trends.

The challenge for high-street trade: online trade expected to increase by around 50% by 2017
"Online trade is booming and we expect a 50% increase by 2017," said Ludovic Subran, chief economist at Euler Hermes. "This will present big challenges for high-street stores in particular - they will have to improve the customer shopping experience and their advisory services, or adjust their business models and expand into different sales channels. But these strategies are costly and incur substantial risk, while margins will continue to be limited. Another problem is that the sector is highly weather-dependent. The relatively mild start to this winter is putting pressure on retailers' sales and profits."

Although online trade currently accounts for only about 9% of Germany's total retail trade, growth in this segment is extremely rapid. Between 2008 and 2012, retail trade revenues increased around 26%, while growth in online trade during the same period was 55%. And this upward trend is continuing. Unlike high-street trade, the outlook for this segment is therefore relatively optimistic.

German manufacturers are export champions in "technical textiles"
Some manufacturers successfully changed their business model and now specialize in technical textiles, used in protective clothing, tents and automotive production. German textile manufacturers are innovation leaders and export world champions in this segment. Between 2009 and 2013, exports in this segment tripled and the outlook remains positive. Euler Hermes economists predict that exports will be worth EUR 7.1 billion in 2015.

While technical textile manufacturers have already reacted structurally to increasing competition from Asia, manufacturers of other textiles and clothing are struggling to compete with low-wage countries. Production in this segment declined rapidly in Germany over the last decade, while imports, especially from China, have boomed. Textile and clothing imports from China more than doubled between 2005 and 2011. Only manufacturers positioned in a high-quality segment have a chance. Price wars aside, fast-moving consumer trends is the greatest challenge facing manufacturers.

Fast fashion: 30 kg of clothing purchased per year on average, 30% of it never worn
"According to sector statistics, women buy an average of 30 kilos of clothes per year and just under one-third of them are never worn," said Thomas Krings, chief risk officer at Euler Hermes Germany. "Retailers therefore have to work even harder to adjust to the fast fashion phenomenon and offer exciting new trends more regularly. Otherwise their revenues will be hit very quickly. The pressure is equally strong on clothes manufacturers to shorten the lead time between design and sale and to market no longer just two, but six to twelve collections a year. That is four to six times the number of collections a few years ago and entails significant costs as well as complex supply chain management, which have to pay off financially."

The full study (German) is available in the appendix and at:
http://www.eulerhermes.de/economic-research/veroeffentlichungen/Pages/branchen-report.aspx

ATDC organises training module on lean manufacturing

January 13, 2015 (India)

Apparel Training & Design Centre (ATDC), India's largest vocational apparel training network in partnership with Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel (SLITA) inaugurated its first international training workshop on 'Lean manufacturing practices and implementations'.

Alongside ATDC officials, also present on the occasion were members of the recently formed 'Ujjesh' apparel cluster which has been catalysed with the help of ATDC & NPC in their approach to create clusters.

The ATDC TOT academy is organizing this 5-day workshop from January 12-16, 2015 for 30-35 participants for the training including industry participants and 20 ATDC trainers from ATDC's pan-India centres.

The training will focus on topics such as Goals of the Lean enterprise, Financial Aspects, Value Engineering, Process Mapping, Standard Operations, Visual Management, 5S & its implementation, Value Steam Mapping (VSM), Lead Time – Video on Cellular Concept and Behavioural Metrics.

This training is in context of providing advance and upgraded specialized skills to ATDC Faculty Resources especially teaching AMT Courses.

On the occasion, Hari Kapoor, VC of ATDC said, "I am sure both faculty resources and industry professionals can greatly benefit from this advanced training workshop on lean manufacturing practices for bringing in new inputs on enhancing productivity & efficiency in apparel sector."

Darlie Koshy, CEO at ATDC said, "Indian apparel industry needs to control costs, rein in wastes\ and improve productivity & efficiency. Time has come to commit ourselves to improve competitiveness, by adopting lean manufacturing practices."

"SLITA has proven itself as a practical leader in this sphere and we are happy to bring such a workshop to the ATDC faculty resources and professionals from the industry when the industry is seriously looking at options to be highly competitive," he added.

ATDC TOT Academy trains trainers and is an institution that operates as a resource centre which sets benchmarks and overall quality parameters for those in the business of skilling in the apparel sector.

TOT Academy upgrades knowledge base and skill levels of the faculty resources to develop industry oriented approach in their pedagogy with the key objective being to bring about an overall systematic change in the apparel industry while providing better quality trainers for industry.

With this vision, this workshop is being organised with Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel (SLITA) which will provide new insights in achieving higher efficiency and productivity, for which Sri Lankan apparel industry is well known.

Nawaz Mustapha, director general of SLITA said, "This workshop is being organized to share our experience and expertise on lean management in apparel sector. It is one of the good techniques which produces product with less resources, capital, raw material, energy and labour." (AR)

Synthetic fibre producers demand abolishing of excise duty on Man Made fibres

Posted On: 2015-01-04 02:37:37

Synthetic Fibre and Yarn producers in the country have urged the Union Ministry of Finance to abolish high Excise Duty of 12 per cent on the industry and bring it at par with the Cotton fibre and yarn which has zero duty for growth of the Indian textile industry and for achieving a larger share of the growing global market.

The Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry (ASFI), in a letter written to the Union Finance Minister as well as to the Union Ministers of Commerce & Textiles, has requested the Government to totally abolish the excise duty on all Man Made Fibres and filaments from current 12 Per cent to nil. As a major anomaly in excise duty structure between MMF and natural cotton fibre is affecting growth of the Indian textile industry and preventing it from achieving a larger share of the global market. It is this bias against man-made fibre and yarn that has left India far behind China in terms of investment, scale of manufacturing and exports.

During the PM's initiative of Make in India workshop held recently attended by the PM and his cabinet, the Textile Secretary in his presentation has asked for rationalisation of duties and taxes in manmade fibre as compared to cotton.

"India is one of the largest producer of man-made Fibres in the world with presence of large plants having state-of-the art technology. MMF textiles constitute almost two-third of the domestic textile market. However, India's share in global exports of value-added textiles of manmade fibres is miniscule at less than 3%. This has resulted in India's textile exports not growing beyond $40 billion out of which only 27% comes from man-made fibres. In contrast, China has given a big push to synthetic textiles and this has helped China in becoming the largest textile exporter of the world. Almost 80% of China's textile exports consist of synthetics." said Mr S.C.Kapoor, Director General, Association of Synthetic Fibre Association (ASFI).

According to letters submitted to the finance, textiles and commerce & industry ministries by the ASFI in the run to the Union Budget of 2015, the high excise duty on man-made fibre and yarn (in contrast to cotton and cotton yarn that are free of excise duty) has become a roadblock for the growth of the textile industry. Industry veterans and experts are also of the same view that the peculiar excise duty structure is holding up the Indian textile industry from achieving its potential. In contrast, major textile exporters like China, Thailand, Indonesia and Bangladesh tax cotton and synthetic fibres as well as yarn uniformly.

"The excise duty imposed on man-made fibre and yarn in India is 12% while cotton yarn and fibre are exempted from excise duty burden, leading to excessive bias against man-made fibres and yarn. This affects the textile industry in two ways. In the domestic market, poor consumers suffer as the least expensive polyester shirt or a saree made of synthetic fibre andis boughtat Rs.100 or Rs.150 suffers a huge excise duty burden of 12%. In contract, no excise duty is paid on the cotton fibre and yarn used to produce expensive cotton shirts bought by rich consumers at prices ranging above Rs.1,000.

Therefore, only the poor pay more tax on textiles in the domestic market while the rich are favoured with no excise duty on the premium cotton worn by them!" said Mr Kapoor.

"Correcting the excise duty anomaly in the textile sector has become vital now to attract more investment, step up production and boost exports through the 'Make in India' initiative. The recently-unveiled Textile Vision Document envisages growth in textile exports to $300 billion by 2025 as compared to $39 billion now. Reaching this goal would result in creating of 35 million additional jobs and require investment to the tune of $120 billion. Since this target would require flow of huge foreign direct investment (FDI) too, correction of the excise duty bias against synthetic textiles is essential. This will be a big boost to the Indian textile industry which accounts for about 17% of the country's exports, 6% of GDP, 14% of industrial production and generates employment for 35 million people," added Mr Kapoor.

If it is not possible to make man-made fibres and yarns duty free in one go, the government should at least usher in an uniform duty structure of bringing the entire textile chain under 6% excise duty. Industry estimates indicate that this will yield additional revenue of Rs.10,000 crore to exchequer. Also, this will create additional demand for synthetic textiles, boost investment, create huge employment and spur exports like never before � contributing handsomely to Prime Minister's 'Make in India' initiative. This will also pave way for a lower GST rate for textiles and easy transition.

Taiwan industry bodies sign threeMoUs with Indian counterparts

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13:
Three Taiwanese industry bodies on Tuesday signed separate memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with their counterparts in India. The three MoUs related to shipbuilding, electronics and textiles and were in addition to the three agreements signed at the Vibrant Gujarat 2015 summit.

While the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) entered into a MoU with Taiwan Textile Federation, the Electric Lamp and Component Manufacturers' Association (ELCOMA) signed a MoU with Taiwan Electrical & Electronic Manufacturers' Association.

An MoU was also signed between Shipyards Association of India and Taiwan Shipbuilding Industry Association.

The MoUs are the beginning of new friendship between India and Taiwan and will provide the platform to expand the industrial collaboration between the two countries, said Shih-Chao Cho, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Affairs of Taiwan. He lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' initiatives.

"We can feel the determination of the Indian government to liberalise and deregulate to bring in investments", said Cho, who is leading a 50-member delegation from Taiwan

Rakesh Zutshi, Managing Director, Halonix Technologies, later told *BusinessLine* that Taiwan could play a role in providing LED technology to India and expanding its use here. On behalf of ELCOMA, Zutshi had exchanged the MoU with TEEMA.

(This article was published on January 13, 2015)

Mango s’apprête à ouvrir sa plus grande boutique au monde à Milan

Publié le 08 janvier 2015 par JEAN-NOËL CAUSSIL

Mango, présent en Italie depuis 2001, compte 83 boutiques dans le pays.

L'enseigne de mode Mango ouvrira en mai 2015 un magasin de 3000 m² à Milan. Son plus grand dans le monde.

Au printemps 2015, Mango ouvrira à Milan un magasin de 3000 m², réparti sur trois étages. Il s’agira de sa plus grande boutique dans le monde. Elle occupera l'ancien siège du groupe Mondadori, sur le Corso Vittorio-Emanuele, et permettra à l’enseigne espagnole d’exposer l’ensemble de ses gammes : Mango, Mango Man (nouveau nom de HE. By Mango), Mango Kids, Mango Sport & Intimates et Violeta by Mango.

83 MAGASINS EN ITALIE

"*Il s'agit sans aucun doute de l'ouverture la plus importante de Mango en Italie (83 magasins à date),* souligne Matteo Sgarbossa, directeur de retail international chez Mango. *Elle reflète l'engagement et l'investissement de la marque sur ce marché qui continuera de croître dans les années à venir. Cette ouverture s'inscrit dans la lignée du mégastore de 2000 m² d'Orio al Serio, dans la province de Bergame, en novembre 2014*

Pakistan's first indepth newspaper on Customs
CUSTOMS Today
ABC Certified

Japan's garment, textile industry obtains turnover target of $28-28.5b

Reported by: `Customs Today Report January 12, 2015

TOKYO: Garment and textile industry maintained its export growth momentum last year and obtained a turnover target of US$28-28.5 billion, showing an increase of 16 percent over 2013. Garment items brought US$21 billion, up 17 percent while fibre products yielded US$3 billion.

The export turnover grew 12.5 percent to U.S. market, 17 percent to the EU and remained unchanged at 9 percent to Japan.Vietnam has been the second largest exporter of garment and textile products to the U.S. for the last several years. The annual export turnover from Vietnam to U.S. market has grown 12-13 percent in recent years while the North American nation's import value has grown only 3 percent.

These achievements were partly due to influences from free trade agreements.Experts believed that these agreements will make the garment and textile industry's export target accessible this year because they are directly related to the main export markets of Vietnam, for instance TPP with the U.S. and Japan and FTAs with the EU, South Korea, and the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

LE TEXTILE REDEVIENT ATTRACTIF

Par Ndiaye Mar Bassine le 09/01/2015 à 08h30

On a peine à le croire, mais le secteur du textile renaît de ses cendres. Cette année a été marquée par le retour de la croissance perdue depuis longtemps. Le textile est bien placé pour reprendre sa place d'antan.

C'est bel et bien reparti pour le secteur du textile. Selon la direction des études et prévisions financières (DEPF) du ministère de l'Economie et des finances, "les exportations du secteur du textile et cuir ont augmenté de 3,5% par rapport à fin novembre 2013 pour s'établir à 30,6 milliards de dirhams". D'après son dernier bulletin d'information mensuel, "cette hausse a résulté de l'accroissement des exportations des vêtements confectionnés de 5% à 18,6 milliards de dirhams et de celles des chaussures de 2,3% à 2,6 milliards de dirhams". Un seul segment reste légèrement à la traine. Il s'agit des articles de bonneterie qui ont enregistré un léger repli de 0,9% à 6,6 milliards de dirhams.

85 millions d'emplois à prendre

Il faut y voir un effet Chine, comme l'a expliqué Moulay Hafid Elalamy lors de la conférence de presse qui a suivi la réunion de la Commission des investissements. Selon lui, "le fait que la Chine ait décidé de développer son marché intérieur est une aubaine insoupçonnée pour l'économie marocaine". Citant le rapport de la Banque Mondiale sur le sujet, le ministre a rappelé que plus de 85 millions d'emplois seront délocalisés de la Chine vers des pays qui offrent un niveau de salaire plus compétitif. Le fait de développer son marché intérieur signifie que la Chine doit augmenter le pouvoir d’achat des employés. Le salaire minimum chinois atteint 550 dollars dans plusieurs villes industrielles, quand il n’est que de 350 dollars au Maroc. Dans un tel contexte, le secteur du textile marocain, qui avait commencé à s’essouffler pourrait redevenir compétitif et attractif. D'autant que contrairement à d'autres pays concurrents, le Maroc n'a pas à reconstruire sa plateforme industrielle.

Par Ndiaye Mar Bassine

Pakistan's cotton output crosses previous season's figure

January 05, 2015 (Pakistan)

As on 1 January, 2015, a total of 13.958 million bales of cotton arrived at various ginneries in Pakistan, crossing the previous season's total cotton production of 13.391 million bales.

Cotton arrival increased by 10.16 per cent year-on-year to 13.958 million bales at ginneries in Pakistan as on 1 January, 2015, compared to arrival of 12.670 million bales during the corresponding period of last season, according to the fortnightly report on cotton arrivals, prepared by the Pakistan Cotton Ginners' Association (PCGA), in joint cooperation with All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) and the Karachi Cotton Association (KCA).

In Punjab province, the total cotton arrivals grew by 12.13 per cent year-on-year to 10.090 million bales, according to the data. In Sindh province, cotton arrivals increased by 5.35 per cent to 3.867 million bales as on January 1, during the ongoing cotton season 2014-15.

Of the total arrival of 13.958 million bales, 13.430 million bales were pressed by ginners, of which 11.941 million bales were sold, leaving an unsold stock of 1.488 million bales with the ginners, as on January 1.

The textile mills in Pakistan consumed 11.457 million bales, while another 391,465 bales of cotton were sold to exporters, and the Trading Corporation of Pakistan procured 92,700 bales, according to the data.

At the beginning of 2015, a total of 799 ginning factories were operational in Punjab compared to 663 ginneries that were operational during the same time last season. Similarly, 156 ginning units were operational in the Sindh region, compared to 135 operating units during the corresponding period last year.

Interestingly, the Cotton Crop Assessment Committee (CCAC), at its third meeting last week, kept its estimate for the cotton crop season 2014-15 unchanged from the previous meeting at 13.488 million bales.
In Pakistan, cotton is sown from March to June and harvested from October to February.

In 2013-14 cotton season, Pakistan's cotton output increased by 3.69 per cent to 13.391 million bales, compared to 2012-13 season's production of 12.915 million bales. (RKS

THE EXPRESS
TRIBUNE
WITH THE International New York Times

Talks with China: Pakistan unlikely to make more tariff reduction

By Shahbaz Rana

Published: January 7, 2015

As the second phase of talks began under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, Pakistan would resist the demand for more tariff concessions after its many industries became uncompetitive due to the relaxation given in the first round of talks.

The free trade agreement that came into force in 2006 has kept the balance of trade in favour of China while Pakistan could not fully enjoy the preferential treatment due to Beijing's similar trade agreements with Asia-Pacific countries.

If Pakistan implements the second phase, as desired by China, its textile sector will become uncompetitive

After the first phase, China desired that Pakistan should implement the second phase that would allow its exporters concessions of up to 90% of total tariff lines, said an official of the Ministry of Commerce, who was part of the negotiations.

He said Pakistan would prefer to invoke Article 8 of the treaty under which tariff reduction would be offered on selected product lines instead of general concession on all imports.

If Pakistan implements the second phase, as desired by China, its textile sector will become uncompetitive. Many industries have already been wiped out over the last six years as domestic markets are flooded with cheap and low-quality Chinese products. As a result, the balance of trade has heavily been in China's favour.

Furthermore, there is difference of opinion over the size of bilateral trade. The volume is said to be in the range of $10 billion to $14 billion as Pakistani importers show a lower value of their goods in an attempt to evade taxes and duties.

The first round of three-day talks between Pakistan and China was held on Tuesday to assess the developments that had taken place in the wake of the FTA and propose necessary changes for the benefit of the two countries. Pakistan is expected to adopt a tough stance in order to avoid further damage to the economy from free trade.

This was the third meeting of the second phase of negotiations in which Pakistan's delegation was headed by Ministry of Commerce Additional Secretary Robina Ather and accompanied by officials of the Federal Board of Revenue, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Textile Industry and Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

A 10-member Chinese delegation was headed by Yao Wenliang, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Commerce.

Pakistan expressed concern over the dilution of the margin of preference due to China's free trade accords with other countries, especially members of the Asean grouping, according to a handout issued by the ministry.

It added the cost of exemption that the national exchequer had to bear due to the tariff concessions also came under discussion. Pakistan conveyed concerns of the domestic industry, which had to compete with Chinese products despite a persistent energy crisis in the country.

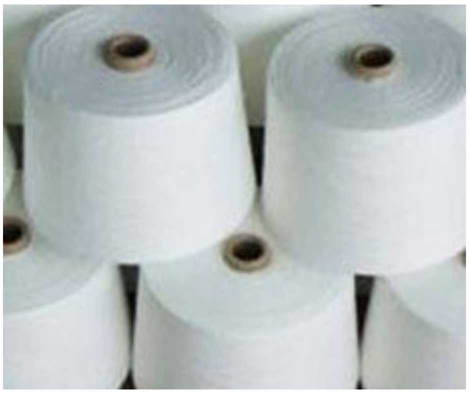
The Ministry of Commerce also voiced concern over insufficient utilisation of the facilities provided under free trade in which only a few sectors had been able to reap the fruits of preferential tariffs.

Pakistan emphasised the importance of broadening the export base by encouraging exports from all sectors, which were covered under free trade and sought to enhance facilities and concessions on high value-added products.

Both sides agreed that the concerns of each other would be taken into consideration with a thorough review of the FTA provisions and the possibility of readjustment.

Surge in Indian cotton yarn imports poses threat: APTMA

January 09, 2015 (Pakistan)



An abnormal rise in imports of cotton yarn from India is posing a threat to the viability of domestic textile industry, All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) has said.

According to APTMA, an average of 2,500 tonnes of cotton yarn, mainly fine counts used in production of around 140 products, was imported by Pakistan in July-November 2014-15, which shows a 100 per cent increase in imports of Indian cotton yarn.

Citing import data, APTMA chairman SM Tanveer said the import of cotton yarn from India increased to 26,000 tonnes in fiscal year 2013-14, compared to import of 17,000 tonnes in 2012-13.

Stating that the surge in import of Indian cotton yarn is hurting the domestic textile industry, Tanveer urged the ministry of commerce to immediately take remedial measures by exercising public interest clauses of 7(b) of the Safeguard Measures Ordinance, 2002.

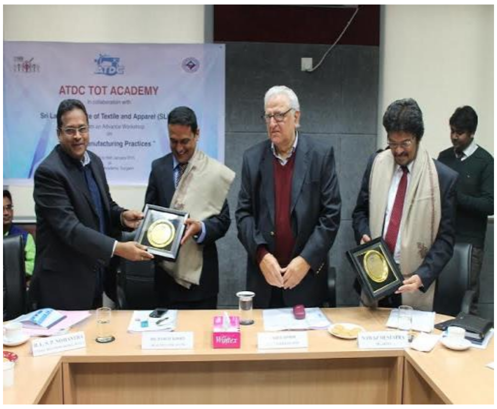
Tanveer said the Indian Government extends incentives to yarn exporters in the form of rebate and discount on interest payment for attracting new investments. In addition, some state governments also provide subsidy in electricity charges to spinning mills.

On the other hand, India imposes 10 per cent customs duty on import of yarn, besides 12 per cent countervailing duty (CVD) and 4 per cent special CVD, bringing the cumulative impact to nearly 30 per cent. In comparison, Pakistan imposes only a nominal import duty of 5 per cent on cotton yarn import, which makes the country an ideal market for dumping, said Tanveer.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's cotton yarn exports fell by 9.31 per cent to $818.397 million in July-November 2014-15, as against exports of $902.409 million made during the same period of previous fiscal year. (RKS

ATDC holds first International training program on 'Lean Management' in collaboration with Sri Lanka Institute of Textile & Apparel

Tuesday, January 13, 2015



Report by India Education bureau, New Delhi: Continuing with its training programs and workshops in the Apparel Industry, ATDC (Apparel Training & Design Centre), India's largest vocational training network for the apparel sector, in collaboration with Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel (SLITA) inaugurated its first international training workshop today on "Lean manufacturing practices and implementations."

The training program was inaugurated by Sri. Hari Kapoor, ATDC VC and Dr. Darlie Koshy, DG&CEO-ATDC & IAM at ATDC-TOT (Training of Trainers) Academy, Gurgaon. Ms. Roopali Shukla, Head, ATDC-TOT Academy, Mr. Nawaz Mustapha, Director General, SLITA and Mr. B.L.S.P. Nishantha, Chief Technologist, SLITA, Mr. Sanjay Anand, Executive Director, Blackberry and other senior professionals involved in Apparel Production in Delhi NCR were present on the occasion. Also present on the occasion were members of the recently formed 'Ujjesh' apparel cluster which has been catalysed with the help of ATDC & NPC in their approach to create denovo clusters.

Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel (SLITA) is an internationally renowned Training Institute and Technical Services Provider for the Textile and Apparel Industry. SLITA is providing fast track and cutting edge education to professionals for managing the Apparel Industry in a competitive era. SLITA's Experts; Mr. Nawaz Mustapha, Director General, SLITA and Mr. B.L.S.P. Nishantha, Programme Coordinator & Chief Technologist, SLITA will be conducting this training workshop

The ATDC TOT academy is organizing this 5 day workshop from 12 January to 16 January, 2015 for 30-35 participants for the training including Industry participants (12-15) and 20 ATDC Trainers' from ATDC's PAN-India Centres. The Training will focus on topics such as Goals of the Lean enterprise, Financial Aspects, Value Engineering, Process Mapping, Standard Operations, Visual Management, 5 S & its implementation, Value Steam mapping (VSM), Lead Time – video on Cellular Concept, Behavioural Metrics and various case studies exercises. This training is in context of providing advance and upgraded specialized skills to ATDC Faculty Resources especially teaching AMT Courses.

On the occasion Sri Hari Kapoor, ATDC VC said -"I am sure both faculty resources and industry professionals can greatly benefit from this advanced training workshop on Lean

Manufacturing practices for bringing in new inputs on enhancing ‘productivity & efficiency’ in apparel sector.”

Dr. Darlie Koshy, DG & CEO, ATDC emphasised, “Indian Apparel Industry needs to control costs, rein in wastes and improve productivity & efficiency. Time has come to commit ourselves to improve competitiveness, by adopting Lean Manufacturing Practices. SLITA has proven itself as a practical leader in this sphere and we are happy to bring such a workshop to the ATDC Faculty resources and professionals from the industry when the industry is seriously looking at options to be highly competitive.”

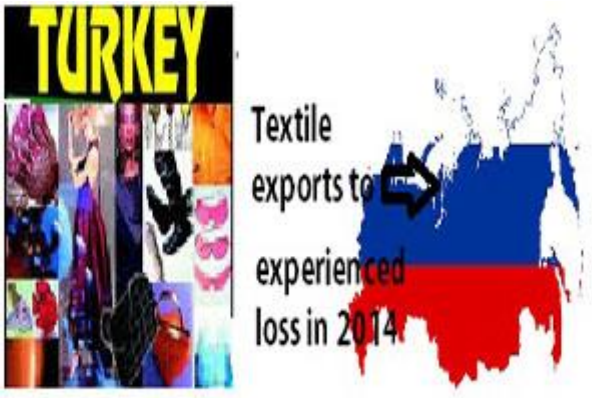
ATDC TOT Academy, trains the trainers. It is an institution that operates as a resource centre which sets benchmarks and overall quality parameters for those in the business of skilling in the apparel sector. TOT Academy upgrade the knowledge base and skill levels of the faculty resources to develop industry oriented approach in their pedagogy. The key objective of the Academy is to bring about an overall systematic change in the Apparel Industry while providing better quality trainers for industry. With this vision this workshop is being organised with Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel (SLITA) which will provide new insights in achieving higher efficiency & productivity, for which Sri Lankan Apparel Industry is well known. The training will particularly benefit the Top Management and Middle Management as it is about the Implementation of Lean Management Practices.

Mr. Nawaz Mustapha, Director General, SLITA said,”Sri Lanka’s government export performance is reaching 4.3 billion USD in 2014. This workshop is being organized to share our experience and expertise on lean management in apparel sector. It is one of the good technique which produces product with less resources, capital, raw material, energy and labour. Apparel is an important contributing sector in Indian economy and this lean manufacturing technique can prove very beneficial for this sector. This will also lead to generation of employment in Apparel sector. ”

Lean manufacturing is a systemic method for the elimination of waste within a manufacturing process. Lean also takes into account waste created through overburden and waste created through unevenness in workloads. Lean as a manufacturing philosophy aims at waste reduction, cost reduction promotes environment friendly practices, reduces the cycle time.

Turkey experienced loss in textile exports to Russia to nearly 24.92 pc in 2014

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 2015-01-08 11:00:00 - Turkey



Turkey has been experiencing difficult times with its exports to Russia which has declined by 14.6 percent, dropping to $6.57 billion in 2014 compared to $7.96 billion in 2013 due to the decrease in the value of the ruble.

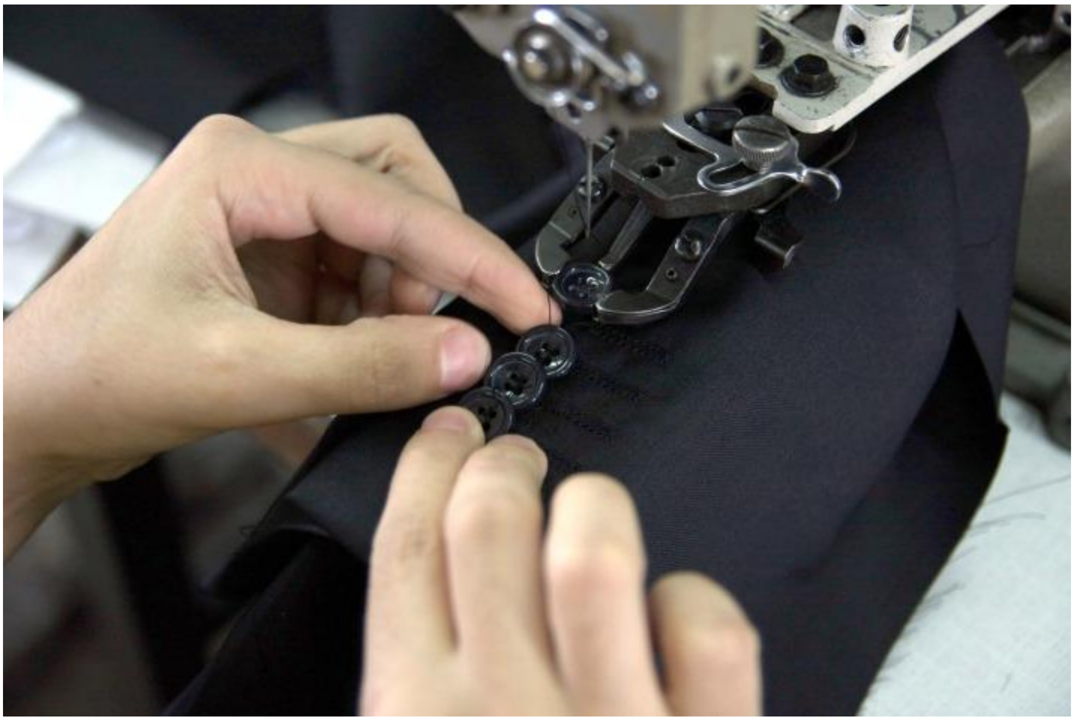
According to the records of the Turkish Exporters' Assembly (TİM), Turkey's total exports rose to $157.62 billion with an increase of 4 percent in 2014. Unlike the increasing export rates in 2014, big losses occurred in the Russian market, having a large impact on all sectors, as Russia is one of the top export markets for Turkey.

Almost every sector in Turkey was negatively affected by the decrease in the ruble, and their exports to Russia drastically decreased. The textile sector's loss is estimated at around 24.92 percent. The exports of the textile sector to Russia which had increased to $1.16 billion in 2013, dropped to nearly $763 million in 2014. Export of leather products nosedived by 24.52 percent, thereby reaching $410 million.

Exports of ready-made clothing to Russia, which had increased to $413 million in 2013, dropped to nearly $351 million in 2014, a decrease of 15.02 percent.

Russia ranked fourth after Germany, Iraq and England among the countries Turkey exported to in 2013, it fell three steps behind in 2014, thereby ranking seventh after Germany, Iraq and England, Italy, France and the U.S.

Turkish textiles are in hot demand in Russia



Azerbaijani couriers who take dozens of passenger flights a month with this precious cargo.

Azerbaijanis living in Istanbul have found a new way of making money: jetting to Moscow from Istanbul and back, sometimes to 50 times a month.

A group of Azerbaijanis here are making the most of relaxed visa rules for them in Turkey and Russia, to take the two-and-a-half-hour-flight to the Russian capital almost every day to carry products from Istanbul's textile companies.

This one-day cargo, which mainly consists of women's dresses, is important for Russian companies with a high demand for Turkish textile productions says one of these very frequent fliers: 35-year-old Sami.

Hailing originally from Azerbaijan's autonomous exclave of Nakhchivan, Sami – who does not want to give his real name – describes his business not as "suitcase trade" but "transportation," adding that it is difficult to estimate how many Azerbaijanis are doing this job.

According to Turkey’s Central Bank, this so-called suitcase trade, in which consumers from Central and Eastern Europe fill their luggage with consumer goods from Istanbul shops, was expected to reach $7.4 billion in 2014.

The trade has been a significant source of revenue for Turkey since the fall of the Soviet Union, when people from Russia, Romania, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia began to come here in the 1990s to purchase consumer goods and pack their suitcases with items to sell at street markets back home.

The trade is primarily centered on Istanbul's Laleli district and in the back alleys of nearby Aksaray, close to the city’s historical and touristic heart.

Sami proudly shows off his passport full of stamps, claiming that he earns more than 5,800 Turkish lira a month.

“I fly around 25 times every month and earn more than $2,500 in total,” he says.

As an Azerbaijani citizen, Sami has been flying almost every day for the last three years, making him a semi-permanent resident of airports in Istanbul and Moscow. Azerbaijanis can visit Russia visa-free for 90 days and have a visa exemption for 30 days in Turkey.

However, an Azerbaijani owner of one Istanbul-based cargo-company – who chooses not to reveal his name – finds Sami’s claim about his earnings to be exaggerated.

“Even if he earns $100 for each flight, he probably lost a similar amount frequently as it is not easy to find customers and it is not easy to gain a customer’s trust,” he says.

Sami, on the other hand, claims that he has regular customers in Russia, especially at Sadovod market in southeastern Moscow.

According to Sami, Russian entrepreneurs contact Turkish textile shop owners in Istanbul and pay around $15-16 for per kilo for the cargo.

“If they tried to send products by normal cargo, they would maybe pay $5-6 less per kilo but they would need to wait more than 10 days,” he says.

Sometimes a 20-strong group flies on the same plane together, carrying almost 1.4 tons of textile products from Istanbul.

As a result of their myriad flights, many of these high-flying couriers hold Turkish Airlines’ top-level air miles card which provides each member of the group with the option to carry 60 kilograms of luggage with them, Sami says.

When Sami or his friends go to Moscow, they immediately give the products to “their men,” and return to Istanbul with the first return flight.

However, for some this process – which can require unfamiliar people to carry clients’ products – is risky.

One 40-year-old Ukrainian shop assistant in Istanbul explains how the process works:

“Customers give us a business card on which is written their name along with the products details that they purchased and a cargo company name.

“We give the products and the card to cart carriers working around this neighborhood.

“When the products reach the cargo company they also write on the card that they received all the products.”

But sometimes this “unreliable” system does not work properly, according to the shop assistant, who explains how they lost $1,000 worth of goods when they sent the products to a customer in a Laleli hotel room.

“The cart carrier left the products in the hotel reception but didn’t get the card back and the customer never received his products,” she says.

“The hotel didn’t help us and we couldn’t find out where the products actually ended up. So we had to send him the same products again,” she adds.

According to her, the reason why some customers choose to send their products via these Azerbaijani one-day cargo specialists is the possibility of Russian customs seizing their goods and making them wait.

“Even if [customers] could get their goods back, it would be too late because the shopping season will pass and they will lose money,” she adds.

Sami had made a couple of attempts to settle in Istanbul during the 1990s. When he came to Turkey for the first time in 1997, he toiled in a textile company as a worker.

After his four-year experience in Istanbul he decided to return home but it took him around eight years to come back to his beloved Istanbul.

When he came a second time, a friend told Sami about a new job opportunity: flying from Istanbul to Moscow.

“At first it was very tiring but I got used it in time,” he says.

Thanks to the huge amount of air miles they have racked up, Sami and his friends now spend their time at Istanbul Ataturk Airport’s lounge areas, making their travels easier.

“Staff in the lounge area, the passport control police officers and the stewardesses know us very well,” he says.

When asked how long he would continue doing this job, Sami says: “I don’t know – maybe until I start up my own business.”

AA

Vietnam's textile and garment exports eye $28bn in 2015

January 06, 2015 (Vietnam)

The textile and garment sector of Vietnam is aiming at total exports of US$ 28 billion to $28.5 billion in 2015, according to Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex).

In 2014, Vietnam's textile and garment industry witnessed good growth in exports and they reached $24.5 billion, up nearly 16 per cent compared to 2013, Vinatex said.

The textile and garment sector is expected to benefit from several free trade agreements (FTAs) that are likely to take effect, and it aims to achieve total exports of $28 billion to $28.5 billion in 2015.

Owing to advantages accruing from the FTAs, the textile industry could double the size of production in ten years. However, textile enterprises need to be well prepared for the same.

At present, the Vietnamese textile industry is facing many difficulties and it is still too much dependent on import of raw materials.

The Government needs to promote the reform of administrative procedures, creating favourable conditions for business development, said Dang Phuong Dung, vice president and general secretary of Vinatex.

Last year, Vietnam's garment exports showed good growth in major markets, registering a growth of 17 per cent in Europe, 12.5 per cent in the US, and 9 per cent in Japan. Besides remaining No. 2 in the US market, Vietnam rose to No. 2, just behind China, in the Japanese market in 2014.

Besides the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, which includes the US and Japan, Vietnam has either signed or in the final stages of negotiations for FTA with the EU, South Korea, and the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia. (RKS)

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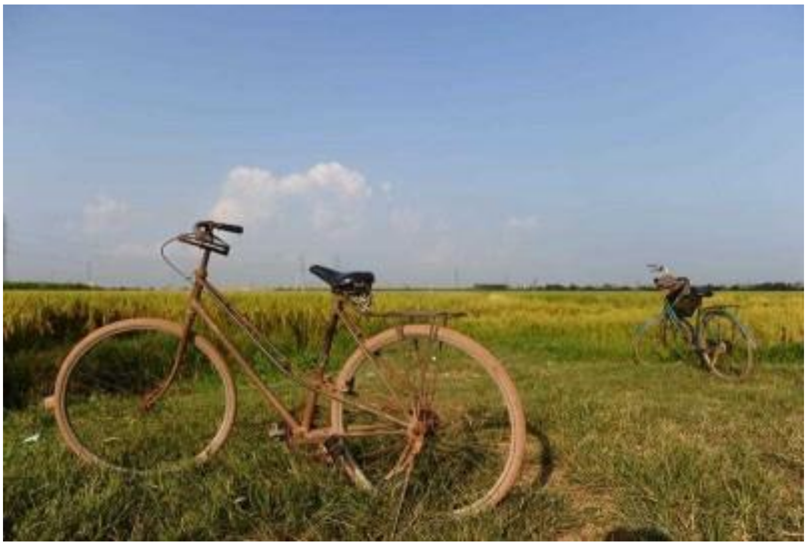
Vietnam's economy steady as it grows

12 January 2015

Author: Suiwah Leung, ANU

The Vietnamese economy has stabilised but is growing below trend. In 2014, the economy relied principally on manufactured exports. The government seems to be pushing on with structural reforms of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and the banking sector. But it remains to be seen whether its current efforts will be sufficient to restore economic growth in time for the country to transform itself into a high-income industrialised economy in the longer-term future.



The Vietnam economy showed further signs of continued macroeconomic stabilisation throughout 2014. The headline inflation rate fell to between 3 and 4 per cent, the current account balance has been in positive territory three years in a row, the parallel and interbank rates were well within the official exchange rate band, and international reserves rose above the level in the pre-global financial crisis days of 2006–7.

Manufactured exports, particularly in mobile telephone parts and components, grew rapidly throughout the year. They have already overtaken garments exports as the number one export earner, placing Vietnam firmly in the global production network of hi-tech parts and components trade. In a little over 10 years, exports of electronic goods and components have grown from less than 4 per cent of Vietnam's total export basket to more than 34 per cent, currently constituting the single most important driver of growth in an otherwise subdued domestic market.

The glowing picture on the trade front was dimmed, for a time, by political tensions with China during 2014. Whilst those tensions are likely to continue in the background, the heavy reliance of Vietnamese industry on imported inputs from China indicates a longer-term issue of a lack of industrial deepening — exacerbated by the dominance of large SOEs in upstream industries. Ongoing structural reform of SOEs is crucial for future development of the economy.

For the first eight months of 2014, the number of domestic businesses that were shut down or suspended rose by 13 per cent compared with the same period last year. It is estimated to exceed the record high of nearly 61,000 businesses that shut down during 2013. The banking sector continues to be weighed down by bad debts, and credit growth is again below the official target. The Government has admitted that the large conglomerates of SOEs and their many subsidiaries are responsible for over half of the bad debts.

As a result, it is not surprising that GDP growth is estimated by the IMF to be around 5.5 per cent this year, perhaps edging up to 5.6 per cent in 2015 — substantially below the trend growth of between 7 and 8 per cent in the pre- global financial crisis years.

Fiscal policy has been counter-cyclical, and fiscal deficits have been fluctuating around 6 and 7 per cent of GDP in recent years. This, together with falling oil revenue, has meant that the level of public debt is projected to rise to about 55 per cent by end-2014. Under normal circumstances, these levels of debt should not be a matter of concern, particularly as much of Vietnam's external debts are in the form of long-term concessional aid funds that are quite stable.

But two issues stand out in the current economic climate.

Global economic conditions have deteriorated in the second half of 2014, with potentially volatile capital flows impacting negatively on many emerging market economies, including Vietnam. This means that the governance of public debt matters as it affects how investors perceive the country's macroeconomic vulnerability. In the past several years, since the first issuance of the Vietnamese government's domestic debt, the maturity period has been quite short — less than 7 years.

More worryingly, agencies other than the Ministry of Finance have been able to issue these debts. It is important that the central government is able to take effective control of public borrowings, and not repeat the mistakes of 2006–7 when the central government lost control of the large conglomerates of SOEs and their myriad of subsidiaries.

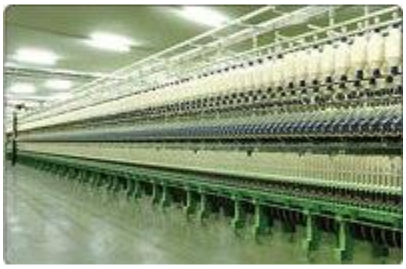
The Prime Minister has in recent months announced some 430 SOEs to be sold off by 2015. These include large conglomerates such as the textiles group Vinatex, the ship-building giant Vinashin and the ports and shipping authority Vinalines, amongst others. This will be no mean feat. Vinatex alone has around 120 subsidiaries covering all aspects of the textile industry from spinning and weaving to distribution and retail. It is also heavily exposed to the property sector, finance and banking. In July this year, Vinatex had an initial public offering in which it failed to sell all its shares, and the State is still left with 51 per cent ownership. This is despite good prospects for Vietnam's textile and garments sector with the EU–Vietnam FTA and of course the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement further down the track.

There are serious questions about the feasibility of this more rapid pace of SOE reform. As for Vinashin and Vinalines, government investigations in the last couple of years have revealed gross mismanagement and malfeasance. Unless these problems are appropriately addressed and resolved, the prospects of successful IPOs would also be dim.

This leaves Vietnam's economic story for 2014 as one of slow and steady growth, with plenty to be positive and tentative about for 2015.

Hong Kong emerges as second biggest investor in Vietnam

January 13, 2015 (Vietnam)



According to the Vietnamese Foreign Investment Agency (FIA), Hong Kong has emerged as the second biggest investor in Vietnam in 2014 overtaking big investors like Japan, Singapore and Taiwan.

Most of the investments from Hong Kong have flowed in to the textile sector and property market, the Vietnamnet quoted the FIA as saying.

Till 15 December 2014, Hong Kong companies had invested a total of US$ 3 billion in 99 new projects and 23 existing projects in Vietnam in 2014.

Investments in the Vietnamese textile sector have either flowed in to setting up new projects or expanding existing facilities. These include Huafu's plans to invest $136 million in a project in Thuan Dao Industrial Park in Long An Province to produce 30,000 tons of yarn annually.

The Nam Phuong Textile Company has started construction of a $120 million textile project at Viet Huong 2's Industrial Park in the Binh Duong Province.

Hong Kong investors are operating 869 projects in Vietnam, with a total registered capital of $15.46 billion, ranking sixth among 101 countries and territories with investments in the country.

The investment by a Hong Kong investor in Vietnam averages $17.8 million as against an average ticket size of $14.3 million of overall foreign investments. (AR)

Vietnam Intl textile and garment exhibition 2015 to be held again at TBECC soon

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 2015-01-06 10:00:00 – Vietnam

The Vietnam Int'l Textile & Garment Industry Exhibition (VTG) show has seen a gradual increase in visitors each year as interest in textile, garment, apparel and accessories firms. With 4 consecutive successful years, the show has become one of the more influential and comprehensive exhibition for textile and garment in Vietnam. VTG 2015 will be held again at Tan Binh Exhibition & Convention Centre (TBECC) from 21st to 24th October, 2015, it will definitely the industrial exhibition that textile industry players can't miss to attend.

The Vietnam Int'l Textile & Garment Industry Exhibition and its concurrent event- Vietnam Int'l Textile & Apparel Accessories Exhibition are working with world leading brands to bring new technologies, machineries and innovations from 200 exhibitors which begins from 19th October to 1st November . These two events are organized by Ministry of industry & Trade-Vietnam National Trade Fair & Advertising Join-stock Company (VINEXAD), Yorkers Trade & Marketing Service Co., Ltd., Paper Communication Exhibition Services and Chan Chao International Co., Ltd.

During the four-day event, the latest machinery, equipment and technologies will be displayed by high quality exhibitors from 10 world countries & regions, such as China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Turkey, U.S.A, and Vietnam which will be taking parts in the exhibition, with world-renowned companies such as ARTREND, Da Kong, EKSOY, TAJIMA, WELLTEX, among other multinational firms, to name just a few.

In addition, Taiwan Association of Machinery Industry TAMI will set up their own special pavilion with 12 top companies and cover approx. 162 sqm of the TBECC exhibition ground, showcasing the leading machineries and cutting-edge technologies to the Vietnamese market. Their strong presence further consolidates the event's international status.

After signing Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPP), American custom policy is benefiting the textile product exported from Vietnam. There are more and more companies planning to move their plants to Vietnam; those who already had plants there are thinking of expanding. The country expect to earn from garment and textile exports more than 24 billion dollars in 2014, 18 billion dollars in 2015 and 25 billion in 2020.

In addition, the foreign investment in Vietnam's textile and garment sectors is growing rapidly as international firms seek to take advantage of benefits the country will potentially derive when the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement comes into being. There are several companies from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, the

United States and South Korea, have made large investments in the sector since the beginning of this year. It has tremendous opportunities that foreign firms are boosting investment in textile and garment industry in Vietnam.

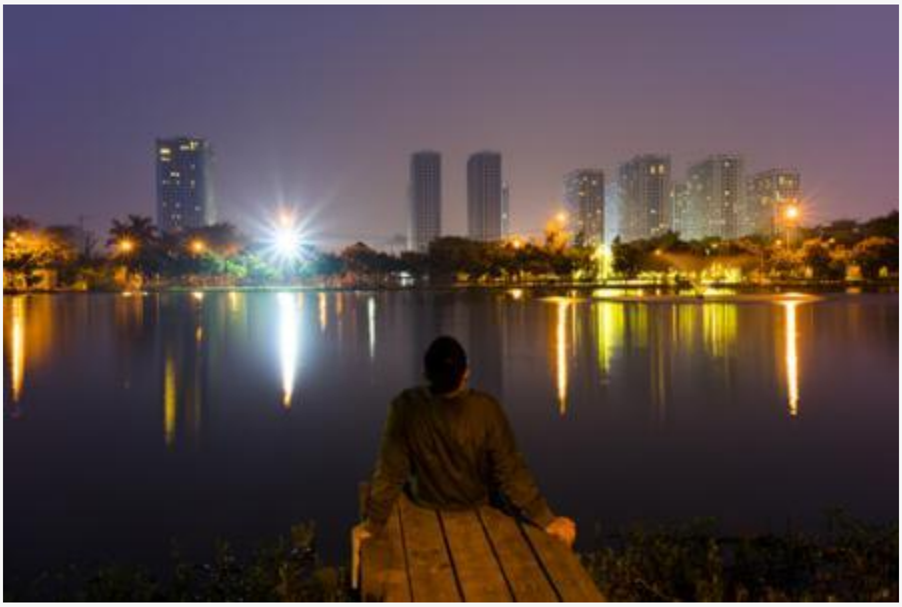
Related to hot issues in recent market, Association of Garments, Textiles, Embroidery and Knitting (AGTEK) will present seminars to discuss the current trends, leading techniques and technologies of the industry on 30th & 31st October. There are two topics "Building up Capable Sourcing for Vietnam Textile Companies when TPP Goes to Implementation" & "Productivity and Flexibility-Vital Solution for Vietnam Garment Sector in Global Competition" will be presented by AGTEK. Those two sessions cover a wide range of heated topics which will be the best chance to realize innovative ideas and market trend.

VTG 2015 will set an exclusive business platform for domestic and international quality suppliers of Textiles and Garments industries to take their business to next level. This must-attend event continues to provide a productive and interactive hub where exhibitors can launch their new products during the exhibition.

Vietnam is on a Roll that Should Continue in 2015

By: **East Asia Forum** Date: **8 January 2015**

For Vietnam's leadership, 2014 was another year of growing into a role as an increasingly active international player, both diplomatically and economically. Two events — the Haiyang 981 oilrig incident and TPP accession negotiations — gave Vietnam a place in the spotlight and shed light on a continued path for 2015.



Hanoi Shining Bright

Vietnamese diplomacy hit some high notes during the Chinese oilrig incident. Hanoi earned plaudits for its handling of the crisis. It attempted to de-escalate through multilateral negotiations, while standing firm on the principle that China's claims over virtually all the waters of the South China Sea (or East Sea) are unfounded in international law. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung found the right words in international fora, with the result that China became increasingly isolated. For the first time, ASEAN took a position on the dispute, while the United States made strongly worded critical statements about China's actions. And while officially nobody wants to be alarmist, Indonesia is rethinking its maritime defence strategy over China's aggressive posture.

All the while, Vietnam is actively — and visibly — trying to keep channels of communication with Beijing open, proclaiming not only a willingness to discuss and follow established codes of conduct but also to bring the case before international tribunals — anathema for Beijing.

The impact of the tensions on Vietnam's domestic politics is less clear. Observers debate whether pro-China or pro-Western forces are emerging on top — if such a dichotomy is not oversimplified in the first place. But the Communist Party of Vietnam will continue to grapple with managing both its relations with its powerful neighbour to the north and with the West in 2015 and beyond.

Vietnam's other key policy event was the accession negotiations to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). For the government, membership is a high priority. As the least developed of all candidates, it would show yet again that Vietnam is a serious player internationally. But more importantly, the TPP would represent the external push force required to bring Vietnam's slowing economy back into high gear.

TPP membership will have three main effects on the economy. First, it promises to provide Vietnam's crucial garment sector with tariff-free access to the North American and Japanese markets. Second, it will require reform of state-owned enterprises (SOEs). Consuming the better part of new capital, Vietnam's SOEs deprive the more efficient private sector of credit and of the ability to invest and grow. There is broad agreement on this, but without strong external pressure, the politically well-connected SOEs are hard to reform. Third, under strict TPP rules of origin, only products made entirely (or largely) within the TPP zone enjoy tariff-free market access.

Investors gain an incentive to build more textile mills in Vietnam, to supply the massive domestic garment and apparel industry, rather than importing cloth from China. Investment in these upstream industries would have a significant impact on Vietnam's biggest economic problem: the low levels of productivity in what is essentially a final-assembly economy based on imports of the higher-end inputs.

Joining the TPP would cause a shift in economic power away from the state-owned industries and their cronies and toward smaller, private businesses. In addition, it could be a major factor in bringing foreign investment into Vietnam's intermediary materials industries. Since these are often higher on the value chain than the assembly process, the TPP would be crucial in adjusting productivity upwards. And rules aimed at levelling the playing field between state and non-state businesses are likely to be a shot in the arm for the innovative but cash- and credit-starved SMEs. These changes will break the dependence on an assembly economy that imports the lion's share of its parts and inputs from abroad, leaving most of the value-added offshore.

Of course, there are domestic considerations here as well. If the SOEs reform too suddenly, much of their outstanding loans — generally to state-owned banks — will become non-performing and

Overall, 2015 will be a continuation of 2014. Managing its relationship with China will remain a challenge for the government, which will continue attempts to join the TPP. None of this will be easy. The problem with China is that Beijing can manipulate public discontent in Vietnam simply by invading Vietnamese waters, and Hanoi can do little to counter it beyond diplomacy. Similarly, the TPP is largely beyond Vietnam's control. The main question is not whether Vietnam can join but whether the Obama Administration and the now-Republican Congress can agree on an agreement at all.

Yet in spite of all the questions and caveats, 2014 has shown a path on which Vietnam's leaders are likely to continue in the next year.

Last update 12:00 | 08/01/2015

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Clothing discounts fail to lure buyers

Fashion shops offered enticing discounts as the year ended, but they failed to attract customers, showing that consumers are keeping their wallets zipped during the economic recession despite big discounts.

Nguyen Nhu Mai, owner of online shop Maccy Fashion, slashed prices by 30-50 per cent with the hope that people would buy new outfits to welcome the Lunar New Year next month. But even prices of VND100,000-200,000 (US$4.7-9.5) were not enough to lure new customers.

On the capital's "fashion streets", the situation is similar. Mai Thi Hue, owner of a shop on Chua Boc Street in Ha Noi's Dong Da District, said that she and her neighbours hung discount signs in front of their stores. However, her felt coats and skirts, marked as made-in-Viet Nam high-quality goods for export and costing only VND180,000-250,000 ($8.5-12), attracted only window shoppers.

"I earned less from selling clothes than I paid to rent the shop," she said.

Office worker Nguyen Thu Hien, 35, said she went to a shop on Chua Boc Street planning to buy some clothes after hearing about the 10-50 per cent sale there.

"However, the clothes with a 10 per cent discount were still too expensive for me, whereas the ones that were 50 per cent off were out of date and even too old and dirty to buy," she complained.

Branded goods in Viet Nam were always more expensive than in other countries, for instance in Thailand, Hien added.

"I think that to attract customers with discount campaigns, sellers should not mix low-quality and old clothes with normal ones and then advertise it as a sale. If customers don't see quality goods, they won't come back to the shop."

Customers would do better to order online from foreign websites during their year-end sale campaigns, she suggested. "That way, you can get products at high quality for reasonable prices."

Luxury Parkson shopping centres in HCMC deserted

Even though many stores have hung up the 50% sale off signs, the Parkson shopping centres in HCM City still failed to attract customers.

Parkson has six commercial centres in HCM City with hundreds of high-class brands. The centres also provide restaurants and entertainment areas but only receive few visitors.

"Business has become sluggish in the late two months. We only sold two pairs of shoes last week. If this continues, we may have to end the rent here to find another place," said a shop owner at Parkson Flemington Centre.

Many other shop owners at the centre confirmed that usually, they cannot even sell a single product.

Other centres such as Parkson C.T. Plaza or Parkson Paragon also face the same problem. If visitors come, they would mostly go to the cinema or restaurant instead of the shops.

Meanwhile, store owners at Parkson Le Thanh Ton complained that the rental fees are too high. The store owners' incomes went down by 20-30% compared to the same period last year.

"Our income this year is down by 20-30% than last year but the monthly rental fee for a 16-square-metre store stays at USD1,300. The fee for similar store on the street is only USD1,000 and it's easier to sell there," a store owner said.

Parkson is the retail arm of Malaysian Lion Group. On January 2, the Parkson Landmark in Hanoi had to shut down because of lacklustre business.

Garment firm targets 115 mln USD revenue in 2015

The Garment 10 Corporation has set its annual revenue of 2.45 trillion VND (over 115 million USD) for 2015, 12 percent higher than that of the last year, said Director Nguyen Thi Thanh Huyen.
During the first days of this year, all employees working at the firm's headquarters in Long Bien district, Hanoi, have worked hard to complete batches of goods for export to Japan, the US and the European Union.
Le Tien Truong, General Director of the Vietnam Textile and Garment Corporation noted that in order to take advantage of the Free Trade Agreements with the Republic of Korea and the Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union that will be signed in early 2015, officials and workers of the company need to further promote their creativeness so as to improve labour productivity and competitiveness of goods, which will help win major orders.
In 2014, the corporation enjoyed 2.18 trillion VND in revenue. It earmarked a lot of money for improving its productivity, bringing a sustainable growth to the firm.

HSBC: Vietnam manufacturing PMI peaks for eight months
The Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI™) of Vietnam showed signs of strengthening during December, 2014, recording 52.7, up from 52.1 in November and the highest reading since April.
Growth has now been registered for 16 months in a row. The upturn in operating conditions stemmed primarily from strengthened growth in output and new orders.
Trinh Nguyen, Asia Economist at HSBC said that the demand for Vietnamese goods rose, both externally and domestically.
December's survey showed a second successive monthly increase in inventories of input purchases, while there was also an increase in stocks of finished goods.
Companies reported that delays in the delivery of completed goods led to a build-up of stock in warehouses.
The survey data also indicated that average input costs paid by Vietnamese manufacturers continued to fall.
Companies reported that supplier prices, shipping costs and the price of fuel had all fallen when compared to November. Latest data showed that average input prices declined to the greatest degree since July 2012.
Faced with a reduction in their input costs, manufacturers chose to lower their average prices charged in December.
Competitive pressures and efforts to stimulate demand also led to the sharpest fall in output charges for a year - and-a-half.
Commenting on the Vietnam Manufacturing PMI™ survey, Nguyen said Vietnam's acceleration of manufacturing activity stands in sharp contrast to decelerating momentum elsewhere.
She also believed that the manufacturing sector will benefit from both wage cost competitiveness and lower input prices, thanks to declining global brent costs

Government resolution on this year's development plans
The Vietnamese government has issued a resolution on socio-economic development plans for this year which include stabilizing the macro-economy and removing obstacles to business production.
Other plans include implementing strategic breakthroughs, restructuring the economy, changing the growth model, improving competitiveness, and achieving a growth rate higher than in 2014.
The plans will also focus on boosting administrative and judicial reform, protecting the environment, combating corruption and wastefulness, strengthening national defense, political security and public order, protecting national sovereignty, and accelerating international cooperation and integration.
The government asked the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) to coordinate with ministries and localities to adjust monetary and fiscal policies to control inflation, boost economic growth, and mobilize capital for development investment.
The Ministry of Industry and Trade was asked to expand the export market by focusing on high growth export items, removing market barriers, and negotiating more free trade agreements to make it easier to export Vietnamese agricultural, forestry and fishery products.
The government directed ministries and People's Committees to tighten market and price controls toward reducing the bad debt ratio to less than 3% in 2015, speeding the equitization of state-owned enterprises (SoEs), reforming self-managed public agencies, and reducing hospital overloading

Aussie wool producers eye Vietnamese market
Australian wool producers have set their sights on the Vietnam market for 2015, hoping to significantly expand exports, investment and supply chains in the Southeast Asian country.

Vietnamese producers have in the past traditionally imported wool yarn from China, India, Italy, and Germany. Experts forecast that domestic processing will help to save import costs and time.
The manufacturers are making efforts to increase ties with Vietnamese businesses to help them access their natural wool products as well as Australia's wool and yarn processing technologies.
Andrew Patridge, an expert from Techwool Trading said the expansion of new outlets in Asia is a decisive orientation for the Australian wool industry to reduce its dependence on China which now consumes some 70% of Australia's wool export volume.

Flamboyant apparel sector looks to higher export revenue

The apparel sector, buoyed by its strong export performance last year and the country's upcoming signing of free trade agreements with other countries, has set an ambitious target of obtaining US$28-28.5 billion in outbound sales this year.
The sector's 2014 exports amounted to nearly US$24.5 billion, a year-on-year improvement of 16%. Its major markets were the U.S. with a 12.6% rise, Europe with a 16.9% pickup, Japan with an 8.8% increase and South Korea with a 26.6% surge.
The U.S. remained Vietnam's biggest garments importer with a total bill of US$9.8 billion.
According to the Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex), the industry will continue stepping up shipments to those key markets this year, with exports to the U.S. and Europe forecast to edge up to US$11 billion and US$4 billion respectively.
Last year, Vietnam was the largest clothing exporter to the U.S. with two-digit growth. Meanwhile, apparel shipments to America by China and India grew a slight 1% and 6% respectively.
For the European market, when a free trade agreement (FTA) between Vietnam and the European Union (EU) is signed, the nation's apparel exports to the EU could significantly pick up, especially jacket, trousers and suits.
Nguyen Dinh Truong, vice chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS), said at a recent textile and apparel industry exhibition in HCMC that Vietnam's signing of FTAs with South Korea, the EU, and Eurasian Customs Union, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, probably early this year, could result in the sector doubling its production in the next 10 years.
However, those deals will require local firms to quickly integrate and make good preparations such as improving product quality; otherwise, they may be left behind, he said, suggesting the industry should increase output, product quality, production and price competitiveness.
Foreign investors have been scaling up investments in the domestic textile and apparel sector since early last year in anticipation of grasping the business opportunities which the FTAs will certainly bring. Most of them are from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, the U.S. and South Korea.

THE ORGAN OF THE PARTY COMMITTEE
THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIET NAM
HO CHI MINH CITY
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Experts forecast garment, textile export target accessible this year

Negotiations of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and other free trade agreements (FTA) have been done and they are going to be signed this year, which experts say are an opportunity for the garment and textile industry to maintain its export growth momentum last year and obtain a turnover target of US$28-28.5 billion this year.

Garment production for exports at Saigon 3 Garment Company (Photo: SGGP)

Last year the garment and textile export turnover reached nearly US$24.5 billion, an increase of 16 percent over 2013. Garment items brought US$21 billion up 17 percent while fibre products yielded US$3 billion.

The export turnover grew 12.5 percent to U.S. market, 17 percent to the EU and remained unchanged at 9 percent to Japan.

Vietnam has been the second largest exporter of garment and textile products to the U.S. for the last several years. The annual export turnover from Vietnam to U.S. market has grown 12-13 percent in recent years while the North American nation's import value has grown only 3 percent.

These achievements were partly due to influences from free trade agreements.

Experts believed that these agreements will make the garment and textile industry's export target accessible this year because they are directly related to the main export markets of Vietnam, for instance TPP with the U.S. and Japan and FTAs with the EU, South Korea, and the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

When the Vietnam-EU FTA is signed, the tariff rate will fall from 12 percent to 0 percent. Similarly, the TPP agreement will abolish U.S. tariff rates of 17-18 percent.

Despite of the above advantages, experts have said that Vietnam would face difficulties in getting the export turnover target as the material source of garment and textile industry is largely dependent on import.

Ms. Raffaella Carabelli, chairwoman of the Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers, said that besides diversifying the export markets businesses should reduce the reliance on import material sources for successful integration.

Sharing the same view deputy chairman of the Vietnam Association of Garment and Textile Le Tien Truong said that localization rate increase is one of factors helping businesses improve their competitiveness and products' added value.

From now until the agreements are signed and take effect, businesses should invest in material production, link fibre production with cloth production and garment making to improve the supply chain, he added.

They should quickly change from processing with high material import ratio into all-in production to meet customers' demand and increase the added value of their products, he said.

By Lac Phong – Translated by Hai Mien

Vietnam targets 28.5 bln USD from garment, textile exports in 2015

2015/1/8 17:59:02

HO CHI MINH CITY, Jan. 8 (Xinhua) -- Vietnam's garments and textile sector has set a target to earn 28.5 billion U.S. dollars from export in 2015, 4 billion dollars more than last year, according to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association.

In 2014, the country earned 24.5 billion U.S. dollars from export of garments and textiles, posting a 19 percent year-on-year rise, local Vietnam News reported on Thursday.

Of the total value, garment and textile exports to the United States hit 9.8 billion dollars, to Japan with 2.7 billion dollars, and to South Korea with 2 billion dollars.

Meanwhile, the imported materials for garments and textiles production stood at 15.8 billion dollars, posting a 16 percent year-on-year increase.

The imported materials mainly included cotton, fiber and fabrics.

Of these, cotton imports were 743,000 tons, up 28 percent over a year earlier, with a total value of 1.4 billion dollars.

Fiber imports amounted to 1.6 billion dollars for 745,000 tons, up 7 percent and 3 percent year on year in terms of value and quantity, respectively, while fabrics imports cost 9.5 billion dollars.

Textile & garment exports crossed $24bn in 2014: Vinatex

January 05, 2015 (Vietnam)

Increasing approximately at 19 per cent compared to 2013, Vietnam's textile and garment exports have crossed US$ 24 billion in 2014, Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex) said on its website.

While apparel exports jumped 17 per cent to $21 billion last year, textile exports accounted for the remaining $3 billion, Vinatex said.

Vietnam's garment exports showed good growth in major markets last year, registering a growth of 17 per cent in Europe, 12.5 per cent in the US, and 9 per cent in Japan. Besides remaining No. 2 in the US market, Vietnam rose to No. 2, just behind China, in the Japanese market in 2014. This shows that Vietnam's garments are not only competitive but are also a big attraction for foreign customers, Vinatex added.

Le Tien Truong, general manager of Vinatex, attributed the good performance partly to the efforts of the Government in negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs), especially the agreements that are directly related to the major markets such as TPP (US and Japan), the FTA with the EU, South Korea, and the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia.

Although the FTAs are not yet implemented, they are a very big attraction to foreign customers when they decided to move their orders from other countries to Vietnam. The FTAs is one of the advantages and a prerequisite for continued strong growth of Vietnam textile industry in 2015 and beyond, Truong said. (RKS)