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Clothing brands must ensure a living wage to Asia's textile workers

By Reuters | 26 May, 2016, 10.32AM IST

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MUMBAI: Global clothing brands must take responsibility for the millions of workers in Asia who are poorly paid by suppliers and ignored by governments, said a campaigner for higher wages in the region, ahead of an International Labour Organization (ILO) conference.



Asia accounts for more than 60% of the world's garment production, with the industry employing more than 15 million people directly, most of them women.

Asia accounts for more than 60 per cent of the world's garment production, with the industry employing more than 15 million people directly, most of them women.

Workers deserve a living wage because the minimum wage set by most Asian countries is inadequate to keep them out of poverty, said Anannya Bhattacharjee, a coordinator with the Asia Floor Wage Alliance (AFWA), a supply chain lobby group.

"The complexity of the supply chains is often used as an excuse for brands having no control over paying a living wage," Bhattacharjee told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"But brands have so much leverage with governments and suppliers, and they have the power to set prices," she said.

Higher wages in China, the world's largest clothing exporter, are driving brands worldwide to seek cheaper alternatives in countries such as Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Suppliers in these countries are under enormous pressure to reduce costs and produce garments as quickly as possible.

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Wages in the garment industry are "structurally failing" to meet workers' basic needs, leading to excessive overtime, ill health and workers being forced to live apart from their families, according to the Clean Clothes Campaign, which is a member of AFWA.

Activists are calling for a living wage, which an employee earns in a standard working week and is enough to provide for a family's basic needs, including housing, education and healthcare, with some income left for emergencies.

BASIC HUMAN RIGHT

The ILO defines a living wage as a "basic human right". Yet minimum wages across Asia are well below a level that a person could live on, and are revised by governments too rarely to reflect escalating living costs, campaigners say.

"Companies are responsible for the human rights impacts throughout their supply chain, and cannot outsource these to the state or to the suppliers," said Bhattacharjee.

"Global brands cannot wait for governments to raise the minimum wage to an acceptable level. They must pay the difference between the minimum wage and the living wage, as most of their profits comes from production in Asia," she said.

Garment exports from Asia are worth more than \$200 billion annually. Many garment workers in South Asia tend to be landless labourers or lower-caste workers who are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and are often in debt bondage.

In Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, the minimum wage is a fifth of the living wage estimated by AFWA, based on purchasing power parity.

Working conditions and wages in South Asia's garment industry have come under greater scrutiny since the Rana Plaza disaster in April 2013 in Bangladesh, in which more than 1,100 workers died.

Swedish fashion retailer Hennes & Mauritz last week said it was collaborating with trade unions and governments to improve workers' conditions, after an AFWA study found violations at its suppliers' factories in India and Cambodia.

AFWA, along with other campaigners, will lobby the ILO at its conference in Geneva next week to move forward on setting a global standard for supply chains, including for wages.

"If you corner workers and you increase the pressure on them, they are going to erupt like a pressure cooker some day," Bhattacharjee said.

"That's not good for the country or for business. So it's in everyone's interest to prevent that situation - and it's easy, given how little it will take to fix it," she said.

Auchan: Le groupe finance une assurance santé au Bangladesh

Publié le 13.05.2016

SOCIAL 20.000 employés bangladais du secteur du textile sont concernés. Parmi eux, on trouve une majorité de femmes originaires des régions rurales...



Auchan reconfigure sa gouvernance, notamment en France, pour gagner en souplesse et en rapidité - Remy Gabalda AFP

Par l'intermédiaire de sa fondation « [Weave our future](#) » (Tissons notre futur), le groupe Auchan va contribuer à la souscription d'une assurance santé pour 20.000 employés d'usines de textile au Bangladesh. Dont une grande majorité de femmes venues des zones rurales. Il s'agit d'une première dans ce secteur du pays.

Le projet sera d'abord mis en place dans le quartier où [l'immeuble Rana Piazza](#) s'était écroulé en avril 2013, tuant 1135 personnes. Auchan avait été accusé d'avoir fait fabriquer des pièces dans l'usine, [ce que l'enseigne a toujours nié](#).

390.000 euros par an pendant quatre ans

La fondation créée par le groupe nordiste va financer l'assurance santé à hauteur de 390.000 euros par an pendant quatre ans, indique [La Croix](#). Les usines mettront elles aussi la main à la poche, et chaque employé devra payer 2,60 euros par an. Les assurés bénéficieront du remboursement de 50 % du coût de leurs médicaments et de consultations médicales gratuites. Par ailleurs, l'assurance ne sera pas réservée aux seuls fournisseurs d'Auchan.

« Nous voudrions que dans quatre ans, les employeurs prennent le relais », explique la vice-présidente de la fondation, Marie-Hélène Boidin-Dubrulle. Une évolution qui permettrait ainsi au concept de se généraliser au Bangladesh.

Lettre n°192 du 12/05/2016

Cambodge / Textile : Evalliance initie la création d'un institut de la mode à Phnom Penh

Dédié au partenariat avec les pays de la péninsule indochinoise dans le textile, l'habillement, le cuir et les chaussures, l'association professionnelle **Evalliance** tisse patiemment sa toile dans cette zone géographique. Fondée fin 2014 à Paris, l'association de droit français a présenté une étude « sur les besoins en qualification et la formation professionnelle de l'industrie cambodgienne de l'habillement », le 22 avril à Phnom Penh, et proposé la création d'un institut de la mode, le **Fashion Institute of Cambodia**, lequel pourrait voir le jour d'ici trois à quatre mois.

Selon le président d'**Evalliance**, **Jean-François Limantour**, les organisations professionnelles et le gouvernement cambodgiens ont déjà entériné le projet, au point que « les premiers murs sont déjà construits à Phnom Penh », délivre l'expert français à la *Lettre confidentielle*. « Le directeur de la structure est en cours de recrutement, précise-t-il. Il s'agira d'un professionnel polyglotte familier de l'international, ayant travaillé à l'étranger », précise-t-il.

Un institut pour la formation, mais aussi la veille et l'intégration technique

Il y a deux ans, Evalliance avait conclu un protocole d'accord avec le **ministère du Commerce** et la **Fédération des usines de confection textile du Cambodge** (GMAC), puis noué un partenariat avec **Eurocham**, qui regroupe l'ensemble des chambres de commerce européennes dans ce pays, dont la **Chambre de commerce franco-cambodgienne** (CCFC). « Pour les autorités cambodgiennes, notre projet correspond parfaitement à leur stratégie de création de valeur ajoutée et d'emploi et d'amélioration de l'image de marque du pays sur la scène internationale », confie encore à la LC Jean-François Limantour.

Le Fashion Institute of Cambodia ne sera pas seulement réservé à la formation professionnelle. Il s'agira aussi de stimuler la veille économique, de développer et d'intégrer les nouvelles techniques et technologies dans la chaîne de production de façon à faire naître de nouvelles compétences dans la filature, le tissage, l'impression, d'améliorer la rentabilité et d'accélérer les exportations.

Le projet semble aussi intéresser les bailleurs de fonds et les institutions internationales, comme le **Bureau international du travail** (BIT), qui a lancé, il y a quelques années, Better Work Factories, un programme visant à inciter les entreprises à respecter les normes sociales et environnementales, le droit syndical, les standards de sécurité ou encore à lutter contre le travail des enfants. L'**Agence française de développement** (AFD) a, pour sa part, financé l'étude réalisée par Evalliance. L'association pense que l'AFD et d'autres bailleurs, comme l'**Union européenne (UE)**, soutiendront l'institut de la mode de Phnom Penh. « Ce serait très important politiquement, car le Cambodge n'est pas encore totalement stabilisé », estime Jean-François Limantour.

Des opportunités d'affaires pour les organismes et sociétés françaises

Côté français, on regarde avec attention cette initiative devant intéresser les écoles et les organismes français de formation, comme l'**Institut français de la mode**, l'école de la mode **Esmod** ou l'**École supérieure des industries du vêtement** (ESIV), établissement de la CCI Paris Ile-de-France formant des cadres dans les domaines technique et managérial, laquelle pourrait recevoir des Cambodgiens et envoyer en retour sur place ses élèves dans des entreprises. « En toile de fond, insiste Jean-François Limantour, c'est la possibilité pour la profession au Cambodge d'accroître sa compétitivité globale et de muter de la sous-traitance vers plus de valeur ajoutée, ce qui doit attirer certaines de nos entreprises, comme **Lectra**, capables d'apporter des solutions techniques ou des sociétés spécialisées dans le fil et le tissu ». Dans ces domaines, le Cambodge est dépourvu et « il est prêt à accueillir des investisseurs étrangers », ajoute-t-il encore.

Depuis plusieurs années, les livraisons de vêtements du Cambodge dans l'UE ont gagné 30 à 40 % par an. En 2015, elles ont progressé de 32 % et, avec un montant de 2,954 milliards d'euros. Le Cambodge, qui bénéficie du programme européen "**Tout sauf les armes**" (élimination des quotas et droits de douane quelle que soit l'origine des tissus), est passé de 8^e à 5^e fournisseur de l'UE, juste devant le Vietnam (2,8 milliards d'euros d'exportations).

Les projets au Vietnam et en Birmanie

Pour autant, si le Vietnam ne bénéficie pas, pour sa part, de ce régime préférentiel, Evalliance entend aussi y développer les relations des entreprises françaises. C'est ainsi que l'association parisienne sera partenaire du Forum d'affaires France Cambodge, prévu du 26 au 28 octobre à Hô-Chi-Minh-Ville, organisé avec l'aide de l'association Futurallia par la Fondation Prospective et innovation, présidée par l'ancien Premier **Jean-Pierre Raffarin**. Une fondation dirigée par **Serge Degallaix**, ancien ambassadeur membre du Conseil d'administration d'Evalliance.

En Birmanie, l'association dévolue à la péninsule indochinoise entend aussi pousser ses feux, avec une initiative similaire à celle du Cambodge « pour accroître la compétitivité des entreprises locales et tirer la filière vers le haut », indique Jean-François Limantour. Le projet est, certes, moins avancé, mais une coopération est engagée avec la fédération birmane de textile-habillement, un protocole d'entente est aussi conclu avec le gouvernement de ce pays et un accord de partenariat est également signé avec la **CCI France Myanmar**.

François Pargny

H&M says working to improve labour conditions in India, Cambodia factories after reports of forced overtime and loss of job if pregnant

A coalition of trade unions and labour rights groups, accused the Western high street retailer of failing on its commitments to clean up its supply chain

PUBLISHED : Sunday, 22 May, 2016, 4:53pm



Swedish fashion retailer Hennes & Mauritz (H&M) said it was collaborating with trade unions, government as well as the UN to improve workers' conditions after a study found violations in supplying garment factories in India and Cambodia.

The study by the Asia Floor Wage Alliance (AFWA) found workers stitching clothes for H&M in factories in Delhi and Phnom Penh faced problems such as low wages, fixed-term contracts, forced overtime and loss of job if pregnant.

The AFWA, a coalition of trade unions and labour rights groups, accused the Western high street retailer of failing on its commitments to clean up its supply chain.

An official from H&M told the said on Saturday that the fashion firm has been working actively to improve the lives of textile workers for many years.

“The report raises important issues and we are dedicated to contribute to positive long-term development for the people working in the textile industry in our sourcing markets,” said Thérèse Sundberg from H&M’s press and communications department.

“The issues addressed in the report are industry wide problems. They are often difficult to address as an individual company and we firmly believe that collaboration is key.”

H&M has partnered with the International Labour Organisation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency as well as global and local trade unions to seek out solutions, she added in an emailed statement.

The fashion industry has come under increasing pressure to improve factory conditions and workers’ rights, particularly after the collapse of the Rana Plaza complex in Bangladesh three years ago, when 1,136 garment workers were killed.

The study, which surveyed 50 Indian workers from five factories and 201 Cambodians workers from 12 factories from August to October 2015.

It found that overtime in all the factories was expected by employers. Cambodian workers reported they had to do two hours of overtime daily, while Indian workers reported working at least nine hours to 17 hours a day.

“Workers are routinely required to work until 2am in order to meet production targets – and then to report to work at 9am,” it said, referring to workers in Indian factories.

“The financial imperative of working overtime due to the persistence of minimum wage standards below living wage standards can be viewed as a form of economic coercion that leads to involuntary or forced overtime,” it added.

The study also found that fixed-term contracts were being used in nine of the 12 Cambodian and all Indian factories surveyed.

These contracts facilitate arbitrary termination and deprive workers of job security, pension, healthcare, seniority benefits and gratuity, say activists.

Workers also reported discrimination in maternity benefits in both the Indian and Cambodian factories, said the study.

Cambodian workers from 11 of the 12 factories reported either witnessing or experiencing termination of employment during pregnancy, while Indians from all five factories said women were fired during their pregnancies, said the study.

“Permanent workers report being forced to take leave without pay for the period of their pregnancy,” it said.

“Contract, piece rate and casual workers reported that although most of the time they are reinstated in their jobs after pregnancy, they receive completely new contracts that cause them to lose seniority.”

H&M’s Sundberg said solving all these issues was a long-term process which continues “step-by-step” and that the Swedish retailer was committed to improving labour rights in its supplying factories.

“The continued presence of long-term, responsible buyers is vital to the future development of countries such as Cambodia and India, and we want to continue to contribute to increased improvements in these markets,” said Sundberg.



Garment workers at a factory in Phnom Penh, whose finished products most likely will end up in the United States. KT/Chor Sokunthea



US Main Market for Garments

Khmer Times/May Kunmakara

Wednesday, 18 May 2016

The United States is still the main market for Cambodia's garment and textile industry, the Minister of Labor said this week after a meeting with the US ambassador.

Ith Sam Heng told reporters after the meeting with US ambassador William Heidt at the ministry on Wednesday that despite the increasing number of countries competing in the garment export business, the United States was still the key buyer of Cambodian products.

"The United States' market is still very important for us. Although it is now the second biggest importing market after the European market, it is still big and worth billions of

dollars. So we are still trying to work well with buyers from the United States and get them to place more orders to us,” Mr. Sam Heng said.

According to data from the United States Trade Office, total exports to the US dipped about 3 percent in the first quarter of the year to more than \$706 million compared with \$725 million in the same period last year.

Seung Sophari, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Commerce (MoC), told Khmer Times last week that the slight drop in exports to the US in the first quarter was mainly due to the current electoral campaigns in the US and the rise of new exporting countries like Myanmar. However, she said she was optimistic that the figures will improve soon.

“We don’t think that the decline will fall too far because their economic situation will improve at some point soon,” Ms. Sophari said.

Cambodia is now the US’s 70th largest goods trading partner with \$3.0 billion in total between the two countries in 2013. Cambodia was the US’s 129th largest goods export market in 2013, while Cambodia was the US’s 60th largest supplier of imported goods in 2013, according to the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

Mr. Sam Heng said the ambassador raised the issue of imports during a discussion about the union law, saying the law should be implemented fairly among concerned parties in the interests of the industry.

“What was of concern was just a few issues about the implementation of the union law and we are required to carry it out fairly with all trade unions and no discrimination. This is our stance to do that,” he said.

“We think that the law is in line with the interests of employees and employers as well as the investment climate of our country. And we will try our best to implement it.

“And we will promote the law to be broadly known in our society,” he added. “The result of the meeting was also a message for those buyers – the information will clarify issues to the buyers.”

Ulrika Isaksson, a spokeswoman for Swedish retailer H&M, told Khmer Times last month that the company had been checking the law since it was drafted because of concerns by workers, trade unions and NGOs. The International Labor Organization (ILO) has warned the legislation may violate local law and breach international conventions signed by the government.

“We are at the moment analyzing the new law and can’t go into details except that we now need to look closely at how this will affect our ongoing work on strengthening industrial relations and ensuring that freedom of association and the right to organize is respected throughout our supply chain in Cambodia,” said Ms. Isaksson.

The garment and footwear industry plays a critical role in the economy, representing 70 percent of total exports and employing more than 700,000 workers. The total exports from the sector were worth \$6.3 billion last year, a slight increase of 7.6 percent from the previous year, according to figures from the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia.

May 26 2016

China to build textile zone in Egypt's Minya

By Hisham Ibrahim, Sanaa Allam Egypt and China signed Tuesday a framework agreement on executive steps of establishing a zone for textile industries in Egyptian governorate Minya.

The agreement was signed between Egyptian Textile Industries Council and China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC).

Qabil asserted that establishing a comprehensive zone for textiles is an important step for Egypt to get its leading position in Middle East and North Africa back since it owns potentials and wide expertise in weaving and textile field.

The minister made these remarks during his meeting with a delegation of Chinese businessmen headed by CNTAC's Vice-President, Gao Yong. During the meeting, the Chinese mission and Qabil showcased means of enhancing bilateral cooperation between Egypt and China in textile field as well as future visions for such important industry in Egypt.

Building the new zone is set to participate directly in achieving strategy of trade ministry to develop textile industry in Egypt besides enhancing the process of economic and social development by attracting more local and foreign investments.

Minister Qabil added that the ministry agreed with Minya governor to allocate around 1.2 million square meters to establish the zone.

He noted that the Egyptian government is paying a great attention for this large project and committed to support it.

Textile industries contribute 3 percent to Egypt's GDP and accommodate around 1.2 million workers and engineers, i.e. 30 percent of industrial labour in Egypt, the minister said, clarifying that textile industries seize 16 percent of Egypt's non-petroleum exports with US\$2.6 billion.

On other side, Yong stated that the visit of the Chinese mission to Egypt targets boosting mutual cooperation between two countries in textiles field as Chinese firms keen on expanding its works. Hence, Chinese investments in Egypt's textile market are expected to increase.

'Chinese slowdown threat to global economy'

28

May '16



China's faltering growth poses a "significant risk" to the global economy, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan has warned.

He underlined the dangers of the Chinese slowdown and its potential effects worldwide, particularly since the [country](#) had overtaken the US as the largest trading nation in 2013. But he expressed confidence that Chinese policymakers would mitigate the potential downside.

Rebounding crude oil prices, possibility of a Brexit and geopolitical risks in West Asia pose new challenges to the SAARC economies, the fastest-growing region of the world, Rajan said at a symposium in Mumbai.

"Combined with the previous bouts of leveraged expansion, China now has a number of sectors that suffer from the twin ailments of over-capacity and high leverage," Rajan said in his inaugural speech at his inaugural speech at the SAARC Finance Governors' Symposium.

Rajan also voiced concerns on the rising bad loans of Chinese banks and weaknesses in the shadow banking system of the world's second largest economy.

"Bad loans in the banking system are likely to grow over current levels—stressed loans are estimated to be around 5.5 per cent of the bank loan book today. In addition, there may be

serious weaknesses in the shadow banking system, which could feed back to banks. Clearly, cleaning up the financial system will be a challenging, but necessary task,” Rajan said.

The RBI governor who launched a massive clean-up of Indian banks' balance sheets after an asset quality review (AQR) concluded by the central bank in December, said the exposure of Asian banks, including those of India, to Chinese banks is minuscule and, therefore, they are not facing a direct threat.

“However, some of our countries, though not India, have significant borrowing from Chinese banks, and these borrowings could become costlier if Chinese banks turn inwards. Moreover, financial market losses in China can heighten the risk premia that industrial country investors will charge for investing in our region, and the result could be capital outflows of the kind that were seen last August and early this year,” he said.

Rajan said south Asian countries have to take steps to limit the impact of external uncertainties such as the next rate hike by the US Federal Reserve, a possibly sharp downturn in the Chinese economy, the proposed exit of Britain from the EU and volatile capital flows. (SH)

Haïti : Publication attendue d'un arrêté sur le salaire minimum

Poursuite de protestations ouvrières

vendredi 20 mai 2016



P-au-P, 19 mai 2016 [AlterPresse] --- Un arrêté présidentiel portant modification du salaire minimum sera publié dans les prochaines 24 heures, annonce un communiqué du gouvernement, en date du 18 mai 2016.

Le Conseil des ministres a adopté le rapport du Conseil supérieur des salaires (Css) qui fixe, entre autres, à 300 gourdes le salaire minimum pour 8 heures de travail.

Le salaire de production dans le secteur de la sous-traitance textile est fixé à 350 gourdes, selon le communiqué.

Le premier ministre, Enex Jean Charles, salue les travaux de tous les secteurs de la vie nationale, en vue de permettre à son gouvernement de fixer le salaire minimum nécessaire, dit-il, « pour un apaisement social ».

« Seuls le calme et la stabilité politique peuvent aider le pays à trouver le chemin du développement économique », souligne le communiqué.

Des milliers d'ouvriers ont manifesté, le mercredi 11 mai dernier, sur le site de la Société nationale des parcs industriels (Sonapi), pour réclamer le passage du salaire minimum à 500 gourdes.

Les protestataires appellent les membres du Css à tenir compte du coût de la vie.

Dans une note, l'Association des industries d'Haïti (Adih) a dénoncé des actes violents qui auraient été perpétrés dans les usines textiles situées au Parc industriel métropolitain.

L'association a souligné avoir fait des propositions raisonnables au Css qui tiennent compte de l'impact de l'inflation au courant des dernières années.

Mais, ce 19 mai, les ouvriers étaient encore dans les rues de la capitale pour réclamer un salaire de 500 gourdes et des avantages sociaux.

En date du 1er mai 2015, la dernière augmentation du salaire minimum du secteur textile avait fait passer le salaire journalier de 225 à 240 gourdes pour une journée de 8 heures.[emb gp apr 19/05/2016 12 :20]

Industry News | Time : May 23 2016 8:18AM

To boost textile exports Indian govt need to make effort get GSP status from EU

Textile industry leaders have urged the central government to get the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) from the European Union (EU) for inclusion of Indian textile products as Pakistan exporters are re-exporting the textile products imported directly or indirectly from country's largest man-made fabric (MMF) hub Surat to EU due to its inclusion in the GSP in 2014, according to experts in the MMF sector.

As per an estimate, textile fabrics to the tune of over Rs 4,000 crore from India, especially Surat, land in Pakistan from direct and indirect channels. Sources said that textile fabrics, especially saris and dress materials, manufactured in Surat, reach Pakistan via Dubai, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

In 2014, the European Union included Pakistan to the list of GSP, which allowed duty-free access to EU markets for textile exports. Consequently, exporters from Pakistan are now able to ship fabrics, made-ups and garments with no tariffs.

On the other hand, Indian exporters, however, pay 9.6% export duty for made-ups and garments, and 6.5-8% duty on fabric items, making exports from India more expensive which has resulted in India losing around 37 textile productions, including fabrics and garments, in the EU to Pakistan.

According to textile industry expert Ashish Gujarathi, textile sector is seeking for a major boost from government policies. First, the government should impose duty levy on imports of fabrics from China and secondly, efforts should be made to get GSP status in EU to boost textile exports of India.

As per the export figures available from April-February-2016, Pakistan is the third largest market for India's MMF textile export with a share of 9 percent. UAE and the USA are top export markets at 13 percent and 10 percent respectively. During the April-February 2016, the overall export of MMF textiles stood at \$41 billion.



TNN | May 28, 2016, 12.10 AM IST



Nirmala Sitharaman

Surat: Textile industrialists in the country's biggest man-made fabric (MMF) industry in Surat were highly upset when Union commerce minister Nirmala Sitharaman asked them to furnish relevant data on Chinese fabric being imported into the country for the central government to initiate appropriate action.

Sitharaman, who was in the Diamond City to propagate two years of achievements of Modi government at the Centre, was invited to meet the textile industrialists and traders on Friday. Various trade associations submitted memorandums to the Union minister demanding safeguard duty against import of cheap Chinese fabrics.

"We can't impose safeguard duty on Chinese fabrics overnight. The government will have to face many questions in the WTO. However, I suggest the trade to come up with relevant data on Chinese fabric imports and its onslaught on the textile sector," Sitharaman told the textile entrepreneurs.

Representing the issue on behalf of the textile sector, Dhirubhai Shah, managing director of Fairdeal Filaments Limited, said, "The industry is running at 50% capacity. Over 2.5 lakh workers are jobless and over 4 lakh powerloom machines closed. This is all due to under-invoicing of fabrics imported from China. Government must act, otherwise the industry is on the verge of closure."

Talking about European Union's status on generalized system of preference (GSP), Sitharaman said, "The Central government is constantly following GSP issue with the EU. Yet, the EU has not taken any decision to include India in GSP. We hope once the Brexit issue is settled, then the EU will consider our GSP status."

Asked by the TOI about delay in starting of rough diamond auction at Special Notified Zone (SNZ) in Mumbai, Sitharaman said, "We accept there is a delay, but the Union finance ministry is working out the nitty-gritty of taxation and possibility of consignment import of diamonds. "

Industry News | Time : May 11 2016 8:22AM

Malaysia's textile and apparel sector to grow thanks to TPP

Malaysia's textile division will grow by at least 30%, thanks to a surge of investment when the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement comes into force, according to Rebecca Chiang, executive director, Malaysian Knitting Manufacturers Association (MKMA).

The trade deal's "yarn forward" rule makes it mandatory to use TPP member-country produced yarn for TPP-made textiles in order to be covered by the agreement's market access benefits, and it means "downstream garment exporters need to consume local or TPP country's fabrics, which will definitely benefit Malaysian knitters," says Chiang. Malaysia has proven to be the most enthusiastic TPP signatory country – on 27 January, the Malaysian parliament endorsed the deal, while many other national assemblies have yet to debate the agreement.

The USA, the lynchpin of the TPP deal, is an important market for Malaysia's garment and textile exports: Malaysia currently ranks number nine in the list of top exporters to the US for woven men's shirts and number 22 in the list of exporters of knitted men's shirts, according to an analysis on the impact of TPP on the Malaysian textile and apparel industry undertaken by the MKMA. However, in terms of total exports of textiles and apparel products to the US, Malaysia ranks number 26.

But with the TPP, Malaysia's exports will increase. The association predicts "72.9% textiles tariff lines, constituting 36.44% of total exports [by TPP member countries] to the USA, will see duty elimination upon entry into force of the agreement." Without the TPP, only 11% of tariffs or 0.9% of total exports in these countries would be duty free.

Among Malaysia's major apparel exports to the US are men's and boys' cotton shirts; knitted or crocheted cotton jerseys; pullovers; cardigans; cotton T-shirts; singlets; and knitted or crocheted other vests. And with the TPP agreement two major products [dresses and shirts] are given duty free status upon entry into force – an exclusive offer by the US to only Malaysia and Vietnam.

Competing with Vietnam, however, could be tough for Malaysia. Dato' Sri Tan Thian Poh, president of Malaysian Textile Manufacturers Association (MTMA), says: "An aspect of concern would be to compete with Vietnam, which has exceeded Malaysia's exports to the US by multiple folds."

Both Malaysia and Vietnam have an abundance of cheap labour, but Vietnam has more, and its cost of living is lower. In 2014, Malaysia's GDP per head was at US\$11,307, while

Vietnam's GDP per head was US\$2,052.3 in the same year, according to World Bank data.

However, some players are ready to take on the challenge, even shifting production to Vietnam. Indeed, Prolexus Bhd Malaysia – a leading apparel manufacturer – is reported to be planning to establish a US\$7.4m-US\$9m fabric mill in Vietnam's Tien Giang province ahead of the TPP deal, although the company did not respond to requests for confirmation from WTiN.

Meanwhile, total investments [in all sectors] in Malaysia due to the TPP are projected to surge, according to the MTMA statement. Between 2018 and 2027, additional investment, mainly in the textiles, construction and distributive trades, is predicted to rise by US\$136bn to US\$239bn. To benefit from the resulting production growth, however, the country needs a skilled labour force. "The MTMA, along with the industry, is formulating a comprehensive human capital solution to ensure an ample supply of workers to the industry," reveals the statement.

And recruiting foreign labour would be crucial in this process – the industry believes that structured human capital management including foreign skilled labour with the support of the government will "enable the industry to reap the full benefit of the TPP."

Source: WTIN

Libération

Les textiliens marocains tissent des liens avec leurs homologues turcs

Un Plan d'accélération industrielle non conforme aux spécificités des pays en développement



0
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C'est aujourd'hui que s'ouvrent les travaux du salon du textile de Maison "EVTEKS" qui se tiendra jusqu'au 21 mai courant à Istanbul en Turquie.

Le Maroc, qui y participe pour la quatrième fois en collaboration avec l'Association marocaine du textile et de l'habillement (AMITH), est représenté par sept entreprises leaders dans le secteur du textile de maison. Ainsi, dans un communiqué de l'organisateur Maroc Export de la participation marocaine, l'on nous signale que ces entreprises ont, d'ores et déjà, pris leur envol pour Istanbul dans la ferme ambition de consolider la position de «l'offre Maroc» sur le marché Turc. Plus encore, poursuit la même source, elles aspirent à nouer de nouveaux liens d'affaires, qu'elles espèrent prometteurs, ainsi que de diversifier leurs partenaires commerciaux à l'export.

Et de mettre en exergue que leurs cibles sont prioritairement les importateurs et les enseignes commerciales du secteur, ainsi que les grossistes et les petits détaillants. D'où l'intérêt des entreprises marocaines d'exposer, lors de cet événement d'envergure, les dernières tendances des produits du textile de maison marocain sur une superficie de 346 m².

«Etant organisé dans un pays qui se positionne au 4ème rang des principaux fournisseurs mondiaux du textile de maison et s'accapare 5% du marché mondial, EVTEKS se présente comme une plateforme de choix pour le développement et la diversification des exportations à travers le monde», fait ainsi ressortir le communiqué avant de relever qu'il a réuni, lors de l'édition de mai 2015, pas moins de 1.000 exposants dont 130 en provenance de 26 pays et 125.000 visiteurs professionnels en provenance de 20 pays dont notamment le Moyen-Orient (31%), l'Europe (26%), la Russie (21%)... Et ce n'est pas tout. La même source indique qu'avec environ 60.000 entreprises employant près de deux millions de personnes, le secteur du textile occupe une place centrale dans l'économie turque, faisant savoir, que la Turquie, qui exporte près de 65% de sa production, en a fait l'un de ses principaux postes d'exportation. Et de noter que si ce pays est le 5ème exportateur mondial pour les produits textiles et le 7ème pour le prêt-à-porter, le Maroc, face à cette performance, se doit ainsi d'améliorer sa compétitivité pour affronter la concurrence d'une industrie turque hautement compétitive, tirée par la disponibilité des matières premières.

Le communiqué met également en relief que le textile-habillement bénéficie d'une attention particulière dans le cadre du Plan d'accélération industrielle 2014-2020 (PAI) qui vise à créer 44.000 emplois, de générer un chiffre d'affaires de 6,3 milliards de dirhams et à réaliser 57 projets d'investissements à l'horizon 2020, rappelant que le secteur du textile contribue à hauteur de 25 à 30% aux exportations industrielles nationales, canalisant près de 15% de la valeur ajoutée industrielle. L'intention de ce PAI est fort louable, sont tentés de dire des professionnels de la place. Toutefois, pour eux, hormis tirer des plans sur la comète, tout reste à faire. Et d'expliquer que le secteur pâtit sérieusement et qu'il faut ôter les œillères pour arrêter de voir midi à sa porte en adaptant des plans stratégiques d'autres pays développés sur le Maroc, qui est un pays en voie de développement et d'émergence.

Pour mémoire, selon la note du Haut-commissariat au plan au sujet de la situation du marché du travail au premier trimestre de l'année 2016, le secteur de l'"industrie" qui comprend aussi l'artisanat, a perdu 14.000 postes, ce qui correspond à une baisse de 1,2% du volume d'emploi du secteur, contre une création de seulement 9.000 postes l'année dernière et une perte de 45.000 postes l'année d'avant.

Meysoune Belmaza
Mercredi 18 Mai 2016

Marché du Denim

L'offre marocaine fait son show à Barcelone

17 May 2016 - 17:13



La part du Maroc sur le marché européen du jeans s'érode au fil des années pour atteindre seulement 3% en 2015.

Huit participants, dont Moroccan Denim Cluster composé d'une vingtaine de membres dans la filière du Denim, présenteront l'offre marocaine lors du salon Denim By Première Vision qui se déroule en Espagne du 18 au 20 mai.

Les acteurs marocains du jeanswear sont à Barcelone où démarre aujourd'hui le salon Denim By Première Vision. Une occasion pour se positionner sur le marché européen où le jeans marocain rétrécit significativement ces dernières années. Huit participants, dont Moroccan Denim Cluster (MDC) composé d'une vingtaine de membres dans la filière du Denim, présenteront dans un espace de 384 m² l'offre nationale de l'amont (tissus, accessoires) à l'aval (confection).

La participation marocaine à cet événement de trois jours est organisée par Maroc Export, en concertation avec l'Association des textiliens (Amith). «L'objectif de la participation à ce salon est d'affirmer à la distribution européenne que l'offre marocaine de denim dans toutes ses

composantes – tissu, accessoires et confection – se propose en tant qu’offre globale, de collections et de produits finis Fast Fashion au service de la mode», indique Maroc Export dans un communiqué.

Selon l’institution, lors de la participation marocaine à l’édition de novembre 2015, plus de 210 contacts ont été réalisés donnant lieu à des commandes estimées à 11,12 millions d’euros. Notons, toutefois, que la part du Maroc sur le marché européen du jeans n’en finit pas de rétrécir. Entre 2006 et 2015, les exportations de ce produit vers l’Union européenne (UE) se sont, en effet, repliées de 3,5% en quantité et de 1,2% en valeur. De ce fait, le Maroc ne détient plus en 2015 qu’une petite part de 3% de ce marché juteux, selon des données révélées par Jean-François Limantour, président du Cercle euro-méditerranéen des dirigeants textile-habillement (Cedith) et de l’Association sectorielle Evalliance.

Le pays s’est ainsi retrouvé au septième rang des fournisseurs des pays européens, avec un volume d’exportations évalué à 10,25 millions de pantalons pour une valeur de 133,19 millions d’euros. Soit loin derrière le Bangladesh qui accapare un quart des flux de jeans vers l’UE, la Turquie (20%), le Pakistan (16%), la Chine (15%), la Tunisie (7%) ou encore le Cambodge (4%). Ceci alors qu’entre 2004 et 2015, les importations européennes de jeans ont progressé au rythme annuel moyen de 8,7%, soit deux fois plus vite que celles des autres vêtements (+4,4% l’an).

La consommation européenne de jeans est à plus de 90% satisfaite par les fournisseurs hors UE. De ce fait, 535 millions de jeans en denim ont été importés par l’Union européenne en 2015, destinés à ses 508 millions de consommateurs. «Le challenge de la participation marocaine est d’améliorer et de développer l’offre marocaine qui permettrait un meilleur positionnement sur la carte sourcing des donneurs d’ordres européens», soulignent les responsables de Maroc Export.

Textile/ALE Etats-Unis

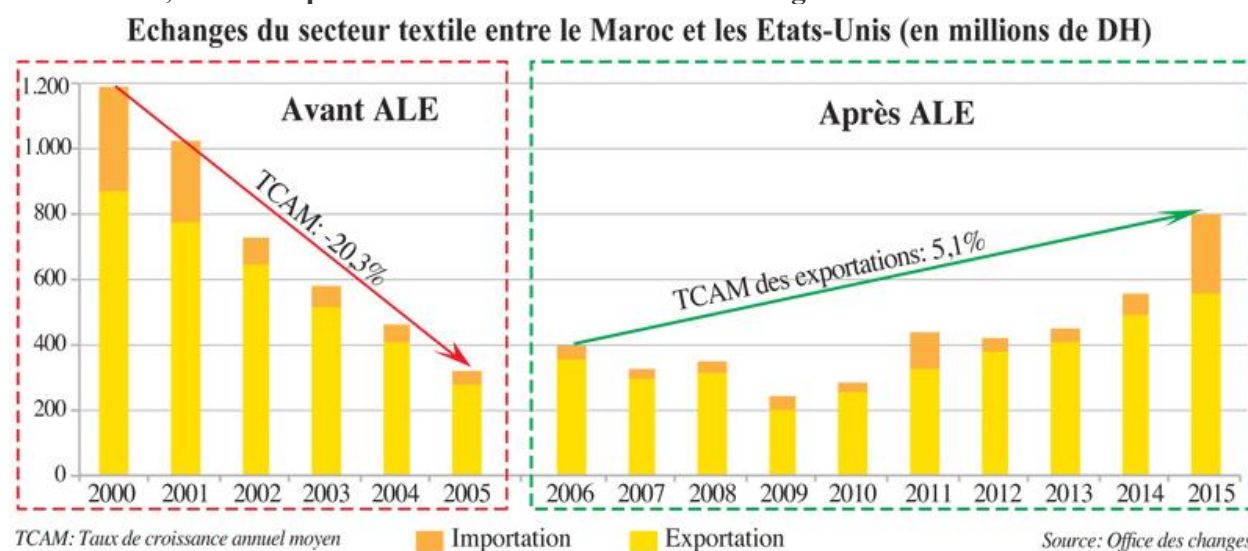
Fin de la dérogation sur les règles d'origine

Par **Khadija Masmoudi**

| Edition N°:4768 Le 09/05/2016

Une nouvelle procédure vient d'être mise en place

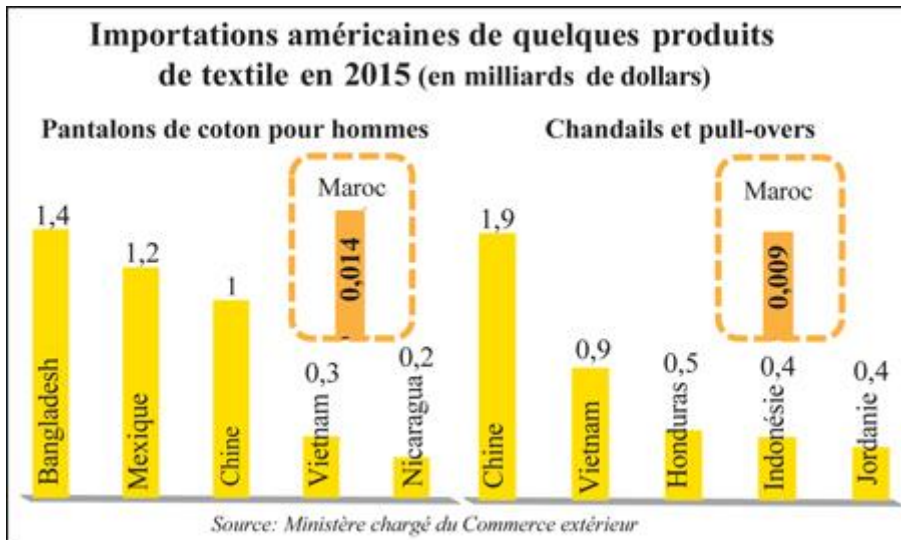
Hausse de 5,1% des exportations mais chiffre d'affaires insignifiant



[Le chiffre d'affaires réalisé reste en dessous des objectifs et « des espoirs » suscités par les préférences octroyées au titre de l'ALE en faveur des opérateurs marocains](#)

La short supply list remplace la flexibilité sur les règles d'origine (TPL) accordée aux opérateurs marocains dans le cadre de l'accord de libre-échange avec les Etats-Unis. Le ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie vient d'aviser les opérateurs de la mise en place de cette procédure. Celle-ci permet d'utiliser les intrants provenant de pays tiers à condition qu'ils soient en pénurie au Maroc et aux Etats-Unis et de soumettre une requête formelle à ce sujet. Mise en place pour une période de dix ans, la dérogation sur les règles d'origine a été faiblement exploitée par les opérateurs. Elle permet d'utiliser les intrants issus de pays tiers sans respecter les règles spécifiques. Seule condition, la valeur ajoutée devait dépasser 35% de la valeur finale du produit. Un niveau d'intégration que les industriels marocains, qui s'approvisionnent massivement en Chine et en Turquie, ont du mal à atteindre ! Sur la période 2006-2009, le métrage consommé a atteint 13,8 millions de m² sur un volume cumulé global de 120 millions de m², soit à peine 11,5% du contingent octroyé. Un taux qui est passé à 7% en 2010 et 22%

en 2012. L'exploitation du contingent global s'est établie à 9% en 2014, note le ministère du Commerce extérieur. Plusieurs raisons expliquent cette situation : les exportations dans le cadre de ce contingent n'ont démarré qu'en 2009, la crise économique dont les entreprises du secteur ont souffert ainsi que les difficultés d'accès au marché américain. Les exigences en termes de normes et de qualité ont également nécessité une mise à niveau et des investissements.



Les parts de marché importantes sont détenues par les pays asiatiques (Chine, Vietnam ou Indonésie) et latino-américains (Mexique et Honduras). Ces derniers bénéficient de la proximité géographique du marché américain et de prix plus compétitifs

Le textile marocain a donc toujours du mal à se faire une place sur le marché américain. Le taux de croissance annuel moyen des ventes de textile et vêtement est sur un trend haussier depuis 2006 (+5,1%) mais le chiffre d'affaires reste modeste : 504 millions de dirhams! Ce qui représente moins de 2% des exportations totales de ces produits. Une part insignifiante également par rapport aux concurrents sur le marché américain tels que la Chine, le Vietnam ou l'Indonésie (voir infographie).

L'accord de libre-échange entré en vigueur en 2006 est donc loin d'être suffisamment exploité. Sur les dix dernières années, la structure des exportations n'a pas connu de changements. Selon une étude du ministère du Commerce extérieur, 80% des expéditions marocaines de textile et vêtements vers les Etats-Unis reposaient sur 22 produits en 2014 contre 23 en 2006. C'est le cas en particulier « des pantalons pour femmes ou fillettes », les « maillots, culottes pour femmes en bonneterie de synthétiques » suivis des « pantalons de coton, pour hommes ou garçonnet » (1,8%)

Aptma , German ministry sign sustainable industry deal

27

May '16



Business leaders from Germany and Pakistan signed a Declaration of Intent on Thursday to create a [sustainabletextile](#) industry across the entire value chain

Acting Chairman of All-Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Punjab Chapter) Syed Ali Ahsan and Dr Ulrike Reviere from German Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ) signed the document on behalf of their respective organizations, media reports said.

A website www.spc.org.pk was also launched to create awareness on Sustainable Production Centre.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Stefan Oswald, Head of Afghanistan/Pakistan in the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation, said the German ministry of Economic co-operation would continue to support the textile industry, which was the backbone of Pakistan's economy.

Dr Oswald, also underlined the need for the textile industry to consider the option of using solar energy for heating water in textile processing industry. He also stressed upon the diversification of SPC and termed it crucial for growth of the textile industry in Pakistan. (SH)

Around Rs50 billion of textile industry stuck up at FBR: Report

May 04, 2016



Islamabad - The Ministry of Textiles said on Tuesday that amount of around Rs 50 billion belonging to the textile sector had been stuck up at the FBR.

In its interim report, compiled on the basis of input received from textile associations, the ministry said that out of the total amount, more than Rs 35 billion belonged to the value added textile mills, while more than Rs 15 billion were due under the head of custom rebate refunds.

The report was presented and discussed in the meeting of a subcommittee of National Assembly's Standing Committee on Textiles, formed early this year to address the issues confronting the textile sector.

The ministry's report, largely based on the minutes of last meeting, gave textiles associations' view according to which huge sales tax refunds had been pending with the FBR, thus creating liquidity shortage for the exporters.

It said that despite government's commitment to pay the refunds, even those claims cleared by the Ministry of Finance were still pending.

"The Value added textile associations claim that approximate quantum of stuck up refunds was around

Rs. 35 billion," report said, adding the textile associations feared that five export oriented sectors, including textile, might be placed in zero rating at zero sales tax.

It suggested that as per request by the textile associations, the input claim might be allowed if the seller was an active taxpayer at the time of such purchases to avoid deferred cases, while previous sales tax liabilities could be paid at once.

Quoting textile associations further, it put forward textiles associations' demand that custom rebate refunds may be paid with the export proceeds, while the previous rebates may be paid at once.

The associations also raised the issue of cost of doing business in which major concerns were over electricity and GIDC. "Two electricity surcharges, Tariff Rationalisation Surcharge at Rs.3 and Financial Surcharge at Rs.0.40, have been introduced which have increased our cost of doing business," the associations heads were quoted as saying.

"Interestingly, despite announcement by the PM to reduce tariff by Rs.3, the actual compensation was only in fuel adjustment charges," the report noted.

The textiles associations also expressed concern over the non-availability of water in Karachi, and requested for uninterrupted water supply to the export oriented units.

According to the officials, the subcommittee will finalise its report in the next meeting, and will later submit to the Standing Committee on Textiles in the next meeting.

The textile sector in Pakistan has an overwhelming impact on the economy, contributing 57 percent to the country's exports.

However, for the last few years, textile exports have gone downhill.



Pakistan lags behind competitors: World Bank

Posted on [May 4, 2016](#) by [Afshan Zahra](#) in [Business](#), [Editors Pick](#), [Latest](#)



Photo: thesleuthjournal.com

Pakistan has a fast-growing apparel sector with low prices, but lags behind competitors in reliability, compliance and political stability, says the World Bank (WB). The Bank report issued here on Tuesday, “Stitches to Riches? Apparel Employment, Trade, and Economic Development in South Asia”, says that Pakistan offers low prices in most product categories, but it lags behind competitors in reliability and political stability.

Pakistan has a fast-growing apparel sector that accounts for 19 percent of its exports and firms are competitive with global exporters in terms of prices. Yet, despite low prices in most apparel products’ categories, Pakistan lags behind competitors in reliability and political stability.

Pakistan is considered a “growth supplier” (like Bangladesh)-rather than a “stable supplier” (like India and Sri Lanka)-in that it has increased export value and global market share since the early 1990s.

One major problem for not performing well is due to a lack of product diversity, with the country almost entirely dependent on cotton products and trouser exports. Other problems are reliability, compliance, and political stability and safety- especially regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Pakistan also has a large labour pool, but productivity is hurt by the limited availability of good sector-specific training institutes and gaps in technical, design, and middle management skills.

In Pakistan, a major challenge is political instability. Many buyers will not travel to Pakistan because of security concerns, so domestic firms often travel to Dubai to meet them, which makes sourcing complicated.

The report further states that textile industry in Pakistan also suffered due to lack of adequate infrastructure facilities, especially in the Punjab province (Lahore) where approximately 65 percent of the industrial units are located.

Pakistan ranks fourth in terms of value (\$4.2 billion) with the same global market share (1.2 percent) as Sri Lanka, though apparel's share of total exports is lower at 19 percent. FDI has not played an important role; in the apparel sector, the share of foreign-owned firms is estimated to be less than 2 percent, and only slightly higher in the textile sector.

Pakistan specialises in basic cotton, woven, denim, and chino trousers, low-priced knitwear such as polo shirts and T-shirts, and fleece sweatshirts, the report maintains.

India and Pakistan face the most hurdles-notably not enough product diversity; Sri Lanka needs to expand end markets or develop capabilities in other higher-value, lower-volume product categories; and Bangladesh, now reaping the benefits of low costs, needs to tackle social compliance and product diversity to remain competitive.

According to the report, Bangladesh leads the pack with 6.4 percent of the global market, followed by India (3.5 percent), and Sri Lanka and Pakistan (1.2 percent). The same pattern holds for global value: Bangladesh (\$22.8 billion), followed by India (\$12.5 billion), then Sri Lanka (\$4.4 billion), and Pakistan (\$4.2 billion).

Both Bangladesh and Pakistan increased exports at a faster growth rate than the world average-with Bangladesh enjoying the largest increase in global market share whereas Pakistan's growth was more modest.

The elasticity estimates suggest that a 10 percent increase in China's prices would increase Pakistan's exports by 316.2 percent. By comparison, the system estimation estimates seem quite plausible.

Pakistan also stands to gain a lot of jobs from the apparel sector. A 10 percent increase in Chinese prices to the United States would increase Pakistan's male employment by 8.93 percent and female employment by 8.5 percent.

Working conditions are better in formal industry than in the large cottage sector, but short-term or temporary contracts are widely used, particularly for women, and the factory fire in Karachi in September 2012 highlighted poor safety standards, maintained the report.

Pakistan could benefit by policies such as increasing product diversity by reducing barriers on imports so as to ease access to man-made fibers (such as duty and tax remission for exports and export processing zones (EPZs)).

Attract FDI by adopting policies to reduce red tape and increase transparency to close the gap with South Asian countries whose textile and apparel industries are located primarily on the coast.

Diversify markets by taking advantage of market access to emerging markets. Shorten lead times by improving road infrastructure to facilitate access to ports for exporting firms. Shorten lead times by clustering strategies to provide key infrastructure and common facilities. Enhance perceptions of stability.

THE SUNDAY LEADER

UNBOWED AND UNAFRAID

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Blunting Competition

- **GSP Plus Crucial For The Moment, But Would Be Adverse For Lanka's Competitive Edge In The Long Run**

by *Dinesh Isuru*



Although concessionary regimes such as Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) will give much needed boost to Sri Lankan enterprises especially the apparel industry on one hand, it would blunt the competitive edge of local businesses, opined a well-known academic – Prof. Lakdas Fernando.

Sri Lanka Apparel Institute Chairman Prof. Fernando is the Emeritus Professor and Founder Head of the Department of Textile & Clothing Technology of the University of Moratuwa.

“GSP Plus is like the ICU (Intensive Care Unit). Although it is crucial for critical patients to recover, you can't stay in ICU forever. Once we recover we must think of going further up the value chain without getting stagnated there,” Prof. Fernando told *The Sunday Leader*.

He made this remark at the media briefing to announce the resumption of Apparel Industry Suppliers Exhibition (AISEX) an exhibition which aims to bring all suppliers and service organizations under one roof, after a lapse eight years. The exhibition will focus on a wide range of textile machinery, accessories and services from many parts of the world. AISEX 2016 will take place from the 9 – 11 June 2016 at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Center (SBMEC). The event is organized by Lanka Exhibition & Conference Services (Pvt.) Ltd – LECS and supported and endorsed by the Sri Lanka Apparel Institute (SLAI), Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAF), Ministry of Industry & Commerce and Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel.

Although the government announced it was on track in obtaining the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) special incentive arrangement (GSP+) of the European Union lost during the Rajapaksa regime, it is learnt that any tangible steps are yet to be taken, *The Sunday Leader* reported earlier. (See <http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2016/05/08/sri-lanka-on-track-in-regaining-gsp-plus-govt/>)

It is learnt that although the urgency of obtaining the facility was reportedly discussed at length at a recent Cabinet meeting, no final decision was taken.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently announced that the government had agreed with the European Union (EU) to implement a list of 58 conditions linking human rights, national security and other domestic concerns with trade. Among the 58 conditions imposed are to revoke the Prevention of Terrorism Act, to expedite cases of remaining detainees, to introduce a new Human Rights Action Plan, review the status of the Tamil Diaspora organizations and individuals on the terrorist list, to devolve power under the new Constitution, return all private lands to owners in the North, adopt a policy of National Reconciliation and on National Resettlement, finalize the re-settlement of all displaced persons, and to ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearances with accompanying legislation as well as issue certificates of absence.

Although some might perceive Sri Lanka to be 'slow', the government is on track in regaining the GSP Plus Scheme lost during the Rajapaksa regime, State Minister of International Trade Sujeewa Senasinghe said recently (See <http://www.thesundayleader.lk/2016/05/08/sri-lanka-on-track-in-regaining-gsp-plus-govt/>).

Bilateral trade between Sri Lanka and the EU exceeded \$ 5.07 billion, increasing 3.6% Year-on-Year (YoY) of which 69% consisted of Sri Lankan exports to the EU. The majority of Sri Lankan exports to the region was made up of apparel, which was valued at \$ 2.16 billion in 2014, recording growth of 10.5% YoY, followed by rubber tyres and tubes which generated \$ 208 million and finally frozen fish exports which reached \$90 million. Earlier NDB Securities Pvt Ltd (NDBS) releasing a report on the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) special incentive arrangement (GSP+) and its' expected impact on the apparel sector of Sri Lanka. The report makes some interesting revelations about the expected time horizon for which Sri Lanka may be eligible for this scheme, whilst also analyzing two listed companies in the textiles and apparels sector.

Sri Lanka first received GSP+ in 2005, the same year the European Union (EU) introduced the scheme to assist developing countries become more competitive in exports to the EU market. In 2010, the country lost GSP+. The topic of GSP plus regained prominence after the elections in 2015 at which point the new regime lobbied its case amongst EU member states for GSP+ readmission for Sri Lanka.

MONDAY, 02 MAY 2016 12:57

TPP COULD BE A CHALLENGE FOR SRI LANKA IN THE FUTURE

"Sri Lanka's garment exporters have found a niche thanks to their design-to-deliver supply chain. But the industry could be embroiled in myriad challenges from the fast-changing global trade environment. With the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade pact - of which Sri Lanka is not a signatory - on the horizon, competition from TPP signatories such as Vietnam could deal a blow to the South Asian nation's apparel exports. The industry currently employs half a million Sri Lankans and provides 44 per cent of all manufactured goods exported by the country."



Since 2010, when the European Commission revoked Sri Lanka's GSP+ status as a penalty for alleged human rights abuses committed at the end of the country's civil war, the industry has suffered. Even now, heavy investment in a value-added supply chain that enables prompt turnaround has kept the industry going in the face of unfriendly trade treatment.

TPP a challenge for Sri Lanka Sri Lanka's garment exporters have found a niche thanks to their design-to-deliver supply chain. But the industry could be embroiled in myriad challenges from the fast-changing global trade environment. With the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade pact - of which Sri Lanka is not a signatory - on the horizon, competition from TPP signatories such as Vietnam could deal a blow to the South Asian nation's apparel exports. The industry currently employs half a million Sri Lankans and provides 44 per cent of all manufactured goods exported by the country.



Interestingly, it wouldn't be the first time the country is up against trade practices that are not in its favor. Since 2010, when the European Commission revoked Sri Lanka's Generalized System of Preferences Plus (GSP+) status, the industry suffered from the loss of preferential tax treatment. Still, heavy investment in a value-added supply chain that enables prompt turnaround has kept the industry going in the face of unfriendly trade treatment.

Design-to-delivery

In Sri Lanka, design-to-delivery time used to be many months till some time back. Now, a chase order for something that's selling in the US, the country could produce it and ship it across to the stores in 14 days. This is possible as the supply chain is closer to needle point, points out Sharad Amalean, Deputy Chairman, Joint Apparel Association Forum. A design-to-delivery solution means that the design, manufacture and logistics such as delivery are all carried out in Sri Lanka. The country exports about \$5 billion worth of apparel a year. Despite this innovation, growth in exports to the European Union -- Sri Lanka's biggest garment export market -- fell from 13-14 per cent from 2005-2010 to about 7 per cent a year after the GSP+ status was revoked, according to a report by consultancy Oxford Business Group. But Ashroff Omar, Group Chief Executive of Brandix, Sri Lanka's largest apparel exporter, is hopeful of another about-turn. The exporter shipped \$750 million worth of goods to its clients last year.

Omar believes Sri Lanka will regain duty free status by the end of this year, so he is bullish about the European market. Even so, the TPP will deal a blow. Competition with Vietnam, Sri Lanka's closest garment-making rival, will be particularly stiff. But Sri Lanka may be able to buy some time while hiccups in the TPP's implementation are ironed out. Sri Lankans believe if it comes, the earliest would be 2018. And there's a 10-year phase-out period to remove duties on most apparel products.

Banking on the future

Moreover, during this decade-long run-up, costs in Vietnam will likely go up. Omar feels Vietnam does not have unlimited population. However, the trade deal may still impact Sri Lanka's share of the apparel export pie after all, China grabbed most of Mexico's share of the global trade when the Multi-Fiber Arrangement, a deal that set quotas on the amount of textiles and clothing developing countries could export to developed countries, expired in 2004. Today, the world's second-largest economy controls almost 40 per cent of the global \$400 billion market.

So, along with expectations Vietnam's cost base will rise while the TPP is phased in, Sri Lanka's strategy is to specialize, by focusing on vertically-integrated design-to-delivery solutions not just in the country but also with partners in China and Hong Kong. Exporters like Brandix are also teaming up with industry players in China and Hong Kong to improve overall supply chain management.

Sri Lanka invested in printing, in laundry, in processing - everything the customer needs. Sri Lanka could also reposition itself as a hub for supplier countries in the region, Omar said, noting that neighbors India, Bangladesh and Pakistan were large producers of cotton, yarns and textiles. Sri Lanka's reputation as a no-sweatshop, ethical garment center was another advantage, Amalean, CEO of MAS Holdings, a garment maker.

High-end brands including Victoria Secrets, Nike, Gap, Marks & Spencer and Ralph Lauren are few who manufacture in Sri Lanka in part due to this reason. While productivity and speed are Sri Lanka's hallmarks in the current fast fashion landscape, its garment makers are acutely aware that changes are afoot.

Tunisia to diversify trading partners and boost exports of value added trade

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 2016-05-09 14:00:00 - Africa

Tunisia that already ranks as the fifth-largest apparel supplier to Europe and the number two supplier for the French market, according to Tunisia's Foreign Investment Promotion Agency with textile and apparel exports totaled TD6.5bn (€2.9bn) in 2014 is now looking for talks on a new deal with the EU, its biggest trading partner, to pave the way for improved access to European markets, while opportunities to boost trade with Pakistan are also showing signs of promise as impact of global economic situation weighing on trading volumes.

In October Tunisia launched negotiations with the EU with a view to securing a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) that has been in consideration since 2011.

Tunisia has benefitted from a raft of association agreements since the late 1990s that have given the country tariff-free access to several EU markets, together with financial and technical assistance. However, the DCFTA is expected to offer far greater opportunities to improve trade flows by reducing tariffs on key Tunisian exports, such as agricultural products.

According to the European Commission, the EU is Tunisia's largest trading partner by far, accounting for 80% of the country's imports and exports. Bilateral trade was valued at approximately €20bn in 2014.

Electrical machinery and transport equipment accounted for 38.1% of Tunisia's exports to the EU, while textiles and clothing comprised 24.9%. Fuels and mining products, meanwhile, made up 14% of Tunisia's sales to the bloc.

Tunisia will be looking for the new deal to unlock trade in key areas that were not fully liberalised under the 1998 EU-Tunisia Association Agreement, such as agriculture, which accounts for around 9.5% of GDP.

Other trade deals under discussion, including a preferential trade agreement with Pakistan, could feed into Tunisia's value-added export strategy.

The Tunisian ambassador to Pakistan, Adel Elarbi, is hopeful that an agreement could be signed this year, which would boost bilateral trade from a modest \$33.1m in FY 2014/15.

Elarbi highlighted agriculture, textiles, electronics, tourism and services as areas for potential cooperation, with a focus on importing more raw materials from Pakistan.

Atif Ikram Sheikh, president of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that there is a good scope for the export of Pakistani fabrics, which after value addition in Tunisia could be exported to the European and other countries.

Les déchets plastiques:
Le leçon indienne



Finance islamique :
La Zakat peut-elle vraiment
résoudre les problèmes
économiques de la Tunisie?

Entre 2011 et 2015, 374 entreprises ont fermé chaque année

Près de 1.900 (plus exactement 1.868) entreprises industrielles ont fermé leurs portes, entre 2011 et 2015, soit une moyenne de 374 unités chaque année, selon les statistiques de l'Agence de promotion de l'industrie et de l'innovation (APII).

Comparativement, au cours de la période de 2007 à 2010, près de 1.628 entreprises industrielles avaient fermé, soit en moyenne 407 unités annuellement).

Pour l'année 2015, il ressort des statistiques de l'APII que 263 entreprises industrielles ont arrêté leurs activités, contre 369 entreprises en 2014. Il s'agit notamment de 114 entreprises dans le secteur du textile-l'habillement, 36 dans les industries agroalimentaires et 20 dans le secteur du cuir et chaussures.

Le nombre d'emplois perdus à cause des fermetures d'entreprises industrielles s'élève à 12.912 en 2015, contre 19.711 en 2014 et 37.460 en 2011.

Sur la période allant de 2007 à 2015, près de 3.496 entreprises ont cessé leurs activités, dont 1.785 entreprises ont été recensées dans le secteur du textile-habillement et 414 entreprises dans les industries agro-alimentaires.

Selon les explications de l'APII, les entreprises industrielles fermées au cours de la période 2007 et 2010 ont subi les effets de l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord multi-fibres en 2008, qui a permis à la Chine de commercialiser ses produits textiles sans droits de douane, mais aussi les retombées de la crise économique mondiale de l'année 2008.

Concernant la période 2011-2015, ces fermetures sont dues aux événements et aux actes de déprédation qui ont accompagné la Révolution et à la crise économique que traverse le pays.

Cependant, il serait intéressant de connaître le nombre d'entreprises et celui d'emplois créés au cours de cette période. Parce que la vitalité d'une économie se mesure à l'aune de créations et de mort d'entreprises.

L'APII va réaliser une nouvelle étude sur la fermeture des entreprises industrielles en Tunisie, qui sera élaborée par un bureau d'études, à la suite d'un appel d'offres devant être lancé à cet effet. Cette étude devra être parachevée au cours de la deuxième moitié de 2017.

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Industry News | Time : May 27 2016 8:53AM

Turkmenistan seek foreign investment to further expand its textile industry

Turkmenistan over the years of independence has seen increase in cotton fiber processing from 3 percent to 51 percent. Also the country's cotton yarn production has increased 2.4 times from 2000 to 2015 and cotton production 4 times.

The country aims to raise foreign investment to bring further expansion in its textile industry for which they intend to create the most favorable conditions for investors and also introduce, new technologies.

At present, Turkmenistan has more than 70 enterprises producing cotton yarn, cotton, terry, denim, knitted fabrics and knitwear

More than 70 percent of the Turkmenistan's textile products are exported to the US, Europe, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, China and Baltic countries. From 2000 to 2015, its export of textile products has witnessed 3.2 times raise.

The Central Asian country, Turkmenistan is among the top 10 producers of cotton and its high quality, fine-fibre "white gold" is used for local production of jeans wear. Jeans with a "Made in Turkmenistan" label are sold in a variety of Western supermarket chains, including U.S. company WalMart and exported to dozens of countries.

Source: YNFX

Friday, May 27, 2016,

Garment companies encouraged to use more domestic raw materials

According to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (Vitas), textile and apparel exports in the first four months of this year exceeded US\$8.1 billion, up 6.2 percent over the same period last year.



A garment plant in HCMC (Photo: SGGP)

Of which, garments exports topped \$6.8 billion, an increase of 6.95 percent; staple fiber exports reached \$824 million, an increase of 2.87 percent; raw materials exports were at \$273 million, up 4.14 percent; whereas, nonwoven fabrics exports hit \$145 million, down 3.97 percent.

Countries participated in the Trans-Pacific Partnership account for 65 percent of Vietnam's total textile and apparel exports, with the US accounting for 48 percent, and Japan 12 percent. The EU market accounts for 15 percent and South Korea takes about 10 percent.

The representative of Vitas said that although the country's raw materials exports bring in billions US dollar annually, several garment companies still have to import fabrics for manufacturing of export clothes. Vitas recommended that garment companies and raw material producers should strengthen connection and try each other's products.

Raw materials producers should focus on meeting requirements for quality, quantity, competitive price, and delivery time. In long term, garment companies should shift from doing outsourcing to making products to export under FOB (free on board), ODM (original design manufacturer) or OBM (original brand manufacturer) modes and cut down exporting via intermediary. Thenceforth, garment and textile companies are able to meet the rules of origin under the TTP and FTA.

By Lac Phong – Translated by Thuy Doan

11/05/2016 10:34

De janvier à avril, les exportations de textile, d'habillement et de chaussures se sont établies à plus de 10,5 milliard de dollars.

Le textile et l'habillement ont dégagé en avril 1,7 milliard de dollars pour une croissance de 5,2% sur un an, et depuis le début de l'année, 6,82 milliards de dollars et 6,2%.



Selon l'Association du textile et de l'habillement du Vietnam (Vitas), les commandes viennent principalement des États-Unis, d'Union européenne, du Japon et de République de Corée.

Selon le ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce, plusieurs entreprises ont accepté des commandes à l'export jusqu'au 2^e trimestre, voire même jusqu'à la fin de cette année, ce qui est positif pour ce secteur afin d'atteindre son objectif d'export pour 2016.

Quant aux chaussures et aux sandales, elles ont dégagé 3,68 milliards de dollars en quatre mois représentant une progression de 4,8% sur un an. De nombreuses entreprises de ce secteur ont vu les commandes affluer dès ce 2^e trimestre.

Selon les prévisions, le textile et les chaussures resteront cette année parmi les produits d'exportation majeurs du pays après l'entrée en vigueur de plusieurs accords de libre-échange.

France-Vietnam : Forum d'affaires textile à Ho Chi Minh Ville, du 26 au 28 octobre 2016.

En association avec FUTURALLIA et la Ministère vietnamien de l'Industrie et du Commerce (MOIT), la Fondation PROSPECTIVE & INNOVATION organise un Forum d'Affaires multisectoriel du 26 au 28 octobre 2016 au Vietnam, à Ho Chi Minh-Ville, avec la participation de Jean-Pierre Raffarin.

Créée en 1989, la Fondation Prospective & Innovation est présidée par Jean-Pierre Raffarin, ancien Premier Ministre et actuel Président de la Commission des Affaires Etrangères et de la Défense du Sénat.

Notre association EVALLIANCE est partenaire de ce Forum, au même titre que l'Ambassade du Vietnam en France, l'Ambassade de France au Vietnam, BUSINESS FRANCE, la CCI FRANCE-VIETNAM, la CGPME, VIETNAMNAY et ABVietFrance.

Le Forum portera sur quatre grands secteurs : l'agro-alimentaire, la Santé et Art de vivre, la Ville durable et les NTIC. Le secteur Santé et Art de vivre comprend notamment le luxe, la Mode, le Textile et Décoration, ainsi que la pharmacie, les cosmétiques et le tourisme.

S'agissant du secteur textile-habillement, rappelons que le Vietnam est actuellement le 6ème fournisseur d'habillement de l'UE (2,8 milliards d'euros en 2015) et le 8ème fournisseur de la France en habillement (595 millions d'euros). Les importations d'habillement en provenance du Vietnam croissent très rapidement : + 67 % vers la France en 2015 !

De nombreuses entreprises françaises industrielles et de distribution sont déjà implantées au Vietnam pour du **sourcing compétitif en vêtements** ou pour y vendre leurs produits sur un marché vietnamien de plus en plus attractif pour les marques européennes, y compris le luxe.

Le Vietnam importe la quasi-totalité de ses besoins en tissus, fils et fournitures textiles. Le Vietnam constitue donc un **marché potentiel textile** très intéressant pour les fournisseurs français de textiles mais aussi de solutions technologiques performantes au service de la compétitivité et de la création pour son secteur textile-habillement qui a l'ambition de plus être dans un avenir proche un simple pays de sous-traitance.

Rappelons enfin que le Vietnam et l'Union européenne ont conclu un accord de libre-échange le 2 décembre 2015, accord qui va « booster » leurs échanges commerciaux et leur coopération économique.

Vous trouverez en annexe des détails sur cette importante manifestation ainsi qu'un bulletin de participation.

Industry News | Time : May 10 2016 8:21AM

Vietnam's export garment producers see decline in orders

Hanoi (VNA) – Producers of export quality garments are facing a reduction in orders, according to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS).

Vu Duc Giang, VITAS Chairman, said they were considering moving export garment orders from Vietnam to Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, because customers of those countries would join the preferential export tax when exporting to the United States (US) and Europe.

Meanwhile, the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and Vietnam-European Free Trade Agreement have not yet come into effect. Therefore, partners of Vietnam's export garment producers could not join any preferential tax regime from those agreements.

According to the General Department of Customs, Vietnam gained a year-on-year growth in export values of garments at 7 percent to 7 billion USD in the first four months of this year, lower than the expected rate of 10 percent. Import of materials for export garment production dropped in four months.

Hoang Trong Khang, Deputy Head of the Import and Export Division at the Viet An Joint Stock Company specialising in garment exports to the US, European Union (EU) and the Republic of Korea (RoK), said the company saw reduction in exports to some major markets, including RoK.

In fact, export orders for production in the second and third quarters have reduced by 5 percent to 7 percent against the same period last year, according to the association. The local enterprises were worried about the ability to move export orders of traditional customers to other regional countries in the second and third quarter. That situation would affect exports of enterprises as well as the garment industry.

To take more export orders and set up professional production and business activities, the Vietnam Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex) has developed Vinatex International Joint Stock Company (VTJ) and the Supply Chain Development Center (SCDC).

The two businesses would combine and support member companies of Vinatex to exploit and expand the export market, seek customers and develop a supply chain from material to finished products, Tran Quang Nghi, Vinatex Chairman, said.

So far, the SCDC has had eight regular customers for garment products and been

developing 20 customers in the US, the Europe, RoK and Japan.

The centre has had 10 customers for cotton and fibre and has been developing 30 customers of the products in Chile, China, Thailand, and Malaysia, in addition to RoK.

VTJ has had 10 customers and it has concentrated on the US and Japan markets with large export volumes.

Vietnam expected to gain total export value of 30 billion USD for this whole year, which is 3 billion USD more than in 2015.-VNA

Local fashion industry needs brands, glam

Update: May, 18/2016 - 09:00



Lê Thị Quỳnh Trang, general director of Multimedia JSC, organised fashion programmes with the hope of transforming the face of Việt Nam's fashion industry. Trang spoke with Văn Đạt about Việt Nam's potential in fashion.

Inner Sanctum: *Do you think Việt Nam really has a fashion industry ?*

Not yet! Việt Nam does not really have a fashion industry. Our TV reality programmes about fashion and international fashion weeks have just created a start for the fashion industry and given a new face to the country's fashion. Asian countries like Japan, South Korea, Thailand and China have a developed fashion industry.

Việt Nam is ranked fifth for garment outsourcing worldwide. Several international famous fashion brands have their products made in Việt Nam. Our workers have the ability to create sophisticated clothes. We have not built our own brands or taken advantage of our resources. Việt Nam has a lot of potential which has not been exploited well.

Fashion is not the only thing displayed on the catwalk. It is lifestyle. When people ride a beautiful car, they love to dress in beautiful clothes and shoes, nice hand bags, and luxurious jewelry.

Inner Sanctum: *What conditions should Việt Nam have to develop a fashion industry like other countries in the region?*

First, we should build fashion brands for ourselves. The government has not seen the potential and importance of the fashion industry.

In South Korea, the government invests a lot in movies to promote their culture. More than 10 years ago, nobody knew about Korean fashion. Korean films introduce cars, mobile phones and fashion, creating new lifestyle trends that influence the younger generation. In order to do that, the government had to invest a lot of money.

We also need an army of skilled designers. Currently, schools of fashion design in Việt Nam are rare. Only a few schools have the ability to the world's fashion trend. Fashion is a harsh sector. It changes every six months.

Having skilled designers is still not enough. The other important thing is the source of materials. Most materials used in Việt Nam are imported. Our old weaving factories have been closed for a long time. I think we should revive craft villages. We used to have a strong silk weaving trade at villages. The government should create favourable conditions to revive the villages. I know that several international famous brands buy silk fabrics made in Việt Nam for their products.

The workmanship of Vietnamese workers is very good. World-famous fashion brands have their products made in Việt Nam and their products meet international standards. If we have our products made and sold in Việt Nam, the business sector will benefit.

Việt Nam has 90 million people. If 30 per cent of them wear Vietnamese clothes, the country's economy will benefit. At that time, we would not have to import clothes.

Inner Sanctum: *You have been to several countries with Vietnamese models and designers to attend fashion events. Which country's fashion industry impressed you the most?*

Before entering the fashion sector, I sold television copyright. I visited South Korea often to buy their films and sell to local television stations. I was their client, so they offered me free hotel accommodation and air tickets. After every visit, I bought several US\$100,000 films. The films were screened in Việt Nam. Unintentionally, Korean culture, including tourism and fashion, was promoted in Việt Nam.

In the last two years, when I began organising international fashion weeks, I returned to South Korea to study more carefully the country's fashion industry. The money for organising their international fashion weeks is paid by the government.

I have to pay myself for a similar event. When they organise an event, the people of Asia rush to South Korea. They not only receive a huge amount of money from the fashion industry, but also from tourism and other services.

Inner Sanctum: *You have successfully paved the way for Việt Nam's future fashion industry by training a new generation of models and designers acknowledged by the world. Has any garment corporation come to you for cooperation?*

Major garment companies in Việt Nam focus on outsourcing. They don't really have a design staff. We are not ready to cooperate with the companies. We want to assist those who are enthusiastic about fashion such as designers and local fashion brands including Canifa, Ivy Moda and others. The private fashion brands are very dynamic and active. They are willing to change and keep up to date with the world's fashion trends.

I realise that local garment companies are not really enthusiastic in developing the domestic fashion sector. Việt Nam should have a fashion association to develop the local fashion industry. The association that I have proposed would coordinate with the Việt Nam Textile and Apparel Association.

Inner Sanctum: *As an industry insider, what can you do to influence regional countries as South Korea has done in Việt Nam ?*

Recently, we worked with Chinese Hong Kong, to promote the fashion sector. When we have an association for fashion, cooperation between countries will be more convenient. There will be more cooperation opportunities and we will work with other countries to promote Vietnamese fashion.

Organising international fashion week is also a way to promote Vietnamese fashion. Beside inviting foreign designers to Việt Nam for the events, in the future, I will send Vietnamese designers to introduce their collections in foreign countries.

Embassies of several countries including France, Italy and Japan have paid a great deal of attention to Việt Nam International Fashion Week. The ambassador of Israel wants to invite Vietnamese designers to attend a fashion week in Israel and Israeli designers will visit Việt Nam.

I hope that after 10 years Vietnamese fashion will become a new market in Asia. Several foreigners were surprised to hear about international fashion week in Việt Nam. They thought we would not be able to organise such a professional event.

After our fashion weeks, several local fashion brands have become more popular and more people have started wearing dresses of Vietnamese brands.

Inner Sanctum: *You originally were not trained in the fashion field. Did you face challenges in reaching these achievements ?*

I am neither a model nor a designer. I began my career as an accountant. Later, I had an opportunity to work in the television industry. Without my experience in finance and accounting, I would not have reached today's achievement. Working in fashion, I look at everything with the eye of a business person.

When I brought designers Hoàng Minh Hà and Lý Giám Tiền to attend international fashion weeks in other countries, instead of sitting in the hall to see the wonderful world of fashion, I chose to sit backstage to see how the fashion world operated. VNS



WEDNESDAY, 18 MAY 2016 19:18

VIETNAM'S SMALL RMG MAKERS LOSE ORDERS TO COMPETITORS

Vietnam's small and medium apparel enterprises struggled to survive in the first quarter of 2016. Many of them suspended production as their customers shifted orders to Myanmar and Laos to enjoy lower prices.

Vietnam exported \$27.4 billion worth of apparel last year and over \$8 billion in this year's first four months, up six per cent against the same period a year earlier. But despite rising shipments, the industry is coping with a slew of challenges. While apparel products of Myanmar and Laos enjoy special tariffs for exports to Europe and the US, Vietnamese firms have to wait until 2018 to make use of preferential tariffs to export products to these two major markets when the new free trade agreements with them take effect.

Additionally, apparel enterprises have become exhausted by so many inspections by customs, taxation, labor, environment and food safety authorities, with up to three or four inspection teams a quarter.

Vietnam's apparel exports exceeded \$27 billion last year against a target of \$20 billion for 2020. That means the target for 2020 needs to be revised. In addition the country's industrial parks need to be developed to facilitate management and wastewater treatment.

Shipments of new textile machinery fall in 2015

23
May '16



The global economic slowdown has hit the [textile](#) machinery industry with shipments in some of the textile machinery segments experiencing declines in 2015. Deliveries of new short-staple spindles fell by nearly 8 per cent from 2014 to 2015. Shipped long-staple spindles and open-end rotors decreased by 61 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively. The number of shipped draw-texturing spindles fell by 26 per cent and shipments for new circular knitting machines by 6 per cent year-on-year. In contrast, deliveries of shuttle-less looms increased by 14 per cent in 2015 and shipments of flat-knitting machines rose by 52 per cent

- See more at: <http://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/shipments-of-new-textile-machinery-fall-in-2015-179604-newsdetails.htm#sthash.1Z0aZ6VP.dpuf>

These are the main results of the 38th annual International Textile Machinery Shipment Statistics (ITMSS) released by the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF). The [report](#) covers six segments of textile machinery, namely spinning, draw-texturing, weaving, large circular knitting, flat knitting and finishing. The 2015 survey has been compiled in cooperation with over 140 textile machinery manufacturers, representing a comprehensive measure of world production. This number does not include the numerous Chinese companies that are represented by the so called

“District”. The number of participating companies is likely to be around 200.

Shipments of new short-staple spindles fell by nearly 8 per cent year-on-year in 2015, the second decrease in a row. The level of short [staple](#) spindles declined to about 9 million spindles, the lowest level since 2009. Most of the new short staple spindles (92 per cent) were shipped to Asia, whereby shipments fell by 7 per cent year-on-year. Thereby China, the world's largest investor of short-staple spindles, experienced a decline of 26 per cent, whereas deliveries to Bangladesh, Indonesia and Vietnam rose by 97 per cent, 4 per cent and 31 per cent, respectively. All of the five largest investors for short-staple spindles in 2015 originate from Asia and include China, India, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Indonesia, ITMF said in a press release.

Global shipments of long-staple (wool) spindles decreased sharply by 61 per cent from around 138,000 in 2014 to nearly 54,000 in 2015. Deliveries to Turkey, one of the main investors of long-staple spindles in the last few years, fell by 83 per cent from 67,000 in 2014 to over 11,000 spindles in 2015. The majority of long-staple spindles (58 per cent) were shipped to Asia. Nearly 41 per cent of long-staple spindles were shipped to Europe. In 2015, Iran was the largest investor with 14,200 spindles, followed by China with over 13,000 spindles.