

Sommaire / Summary

🌿 Algérie : la relance du textile est possible	1
🌿 Bangladesh proposes to set up textile park in Gujarat	3
🌿 Bangladesh : vers de nouvelles catastrophes	4
🌿 Bangladesh : les détaillants occidentaux y restreignent leurs déplacements	6
🌿 Cambodia to raise garment worker wages to US\$ 140 a month	8
🌿 Cambodia to raise minimum wage	10
🌿 China : what moves the textile world in China ?	12
🌿 China : Chic en même temps qu'Intertextile	15
🌿 France : Avantex launches at Texworld Paris	17
🌿 France : Fair dedicated to high-tech fabrics Avantex concludes	19
🌿 France : Chaire Lectra-ESCP Europe: table ronde « Mode, développement durable et technologie »	20
🌿 Inde : Indian textile machinery poised double to touch Rs 45,000 crore by 2022	21
🌿 India : textile industry asks govt to extend 3 % interest subvention	23
🌿 Indian technical textiles market forecast to account for 15,5% share of global revenues by 2020	25
🌿 Indonesia launches special desk to aid textile sector	27
🌿 Indonesia to focus on increasing competitiveness before joining TPP	28
🌿 Indonesia : Vietnam is biggest threat for Indonesia in textile sector	30
🌿 Japan to step up textile imports from Pakistan	32
🌿 Malaysia, Vietnam may grab Indonesia's manufacturing market	34
🌿 Pakistan must go for ethically-grown « Better Cotton »	36
🌿 Pakistan : textile industry in trouble due to heavy cost of doing business	39
🌿 Pakistan : textile mills shut production to protest high cost of business	41
🌿 Philippines textile and apparel industries likely to revive by joining TPP	42
🌿 Sri Lanka : EDB moves to stamp « Brand Sri Lanka » in global Batik map	43
🌿 Taiwan : green and sustainable fabrics to be exhibited at TITAS	44
🌿 Taiwan's TIFE 2015 displays smart textile products	45
🌿 Turkey : Universal Textile Design Center in Istanbul	46
🌿 Vietnam : ce que l'Accord de libre-échange avec l'UE va changer	48
🌿 Vietnam et Italie discutent de leur coopération économique	51
🌿 Vietnam : apparel giant Hansae turns from Vietnam to Haiti	53
🌿 Vietnam : possible impacts of TPP on Vietnam	54
🌿 Vietnam : smaller firms fear inability to cash in on new agreement	55
🌿 Vietnam grows more attractive to foreign investment	56
🌿 Vietnam : TPP has long-term advantages	58
🌿 Vietnam : le textile souhaite diversifier l'approvisionnement de ses matières premières	60
🌿 Vietnamese garment and textile firms : ready & waiting	62
🌿 Vietnam : TPP : le Vietnam semble être le grand gagnant	64

mardi 20 octobre 2015 18:19

Algérie- La relance du textile en Algérie est possible (Amar Takjout, UGTA)



Le textile algérien : une reprise possible mais difficile.

Déstructuré durant les années 1990 la filière textile tente une nouvelle renaissance selon le secrétaire général de la Fédération textiles et cuirs (FTC, Union nationale des travailleurs algériens). Pour lui, les filières textiles tunisienne et turque, que la concurrence chinoise n'a pas réussi à anéantir, sont des exemples à suivre.

A en croire Amar Takjout, le secrétaire général de la Fédération textiles et cuirs (FTC) de l'Union nationale des travailleurs algériens (UGTA), la relance du textile en Algérie est chose possible. « Cela entre dans la compétence des pouvoirs publics de relancer l'industrie, et l'économie algériennes de manière générale, en favorisant une économie productive », a-t-il déclaré sur les ondes de la Radio chaîne 3. Selon lui, le secteur du « textile, de l'habillement et du cuir » a sa place dans l'ensemble industriel algérien et peut « apporter sa participation à la croissance de l'économie ».

La part de la filière rapportée au PIB reste très faible, avec 2% seulement, un chiffre que Amar Takjout relativise, soulignant qu'il représente le tiers de la participation de l'industrie au PIB qui est de seulement 5%.

Quid de la concurrence ? « Elle ne doit pas être un facteur bloquant », répond le SG de la FTC, qui relève l'existence d'opportunités sur le marché qu'il est possible de saisir à condition de « remettre de l'ordre dans l'orientation de l'investissement en donnant plus de facilités à

l'investissement productif qu'à l'importation ». « L'environnement général doit être à même d'encourager les personnes à investir dans l'économie productive », ajoute-t-il, affirmant que la concurrence chinoise est en train de perdre du terrain dans la mesure où, explique-t-il, l'on assiste à des opérations de délocalisation de la Chine vers l'Europe sous l'effet de la cherté de la main d'œuvre chinoise et du fait de l'éloignement géographique de ce pays.

"La main-d'œuvre algérienne « moins chère » qu'en Tunisie et au Maroc"

Pour mieux argumenter son point de vue, Amar Takjout rappelle que la concurrence chinoise n'a pas anéanti les industries textiles tunisienne et turque qui, selon lui, se portent bien et dont le savoir-faire accumulé a pu être sauvegardé. En Algérie, estime-t-il, les choses peuvent être beaucoup plus reluisantes car - à quelque chose malheur est bon - la dépréciation du dinar fait que la main-d'œuvre algérienne est bon marché (140 dollars/mois) « loin de la Tunisie et du Maroc » (autour de 220 dollars/mois).

Le SG de la FTC reconnaît que la filière a perdu « énormément de terrain » dans le marché de la consommation grand public, mais, insiste-t-il, il est possible de reprendre les parts de marché perdues, « pourvu que la formation et la création reprennent ».

Déplorant la faiblesse du contrôle et de la régulation qui sont, relève-t-il, derrière la prolifération du marché de la friperie, Amar Takjout estime qu'il appartient à l'Etat de prendre les décisions qui s'imposent pour sauver le secteur affirmant que le pays possède une capacité de production de 250 millions de mètres de tissus /an « qui n'est pas exploitée ».

Oct 13 2015 3:37PM

Bangladesh proposes to set up textile park in Gujarat

Bangladesh, which is among the top garment manufacturing and exporting countries globally has to heavily bank on India, especially Gujarat, for cotton and yarn for its garment industry. The neighbouring country proposes to set up a textile park in the state of Gujarat.

Bangladesh has zeroed in on Kadi near Ahmedabad for the project which involves an initial investment of Rs 240-300 crore. To begin with, the park will have spinning units with cumulative capacity of 1 lakh spindles. Bangladesh has sought around 100 acres of land from the state government for the project.

Last month, a high level trade delegation comprising representatives of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Cotton Association and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association visited Gujarat. These apex trade bodies have now approached the state government with a proposal to set up a textile park. Initially, they will invest in yarn manufacturing and later on may include garment manufacturing.

Mamta Verma, industries commissioner, Gujarat government said that Bangladesh already imports yarn from Gujarat, Bangladesh imports close to 55 lakh bales (one bale weighs 170 kg) annually, of which 70% is accounted by India, while Gujarat has the largest share in cotton exported to Bangladesh. The park to be set up will provide them the cost advantage. The project is very significant from the point of view Indo-Bangladesh trade promotion.

According to Dr PR Roy, chairman, Diagonal Consulting India, Gujarat has aggressive textile policy with incentives for spinning activities. Availability of power and raw material (cotton) is attracting many companies to set up their spinning units in the state.

After China, Bangladesh is the next neighbouring to also jump on to Gujarat's textile park bandwagon.



Bangladesh : vers de nouvelles catastrophes

14 octobre 2015

Deux ans après l'effondrement de l'immeuble du Rana Plaza, près de Dacca au Bangladesh, qui fit 1 138 morts et plus de 2 000 blessés, un rapport de l'ONG Clean Clothes Campaign et de plusieurs organisations internationales fait état du « *retard inacceptable* » du groupe de prêt-à-porter H&M dans la mise en œuvre de dispositifs de sécurité pour les travailleurs de ses fournisseurs textiles au Bangladesh.



Concrètement, il s'agit d'installer des portes coupe-feu, de garantir l'accès aux issues de secours ou la sécurisation des escaliers. Rien d'insurmontable pour un groupe dont l'incendie d'une usine sous-traitante en 2010 avait causé la mort de 21 personnes.

Comme 200 autres marques de prêt-à-porter, H&M s'était pourtant engagé en 2013, à la suite de la catastrophe du Rana Plaza, à garantir la sécurité des travailleurs chez ses fournisseurs textiles au Bangladesh. Mais déjà en avril dernier, dans un autre rapport, l'ONG Human Right Watch soulignait que rien ou presque n'avait changé depuis la catastrophe. Dans ces usines qui emploient 4 millions de personnes, dont 80 % de femmes, les propriétaires, disait le rapport, « *rogner sur les dépenses de sécurité, de ventilation, de sanitaires. Ils ne payent pas les heures supplémentaires et n'offrent pas d'assistance en cas d'accident du travail. Ils ne prévoient pas de dispositifs anti-incendie ni d'extincteurs. Beaucoup traitent leurs ouvriers comme des*

esclaves ». Il racontait les injures quotidiennes, le harcèlement, les menaces pour ceux qui relevaient la tête. Il citait même des cas d'assassinat de militants ouvriers.

Le patronat local n'a, c'est évident, aucun état d'âme. Mais que dire de la pression des grands groupes du textile comme H&M pour réduire au maximum les coûts et augmenter au maximum leurs profits ? Ils s'abritent derrière la difficulté de contrôler leurs sous-traitants. Cela les arrange bien ! Ces marques sont riches, mais elles ont mis plus de deux ans à mettre sur la table les 30 millions de dollars prévus par le fonds d'indemnisation aux familles des victimes du Rana Plaza.

Jacques Le Gall



15 octobre 2015

Les détaillants occidentaux restreignent leurs déplacements au Bangladesh

Des cadres travaillant pour les géants de la mode comme H&M, Inditex ou Gap ont récemment annulé leurs voyages au Bangladesh, après l'assassinat de deux étrangers, provoquant ainsi une certaine incertitude pour une industrie textile qui, représentant 25 milliards de dollars (21,94 milliards d'euros), est essentielle pour l'économie du pays.

Les fournisseurs bangladais des principales marques de mode ont toutefois indiqué qu'ils n'anticipaient aucun impact sur le niveau des commandes pour les fêtes de fin d'année.



Les attaques, qui ont été revendiquées par l'Etat islamique, augmentent toutefois la pression sur un secteur qui doit faire face à la concurrence des autres pays à bas coût, et qui essaie d'améliorer son image après plusieurs graves accidents.

Les Etats-Unis et le Canada ont demandé à leurs ressortissants de restreindre leurs mouvements, et la Grande-Bretagne a indiqué craindre de nouvelles attaques, après le meurtre par balles d'un Italien et d'un Japonais, à quelques jours d'intervalle.

Le gouvernement bangladais a toutefois rejeté la revendication de l'Etat islamique, faisant porter la responsabilité des violences à ses opposants politiques. Ces attaques visant des étrangers, bien que rares, font suite au meurtre de quatre blogueurs bangladais plus tôt cette année.

« Nos acheteurs occidentaux ont paniqué après l'assassinat de deux étrangers en l'espace de cinq jours. Des acheteurs ont annulé leur visite à une époque de l'année où ils sont supposés passer commande », a déclaré

Siddiqur Rahman, le président de l'Association des fabricants et exportateurs de vêtements bangladais.



Alors que certains donneurs d'ordre ont proposé de rencontrer leurs fournisseurs à l'étranger, d'autres ont organisé des vidéoconférences.

« Nous suivons la situation au Bangladesh de très près et nous avons pris les mesures de sécurité appropriées. Nous restons aussi en contact rapproché avec les autres marques en ce qui concerne la situation », a précisé Anna Erikson, porte-parole d'H&M.

D'autres marques, comme Marks & Spencer, ont repris leurs voyages vers le Bangladesh, après un arrêt momentané, tout en recommandant à leurs employés de rester vigilants.

Le ministre de l'Intérieur, Asaduzzaman Khan, a rejeté l'idée que l'Etat islamique puisse être actif dans le pays, privilégiant la thèse d'une responsabilité des mouvements d'opposition, et ajoutant que l'enquête des autorités devrait déboucher prochainement.

Cambodia to raise garment worker wages to US\$140 a month, but unions are unimpressed

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Agence France-Presse in Phnom Penh



The new wages take effect at the beginning of next year. The increase falls short of the \$150 a month wage proposed by unions. Photo: Xinhua

Cambodia on Thursday said it will raise the minimum monthly wage for garment workers to \$140, an increase of nearly 10 percent, which fell short of union demands in an industry beset by strikes and protests.

The garment sector is a key source of export earnings for the impoverished country, but critics say workers in the multi-billion dollar industry are underpaid and face poor conditions.

The Ministry of Labor said a \$12 monthly pay rise had been agreed after a week of talks between union representatives, employers and government officials.

“The minimum wage for workers at textile and footwear industries for 2016 has been officially set at \$140 per month,” the statement said, up from \$128 in 2015.



Cambodian garment

workers clash with police during a protest to demand higher wages in 2014. Photo: AFP

The kingdom's garment sector makes clothes and shoes for major western brands firms including GAP, Levi's, H&M, Puma and ZARA.

By January next year employees will earn 40 percent more than in 2014 after rounds of strikes and violent protests forced contractors to improve wages.

But unions want upwards of \$150 a month for their members and expressed dismay at the settlement.

"It is very little help to the workers," said Ath Thorn of the Coalition of Cambodia Apparel Workers Democratic Unions.

"Workers should receive at least \$150," he said, warning unions may still reject the offer.

About 700,000 workers provide the backbone of Cambodia's garment industry.

Safety worries are rife with periodic episodes of mass fainting by workers often blamed on poor health, poor working conditions, bad ventilation or exposure to dangerous chemicals.

Myanmar's nascent garment sector is worth nearly \$850 million a year, well shy of Cambodia's annual \$5 billion, but analysts say it may offer cheaper long-term wages and higher margins for textile firms.

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Cambodia to raise minimum wage

Written by Brett Mathews



PHNOM PENH - Cambodia has said it will raise the minimum wage for workers in the textile industry by almost 10 per cent, to US \$140 a month as from January 2016. The news comes following protracted negotiations between factories and unions, the latter of which had been holding out for an increase to US \$150.

H&M has welcomed the news, and issued a statement saying: "H&M's CEO has also met with the Cambodian Prime Minister to discuss the importance of annual minimum wage revisions and fair industrial relations. We support higher wages for garments workers and are positive to the recent raise that will be implemented 1 January 2016. While we don't believe that buyers, such as H&M, should determine wage levels for textile workers, we are positive to the peaceful consultations that have taken place over the past months between the parties on the labor market as well as to wages having been revised annually for the second year running. This is an important step forward towards fair living wages."

In a statement, the International Labor Organisation said: "As wages gradually increase, it is important for the industry to improve overall productivity, and for garment buyers to examine their purchasing practices," it said.

Employing an estimated 700,000 people, the garment manufacturing sector in Cambodia generates more than US \$5bn each year. Apparel brands and retailers sourcing from the country include including Gap, Nike, Adidas and Zara.

Van Sou Leng, president at GMAC, recently warned trade unions that a steep increase in Cambodia's minimum wage could affect the survival of textile manufacturing factories.

Low pay in the country's textile industries has led to many violent protests in recent years, with clashes between police and textile workers. The issue of mass fainting in garment factories has also blighted the sector.

The minimum wage in Cambodia has more than doubled since 2012, when it stood at US\$ 61. The monthly minimum wage level of US\$128 (effective as of 1 January 2015) is lower than the likes of China (US\$297), the Philippines (US\$269) and Thailand (US\$237), but above Sri Lanka (US\$66), Bangladesh (US\$71) and Pakistan (US\$99 to US\$119).



20 OCT. 2015

WHAT MOVES THE TEXTILE WORLD IN CHINA? REPORT FROM INTERTEXTILE

CHINA: A LAND OF SUPERLATIVES BUT NOT OF TEXTILE INNOVATION

Intertextile is a fabrics trade show no short of superlatives. Taking place in the biggest city of the world's most highly populated country and on the world's largest trade show grounds, the Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics hosted a total of 4,600 exhibitors (3,464 of which were domestic and 1,172 from overseas) last week between October 13 and 15.

The atmosphere was bustling and busy and all of the nine halls (occupying an area of 228,000 sqm) maintained a constant flow of national and international visitors inspecting the latest fabric developments for fall/winter 16-17.



However, it is indisputably still the international halls and exhibitors to turn to for true innovation rather than the Chinese manufacturers. "It will take another five to ten years until the Chinese offer will be truly innovative. The workforce has to be trained better and the factories need to have the right machines in order to be more inventive. In terms of denim, Italy, Japan and Turkey are still leading", said

Steven Wang of China-based Panther Textiles, who supply denim for a range of renown international mid-price players including Gap, Bestseller or American Eagle.

DENIM GOES STRONG

Next to Panther, Winsing Denim was another highlight exhibitor amongst the local manufacturers in this season's expanded **Beyond Denim hall**. The international cast included names such as Cone Denim or HW Textiles from Hong Kong, who presented a special SeaCell denim including moisturizing seaweed fibers or Orta Anadolu from Turkey, who displayed their Vegan and BodyFrame denim and showed extremely happy with the local response to their offering. After all, the Chinese market is full of high potential for overseas textile manufacturers. Ömer Murat Sözeri, responsible for the Chinese market at Orta, reported he just had a meeting with Yishion, a Chinese young fashion retail chain that has more than 5,000 stores in China – and is greatly unknown in Europe.

For the first time ever, Beyond Denim did not only host local and overseas denim manufacturers, but also a selection of ready-to-wear denim brands from adjacent fashion trade show CHIC, including Joneaa or BOYI (Shanghai).

Additionally, there was also a nicely arranged trend forum showcasing exhibitor samples matching the five trend themes: *Dwell* (modern, athleisure, indigo knits, stretch, corduroy), *Western* ("cowboy"-style, worn looks, yarn-dye shirts, eyelets, embroideries), *Cyber* (technical fabrics, performance oriented, synthetic, coated and bonded materials, metallic finishes), *Artisan* (functional, raw and selvedge denim, crafted, Shibori prints) and *Wanderer* (pigment and tie dyes, patchwork, applications, ethnic prints). Generally, all sorts of high percentage stretch and recovery denims were dominating the booths.

CHINA FACES EXTREME ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Next to Beyond Denim, another area hosting an interesting spectrum of textile innovation was the ***All About Sustainability Zone*** which was brought to live two years ago. China has a huge pollution problem, most prominently manifesting in its water crisis. Cleaning up China's polluted water resources would cost the Chinese government ca. one trillion US-Dollars, a number faced by "only" 270 US billions of tax income generated from the local textile industry. To address this problem, China has seen the introduction of the new, much stricter 'Environmental Protection Law' by the beginning of 2015 – since then, around 3,000 textile factories have left the country and 300 cases of violation against the new law - worth penalties of 30 Mio US-Dollar - were detected in the first six months alone. This only underlines the high importance of sustainable alternatives in all stages of the textile chain. A very interesting innovation was presented by the Taiwanese New Wide Group, who developed a special "Eco-Trans" printing procedure which uses a special printing paper and water-based instead of oil-based ink. Eco-Trans printing has a higher penetration into all sorts of different fibers compared to conventional procedures with a dye excess of only 5-10% (which can even be recycled).

Generally, Taiwan presented a broad offer, hosting 120 exhibitors (especially from the knit and technological field) in the biggest of all six Asian country pavilions. There were five European pavilions (Germany, Turkey, UK, Portugal and France) plus Milano Unica's Shanghai edition in a separated pavilion with 102 exhibitors.

TOP TEN FABRIC TRENDS FOR FALL/WINTER 2016-17

A well-curated compendium of fabric and textile trends for the fall/winter 2016-17 season was given in the Trend Forum. The following ten directions turned out to be especially high in demand:

- bonded qualities (soft, light, bulky; even employing cashmere!)
- 3-dimensional, relief fabrics
- sparkling materials
- mesh (texture plays an important role; even wool is used for mesh!)
- felted qualities (compact and heavy)
- crêpe fabrics (not flat but bulky)
- performance coated fabrics
- double-sided qualities
- natural materials such as linen, ramie, bamboo or even pineapple fibers (niche)
- recycled fabrics (suppliers have even started recycling food trash into fibers)

TURNING SHANGHAI INTO A TEXTILE HOT SPOT

Starting with the previous edition in March (when the new National Exhibition and Convention center was still

under construction in some parts) the China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) united the four industry trade shows Intertextile (apparel fabrics), CHIC (read-to-wear fashion), PH Value (finished knitwear products) and Yarn Expo (fiber suppliers) under one roof, setting a strong local event for the entire industry supply chain. In the very predetermined press conference, Xu Yingxin, Executive Vice President of the Sub-Council of the Chinese Textile Industry, explained how many of the companies of the CNTAC joint fall fair “believe that expanding their sales channels is no longer the only purpose for exhibiting; instead, optimizing their business supply chain and seeking suitable upstream or downstream long-term business partners are the priorities at the fair”.

The next edition of Intertextile Shanghai will run March 16-18, 2016.



Shanghai : première édition d'octobre pour Chic, en même temps qu'Intertextile

13 octobre 2015

Le 13 octobre, les grands salons chinois du textile et de l'habillement ont lancé leur première édition conjointe d'automne à Shanghai. Une étape importante pour Intertextile, PH Value, Yarn Expo, Cine et surtout Chic, qui ne tenait précédemment salon qu'une fois par an, au printemps, à Pékin, et depuis mars dernier à Shanghai.



Premier jour pour les salons Chic et Intertextile.

Après une première édition conjointe déployée en mars au sein du nouveau et titanesque China Exhibition and Convention Center, cette édition d'automne s'avère être pour Chic un pari encore plus risqué que son déménagement de la capitale vers la « Perle de l'Orient ». Un choix par ailleurs logique, Shanghai étant pour le centre-ouest du pays ce qu'est Hong Kong au Sud : un hub clef pour les districts voisins où le textile/habillement est un pilier économique.

« Intertextile et Chic ont connu un fort développement ces 20 dernières années », explique Xu Yingxin, vice-président du Conseil chinois de l'industrie textile (CCPIT-Tex), qui coorganise Intertextile avec Messe Frankfurt. « Le renforcement de l'échelle répond à une attente des exposants, le rapprochement des salons permet de mieux soutenir les professionnels dans leur activité. »

« Les exposants nous soutiennent dans cette démarche qui consiste désormais à proposer deux salons par an », assure de son côté Sun Guowei, directeur de China World Exhibitions of CWT, structure organisatrice de Chic. « Cette évolution nous permet de rejoindre le rythme dans lequel s'inscrivent déjà tous les grands salons internationaux de notre filière. »

Mais les organisateurs le savent : on ne change pas comme cela le rythme annuel auquel les exposants chinois de l'habillement sont habitués. Et certaines délégations se trouvent pour cette édition plus réduites qu'à l'habitude, pour certaines prises de court par des dates annoncées tardivement, d'autres préférant laisser cette édition

automnale de Chic trouver son rythme avant de rejoindre la manifestation. D'autres auraient été déconcertées par des dates plus tardives qu'attendues dans la saison.

Les exposants qui ont répondu présent ont cependant pu se rassurer à l'issue de la première journée de Chic, perçue comme animée et productive par les habitués rencontrés. Si le niveau record de 120 000 visiteurs atteint en mars ne sera vraisemblablement pas égalé, l'offre de 700 marques, contre plus d'un millier sept mois plus tôt, a néanmoins déplacé de nombreux professionnels, très majoritairement chinois. Un bon présage pour les organisateurs, alors qu'Intertextile affichait également pour son premier jour une fréquentation plus qu'importante.

Par **Matthieu Guinebault**

12th October 2015, Paris

Avantex launches at Texworld Paris

Janet Prescott reports from Paris

Avantex, launched in Texworld Paris for the first time, focused on technical textiles as the name implies, complete with catwalks and product information. The exhibitors in this category were loosely grouped together.

Technical features, apart from the obvious weatherproof properties, included specialities such as beauty fibre, a concept which has been around for about 20 years, without it becoming a reality.



Now, however, it is a reality with 'wellbeing factors' being buzz words, such as Franco/Chinese developments at Camangi Corporation with Umorfil fibre, where the aim is to pursue innovation in textile products that are skin-friendly and good for consumers' health. It is a Bio-tech recycled-

polymer based fibre with lasting skin care properties. It is composed of ocean collagen peptide and recycled rayon fibre, both of which are biodegradable.

German exhibitors such as Development Never Stops, supply brands with the wherewithal for prototypes of functional and technological fabrics, or Leipzig-based Novanex for brands wanting to break into new markets.

One had fabrics with conductors which had the potential to supply heating and illumination, Forster Rohner Group Switzerland.

The Taiwan Textile Federation helped to select the companies from their country's high tech participants. Handseltex Taipei Taiwan report they were inspired by the green wave and environmental corporate responsibility, they showed anti-bacterial, perfumed fabrics with four-way stretch.

CMST – IMEC showed various microsystems integrated into fabrics, including polymer photonics, micro fluids and smart power, opening the way to telecom, lighting, biomedical and television; artificial intelligence in short.

Many of the fabrics on show bore several labels, including the Oekotex certification and other features. It was interesting that some companies are producing millions of metres of technical fabrics with features such as four-way stretch, permeability many of them relating to comfort but also to fashionable areas like double face or currently fashionable.

Lenzing innovations joined the group since it proudly goes forward in a state of continual development, with ecosystems in a closed loop process a pretty astonishing feat.

From China, came Shaoxing Ruisheng Textile who have five advanced composite production lines, and all their products meet Oekotex standards. They work with many outdoor brands such as North Land, Mountain Hard Wear and H&M. Suzhou Tianzhuo Textile include magical printing as one of their innovations.

In addition, there was a display of fabrics chosen by Texworld which showed the fashionable slant of many of these technical creations. Such protective and reactive fabrics are seen being used for pure practical reasons. Many of them after all were developed in the first place to support people brought into contact with extremes of cold or heat, unpleasant environments or just bad or hot weather. Now such concerns have been recognized as pertinent for leisure wear, walking and strolling, as well as more active sports.

Technical features are also increasingly incorporated into suitings, overcoats and shirtings. The biggest change is the wish of designers to look at fabrics in a new way and bring techie things like rubberised finishes or fabrics with different aspects into service for fashion looks while the biggest unrealised potential is the fabric as a second skin, sending and receiving messages from the brain.

So at Avantex fabrics for La Mode, there was also a selection of slinky knits and jerseys, embellished surfaces, laser cuts. The exhibition was subtitled High technology Plus Fashion for a reason.

Fashion has not featured highly in the end uses of high tech fabrics and yet the returns for the systems and finishes are potentially great, In turn the investment in technical features gives garments greater potential.

The colours of the winter season 2016/17 were there, and features like fluidity and stretch, but added and hidden ingredients could only be recognised by the swing tickets and labels.

Technical functions included moisture transference, ultraviolet protection, and wind proofing antistatic and thermal conservation. There will be more of this coming into fashion fabrics.

Fair dedicated to high-tech fabrics Avantex concludes

October 13, 2015 (France)



Messe Frankfurt France organised the first Avantex **trade** fair dedicated to high-tech fabrics and R&D at the Le Bourget Exhibition Centre from September 14-17, 2015.

“Avantex was perceived as a significant indicator and catalyst of an ongoing **trend** in the fashion industry towards more technological, more connected and multi-functional aspects,” a Messe Frankfurt press release stated.

According to Messe Frankfurt, by the evening of September 17, 13,075 visitors from 109 countries had walked through the doors of the exhibition hall.

17 exhibitors from Taiwan exhibited multifunctional fabrics, highly technical and high-performing, featuring moisture transfer, quick drying, UV protection, insulation, anti-bacterial, deodorizing and other fabrics.

Companies from China showed their specialisation in mystical motifs, while Thailand based Everest displayed products dealing with the problems of moisture and water produced with an environmentally-friendly process.

While, Microsystem Technology Centre from Belgium, German laboratory Novanex, Lenzing Innovation from Austria and French organisation Fashiontech, promoted techwear and fair trade fashion.

Swiss studio, Development Never Stops which is closely associated with Forster Rohner **Textile** displayed developments in luminous embroidery, and heating and smart textiles.

Dr. Jan Zimmerman, head of the textile division at Forster Rohner said, "I am grateful to Avantex because we made some very good contacts."

“We were as close to fashion as possible, which is what we wanted as Avantex creates a link with research, while actually, fashion and research are worlds apart, each moving at their own pace, with contradictory concerns,” he added.

"We wanted Avantex to drive fashion into the future, which was exactly what fashion product designers and directors wanted," Michael Scherpe, CEO of Messe Frankfurt France said.

“With the invaluable support of the Taiwan Textile Federation, we brought together 28 exhibitors who offered a host of techniques; encapsulation, intelligent micro systems, conductive textiles, etc,” he too added.

“We are very pleased with the general level of enthusiasm whipped up by the offer at Avantex and the associated programme of presentations which spread across all the Texworld Paris trade fairs,” Scherpe informed. (AR)

LECTRA : La Chaire -ESCP Europe organise une table ronde « Mode, développement durable et technologie »

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13/10/2015 | 17:51

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

La Chaire Lectra-ESCP Europe organise une table ronde « Mode, développement durable et technologie »

H&M, Kering, European TK'Blue Agency et Eva Zingoni ont présenté les initiatives mises en oeuvre au sein de leur organisation

Paris, le 13 octobre 2015 - Lectra, numéro un mondial des solutions technologiques intégrées pour les industries utilisatrices de matériaux souples - textiles, cuir, tissus industriels et composites -, et l'ESCP Europe ont récemment organisé une table ronde sur la thématique « Mode, développement durable et technologie », dans le cadre de la Chaire « Mode et Technologie ». Le travail de la Chaire, inaugurée en février 2014, consiste à développer et transmettre des connaissances sur les thématiques de l'innovation sous toutes ses formes dans les secteurs de la mode et du luxe, grâce aux nouvelles technologies.

A la veille de la 21^e Conférence des Nations unies sur les changements climatiques (COP 21) qui se tiendra à Paris le mois prochain, Lectra et l'ESCP Europe ont souhaité présenter certains des changements à l'oeuvre en matière de développement durable dans la mode, lors d'une table ronde qui a réuni Rémi Crinière, responsable RSE d'H&M France, Dr. Helen Crowley, Head of sustainable sourcing innovation, Kering, Philippe Mangeard, *président d'European TK'Blue Agency*, Eva Zingoni, créatrice de mode durable, ainsi que Laurence Jacquot, directeur industriel et R&D hardware de Lectra.

Les panélistes se sont retrouvés sur un certain nombre de grands principes permettant à la mode d'avancer plus vite et mieux dans la voie du développement durable : ne pas attendre que les consommateurs soient prêts, mais prendre les devants ; considérer la transparence dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement comme un préalable ; participer à des plateformes cross-industrie afin d'aller plus loin en matière d'innovation ; faire appel à la technologie pour devenir des marques de mode plus respectueuses de l'environnement et plus socialement responsables.

« *La mode est censée être en avance sur son temps, annoncer ce qui va arriver. Malheureusement, sur les questions de développement durable, elle est restée en arrière* », regrette Eva Zingoni. L'industrie de l'habillement souffre en effet de contraintes structurelles qui en font l'un des secteurs les moins durables, depuis la production des matières premières jusqu'à la gestion de la fin de vie des produits en passant par les conditions de production.

« *Un groupe de mode comme Kering doit gérer des chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales et complexes : nous avons déjà développé plusieurs actions et programmes nous permettant de mieux les comprendre, de mesurer notre impact et de le réduire, étape par étape, tout au long de la chaîne* », explique Helen Crowley. Arrivé en tête du classement Dow Jones Sustainability Index 2015 pour le secteur textile, habillement et produits de luxe pour la deuxième fois consécutive, Kering a entrepris de mettre en oeuvre un modèle économique plus durable sur l'ensemble de ses opérations.

Le compte de résultat environnemental - ou E P&L en anglais - que le Groupe déploie dans toutes ses marques est un outil essentiel à cette stratégie.

« Les solutions pour être plus durables peuvent être imaginées et trouvées, dès lors que la volonté existe. C'est avant tout une question de culture d'entreprise et d'état d'esprit », affirme Rémi Crinière. *« Pour que les choix stratégiques de l'entreprise soient pérennes, ils doivent être durables. H&M, groupe familial et suédois, a une vision de rentabilité à long terme. Son prisme est plus large que la seule rentabilité à court terme, dans un esprit de développement durable et d'économie circulaire ».* La Fondation H&M Conscious vient ainsi de lancer un *Global Change Award* doté d'un million d'euros pour soutenir les innovations qui développent l'économie circulaire dans la mode.

« Le recours à l'innovation et aux bonnes pratiques permet à la fois de réduire le coût et l'empreinte environnementale globale du transport (CO2, particules, mais aussi bruit, congestion,..) dans une industrie très utilisatrice de ces moyens, qu'il s'agisse des transports internationaux ou des livraisons de centre-ville des magasins et des clients du e-commerce », ajoute Philippe Mangeard.

« Les technologies Lectra aident les acteurs de la mode à réduire leur empreinte carbone tout en respectant les impératifs économiques », précise Laurence Jacquot. *« Par exemple, la 3D limite le recours aux prototypes physiques, tandis que le PLM permet aux équipes de collaborer en temps réel, sans échanges papiers. Mieux conçues, les collections répondent aux demandes des consommateurs, ce qui réduit les pertes liées au nombre d'invendus ».*

La table ronde était modérée par Céline Abecassis-Moedas et Valérie Moatti, co-directrices académiques de la Chaire d'enseignement et de recherche Lectra-ESCP Europe Mode et Technologie.

Pour de plus amples informations, visitez le site web de la Chaire Lectra-ESCP Europe www.mode-technologie.fr:
<http://www.mode-technologie.fr> et rejoignez ses réseaux sociaux

A propos de ESCP Europe

Fondée en 1819, ESCP Europe est la plus ancienne école de commerce au monde et a formé plusieurs générations de dirigeants et d'entrepreneurs. Grâce à ses cinq campus urbains (à Paris, Londres, Berlin, Madrid et Turin) et à son identité profondément européenne, ESCP Europe dispose d'un style unique de formation managériale interculturelle et d'une perspective globale des problématiques liées au management international.

Pour de plus amples informations, visitez le site web de ESCP Europe www.escpeurope.eu:
<http://www.escpeurope.eu>

Industry News | Time : Oct 9 2015 8:29AM

Indian Textile machinery poised double to touch Rs 45K cr by 2022

The size of the Indian textile machinery industry is poised to double to Rs 45,000 crore by 2022 from the present Rs22,000 crore in light of new projects and emphasis on setting up textile parks, said Sanjay Lathia, Chairman of India International Textile Machinery Exhibitions.

Modi government's 'Make in India' programme is also expected to help the textile sector by way of increase in demand for modern machineries.

The country has the potential to become manufacturing hub in the textile machinery with abundance of skilled labour, low cost and natural resources available.

But for this, sufficient focus is to be given on research and development in order to ensure modern and innovative technologies are developed in the country. However, the domestic textile engineering industry is unable to fulfil the industry demand and a large volume of textile machinery is sourced from European countries, which is relatively costly.

For textile machinery manufacturers from Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Spain, India remains the most important market with the export worth millions of dollars.

Indian textile machinery industry has witnessed a growth of 8-10 percent to Rs 22,000 crore in 2014 from Rs 20,000 crore in 2013, buoyed by growing demand of textile and apparel market in the country.

India's textile and apparel industry is expected to grow from the current USD 107 billion to USD 223 billion by 2021.

Textile industry asks govt to extend 3% interest subvention

Says govt must reduce various duties to help industry

BS Reporter | Chennai October 10, 2015 Last Updated at 10:22 IST

Cotton yarn: Demand hopes push capacity additions FTA with EU to increase cotton textile exports Dumping, lack of FTAs, incentives hurting textile industry Cotton mills slash production as demand wanes Textile makers face pressure of cheap Chinese import

The [textile industry](#) has asked the Centre to extend the 3% interest subvention for all textile products so as to enhance exports.

C K Narayanaasami, Chairman, SIMA [Cotton](#) Development & Research Association and K Selvaraju, Secretary General, Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA) met the Commerce minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her visit to Coimbatore and handed over a 10 point memorandum with the industry's demands.

The industry said it wants MEIS scheme benefits to be extended to cotton.

The association also flagged how textile products from India attract very high tariff rates in all the major markets like China, EU, USA, Canada, Australia. In comparison, those from Pakistan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, South Korea, Indonesia, Cambodia either attract very low tariff or have duty free access.

To offset this and boost exports, the association wants low tariffs or duty free access.

It also asked the government to exempt domestic supply of capital goods under the EPCG scheme from terminal excise duty by introducing suitable bond procedure as against obtaining refund at a later date. It further wants the Commerce ministry to remove the condition that certain percentage of [exports](#) should be carried out within the "block period".

The association also wants the Centre to ask Bangladesh to remove duty on Indian cotton yarn. Cotton yarn import is subject to customs duty of over 36% in Bangladesh.

It further asked the government to remove import duties and reduce the central excise duty from 12.5% to 6% and also withdraw anti-dumping duties, remove the 6% central excise duty on shuttleless looms (projectile) and 12.5% on other shuttleless looms (air jet looms, rapier looms and water jet looms) and spares & accessories.

The textile industry which had been performing well till the end of 2013 started facing problems as competing nations like Pakistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Korea, Bangladesh started getting larger benefits and open window market access.

All Sectors	Aerospace	Agriculture, Farming & Raw Materials			Automotive and Parts	Business Services	Chemicals	Construction
Consumer Goods	Defence	Energy and Utilities	Environmental	Finance and Banking	Food and Drink	Healthcare and Medical		
Industrial	Information Technology		Leisure	Logistics	Media	Paper and Packaging	Publishing and Printing	
Real Estate	Retail	Security	Telecommunications	Textiles and Clothing			Transportation	Travel

Indian technical textiles market forecast to account for 15.5% share of global revenues by 2020

16 October 2015

Technical textiles market is set to gain from stronger ties between the United States and India which was agreed in September 2015 to facilitate exchanges on technical textiles and in particular standards adopted across the industry. The United States has agreed to facilitate exchanges between India's Centre of Excellence and US universities; a move which is likely to accelerate the adoption of technological advancements in the textile sector. The United States is keen to forge closer ties with India as this economy represents only America's 11th largest trading partner and 18th largest export market despite representing one of the fastest expanding global economies. This new partnership is set to allow greater collaboration in the private sector between the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) by establishing a portal containing standards information to be used and implemented by small to medium sized companies operating in both India and the United States.

The textile commissioner Kiran Soni Gupta has recently stated that India's technical textiles industry is forecast to expand by 20% each year during the period 2015 to 2020 to total estimated revenues of US\$30 billion by 2020. In India, the technical textiles industry is seeing strong growth in medical, geo-textiles, protective textiles and agricultural textiles applications. The Indian government has recently implemented four schemes including a scheme to strengthen standards and collaboration across the textiles industry, a scheme for implementing agri-textiles in the north-eastern region and provided a restructured technology fund scheme with increased funds. Stronger ties established with the United States across the technical textiles industry fits well with the Indian governments main aims.

Recent analysis covering the global technical textile market highlights that the global industry is forecast to output 42.2 million tonnes of technical textiles by 2020. This output volume is estimated to generate total global revenues of US\$193.91 billion by 2020. Analysts researching the global industry have highlighted the automotive and medical sectors as some of the fastest expanding in adopting technical textiles. The leading players operating in the technical textiles industry are forecast to benefit from future growth and these include E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co (U.S.), Asahi Kasei Corporation (Japan), and Freudenberg & Co. KG. (Germany).



New opportunities are arising from the strong uptake of technical textiles, globally. For instance, an EU-backed project to develop an industrial-scale facility in Poland which recycles technical textile waste is expected to be operational in 2016. This plant aims to recycle airbags into high-quality polyamide 6,6 grades and as the technical textiles industry expands rapidly analysts expect more of these plants to become

operational.

Textile companies operating in the developed markets are seeking stronger ties and opportunities in India and China. In line with these developments, J&D Wilkie announced the opening of a £3 million factory in Jianxing, China to produce technical textiles. J&D Wilkie director Bob Low stated that this new plant opening will help grow its business in China and enable the company to strengthen its position in European markets. Significant opportunities exist for textiles companies to exploit the forecast growth in technical textiles demand over the next few years and it is clear that to exploit such opportunities, leading companies will be forced to strengthen ties with Indian and China textile markets. By 2020, the Indian technical textiles industry is forecast to represent almost 15.5% of global revenues.

Oct 14 2015 8:17AM

Indonesia launches special desk to aid textile sector

The Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) has launched a special desk to solve issues related to textile and footwear industries, as per Indonesian media reports.

Many textile and footwear industries in Indonesia have been facing problems of layoffs and shutdowns due to economic slowdown. The special desk is expected to help these industries secure their businesses and prevent layoffs.

“We received reports that 13 textile companies face problems, 8 of which plan to reduce production and 5 others plan to stop their businesses,” said Franky Sibarani, head of BKPM at a press conference.

Azhar Lubnis, deputy director for investment monitoring and realisation, BKPM, said that some of the problem that hampers the realisation of the investment is the existence of interlocking regulations. The special desk is expected to resolve the investment anomalies in the textile industry.

Earlier this month, BKPM said the textile industry had laid off around 39,000 workers and according to the Indonesia Textile Association (API), at least 6,000 of the 1.5 million workers in the sector were laid off in May.

Even in the hard times of layoffs and reduced production, the investment realisation in textile industry of Indonesia increased by 58 per cent to \$290.52 million in the first semester of 2015. The apparel industry grew by 16 per cent while the fibre processing sector grew by 213 per cent.

Indonesia to focus on increasing competitiveness before joining TPP

Ayumi Amindoni, thejakartapost.com | Business | Fri, October 09 2015, 3:31 PM



Thomas Lembong. (Courtesy of tempo.co)

Indonesian Trade Minister Thomas Lembong said on Friday that the government would focus on strengthening the competitiveness of the national industry before joining the free trade pact Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).

"It will take two years to pursue the TPP agreement. [Indonesia joining the TPP] is a major concern for President Jokowi," Thomas told reporters.

The trade minister added that the government was aware of the threat of the TPP toward Indonesia's manufacturing products, especially textiles and textile products (TPT), adding that Vietnam, which was the main competitor in the textile industry, joined the TPP.

"This is a real threat, especially Vietnam, which has recently completed a free trade agreement with the European Union. It will make Vietnam's market bigger since the European Union is composed of 20 countries. So indeed we have been left behind," Thomas asserted.

Thomas said that by joining the US-initiated pact, Vietnam's products would be more competitive in the Indonesian market in the upcoming ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), starting December 2015.

"Indonesia's textile market in the US and Japan could be taken over by TPP members," he added.

The US along with Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam have joined the TPP trade deal. The 12 countries comprise 40 percent of world trade.

"This is a major market in the world," Thomas said.

Indonesia's manufacturers said that they had been concerned since Malaysia and Vietnam joined with eight countries in the TPP agreement.

Both countries' products would be more competitive with tariff cuts and less barriers, which in turn would endanger Indonesia's market share, secretary-general of the Indonesia Textile Association (API) Ernovian Ismy said.

The Indonesian Textile Association (API) data shows Indonesia exported US\$12 billion in TPT last year. The biggest markets were the US (36 percent), the Middle East (23 percent), Europe (16 percent), Japan (7 percent) and Southeast Asia (7 percent). (dan)(++++)



Vietnam is biggest threat for Indonesia in textile sector: Minister

Jumat, 9 Oktober 2015

Jakarta (ANTARA News) - Trade Minister Thomas T. Lembong said on Friday that Vietnam would pose the biggest threat and competition to Indonesia in the textile and shoe industry after that country joined the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

"Indeed, Vietnam Singapore and Malaysia have joined the TPP but the biggest threat for us would be Vietnam. We could say that Vietnam will be our direct competitor," he said at a familiarization of investment special desk set up for the textile and shoe industry.

He said through the TPP, the 12 member countries led by the United States, could come to control 40 percent of the global market.

Competition with Vietnam would be tighter because the country has also already settled its free trade negotiations with the European Union, the minister pointed out.

"So Vietnam would be able access more markets in Europe, which are bigger than the United States because they consist of more than 20 countries. Their first deal is already worth almost US\$20 trillion. We have indeed been left behind," Thomas said.

He added that Vietnam would certainly benefit as it would be able to access Europe, as well as the United States that has strong buying power at zero tariff.

President Joko Widodo hoped Indonesia would be able to join the group during the next two years.

"We consider the development very seriously. We have also prepared ourselves to fight. The President is aware of the situation," Minister Thomas stated.

While launching a labor intensive investment program to create jobs at PT Adis Dimension Footwear in Jalan Serang Km 24, Balaraja Barat, Tangerang, Banten

on Monday, President Widodo said the biggest problems facing the countrys industries are wage and free trade.

He vowed that within two years time at the most, the FTA barriers would be settled. "At the most, within two years these could be settled. We have indeed been late, but we believed that in two years time, our products could compete in Europe and the United States," he said.(*)

Japan to step up textile imports from Pakistan

By Imran Rana

Published: October 15, 2015



Asks exporters to comply with standards set by Japanese buyers. PHOTO: FILE

FAISALABAD: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) has announced that it will launch a new programme to step up imports of Pakistan's textile products from February next year.

In this regard, a joint website of Jica and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) has been developed in order to provide credible information about Japanese markets to exporters in Pakistan.

Disclosing this, Jica Adviser to TDAP and head of delegates, Hideaki Shimizu told industrialists here on Wednesday that Japanese buyers had their own standards as they were very conscious about product quality. “Hence, the exporters should follow their trends.”

He said Japanese importers visited the Pakistan-Japan Textile Day held recently in Lahore and engaged in productive meetings with the exporters. Such meetings would help them understand each other, he said.

Replying to a question, a Japanese importer suggested that Pakistan and Japan should enter into a free trade agreement for which the Pakistani exporters would have to exert pressure on the government.

He pointed out that Pakistan’s export consignments took 17 days to reach Japan via sea route and said the duration should be curtailed by promoting fast movement of import and export consignments.

Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Vice President Jameel Ahmed outlined some basic issues that were hindering bilateral trade.

“The FCCI fully understands the importance of bilateral trade and in this regard we want to sign a memorandum of understanding with leading chambers of Japan,” he said. FCCI Senior Vice President Syed Zia Alamdar Hussain said though businessmen of Faisalabad were dealing with importers of the US and European Union, they had to cope with the condition of laboratory test.

He suggested that Jica should set up a laboratory that could issue certificates, particularly for Japanese markets. He also asked the Japanese agency to install a water treatment plant in Faisalabad as it was already helping the Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) to manage the water supply and sewerage system.

Published in The Express Tribune, October 15th, 2015

Malaysia, Vietnam may grab Indonesia's manufacturing market

thejakartapost.com | Business | Thu, October 08 2015, 4:29 PM



(Kompas/Priyombodo)

Indonesia's manufacturers said that they had been concerned since Malaysia and Vietnam joined with eight countries in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement.

Both countries' products would be more competitive with tariff cuts and less barriers, which in turn would endanger Indonesia's market share, secretary-general of the Indonesia Textile Association (API) Ernovian Ismy said.

"They join and give incentives to access their market. It is possible for Vietnam and Malaysia to crush Indonesia's products exported to TPP members such as the US," Ernovian was quoted by kontan.com as saying.

According to him, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia had similar manufacturing products, such as textiles and textile products (TPT), tires, automotive parts and electronic products.

API's data shows Indonesia exported US\$12 billion in TPT last year. The biggest markets were the US (36 percent), the Middle East (23 percent), Europe (16 percent), Japan (7 percent) and Southeast Asia (7 percent).

Chairman of the Indonesian Shoe Manufacturing Association (Aprisindo) Eddy Widjanarko said that TPP, as a new free-trade block, would take effect in the long term.

"Vietnam will book more orders for their footwear, while Indonesia is going to be stagnant," he said.

Referring to Industry Ministry data, Indonesia's footwear exports amounted to \$4.11 billion last year, increasing 6.44 percent from the previous year's exports totaling to \$3.86 billion. The export destinations were the US, UK, Belgium, Germany and Japan.

As previously reported, the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam have joined in the TPP trade deals. The 12 countries comprise 40 percent of world trade.

Both Ernovian and Eddy stated the government should join the free-trade pact as well, adding that if it was not possible, the government should create a similar pact with Europe and Turkey as soon as possible.

Director of PT Pan Brothers Fitri Ratnasari Hartono said Indonesia's products would be lost in competition without a new free trade deal with Europe. Indonesia's textile market in the US and Japan could be taken over by TPP members.

"It is possible to join with Europe, because we have started the initial dialog," she said.

(ags/dan)(++++)

Clean clothes

Shahzada Irfan Ahmed October 11, 2015

Pakistan must go for ethically-grown 'Better Cotton' to retain international customers and woo global brands



Pakistan is the fourth largest producer of cotton in the world and also holds the third largest spinning capacity in Asia after China and India. The textile industry of the country is known all over the world for the high quality of its products, especially the textile products that it supplies to local and international brands. The usage of cotton in textile products here is far higher than that of synthetic fibre, thus resulting in increased demand for the commodity.

While the country is working on plans to increase cotton production, it faces another challenge without meeting which it cannot get orders from leading brands of the world. In order to stay competitive, it will have to promote the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) in the country and increase production of Better Cotton grown according to certain set of rules and procedures.

BCI is a multilateral initiative taken with the aim of encouraging best practices during the production of cotton and making all the procedures environment-friendly as well as human-friendly. A brainchild of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), this initiative has six core elements that follow:

- 1) Better Cotton is produced by farmers who minimise the harmful impact of crop protection practices.
- 2) Better Cotton is produced by farmers who use water efficiently and care for the availability of water.
- 3) Better Cotton is produced by farmers who care for the health of the soil.
- 4) Better Cotton is produced by farmers who conserve natural habitats.
- 5) Better Cotton is produced by farmers who care for and preserve the quality of the fibre.
- 6) Better Cotton is produced by farmers who promote Decent Work.

Compliance with these standards is also essential as major brands of the world are opting for Better Cotton and gradually decreasing the share of conventionally grown cotton. Ikea brand for example has switched to 100 per cent use of Better Cotton while Adidas has set the goal to purchase 100 per cent of the cotton it uses from sustainable sources by 2018. It aims to use 40 per cent Better Cotton by the end of 2015.

While the country is working on plans to increase cotton production, it will also have to promote the Better Cotton Initiative and increase production of Better Cotton grown according to certain set of rules and procedures.

The local textile industry is aware of this challenge and hence trying to adjust accordingly, says Anis ul Haq, Secretary All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA). He tells *TNS* under this initiative every activity starting from growing of cotton to ginning, spinning and weaving etc is monitored and recorded in a system and can be tracked. For example, it is possible to track the amount of water used to produce a certain quantity of cotton, the intensity of pesticide and fertilizer usage, the enforcement of labour standards and so on. As it will be a preferred raw material, he says, APTMA is playing its role to promote this product. He says APTMA and BCI (Better Cotton Initiative) Chief Executive Patrick Charles Laine signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) last year to implement joint activities to mainstream sustainability in cotton production in Pakistan. Dr Shafiq Ahmad, Country Manager BCI, tells *TNS* that they have an office in Pakistan and they work with farmers through partner organisations. These partner organisations come up with project plans and get funds and guidance to execute them. He says BCI funds comprise contributions from members belonging to the textile sector, global textile brands, governments and donor agencies.

Ahmad says the project being executed at the moment include those aimed at training farmers on the judicious use of water, conserving quality of soil, justified use of pesticide and fertilizers, integrated pest management and so on. The progress and results are monitored under a three-layered system. First, the implementing partner is asked to make entries according to the protocols developed for this purpose. Then comes sampling-based inspection by BCI and finally the assessment by a third party hired to assess the outcomes of the initiatives taken by the partner organisation, he adds.

Statistics show that more than 90 per cent of cotton growers live in developing countries and own farms less than five acres in size. Besides, it is a fact that cotton accounts for 16 per cent of global chemical pesticide use, more than any other single crop. Growing cotton in Pakistan also uses a lot of water, partly because of wasteful irrigation. It is also a fact that the cotton sector witnesses labour violations as well in addition to the environmental problems cited above. These considerations were very much on the minds of people who launched this initiative in a bid to set globally acceptable standards for cotton production.

An example of a healthy practice under the initiative was the preparation of 500 liters of neem seed extract and 1200 liters of bitter melon extract. These extracts were distributed

among neighbouring farmers free of cost, so as to test these on wider scale. The spray of neem extract provided the desired control without the use of synthetic pesticides.

Asad Imran, Senior Manager WWF-Pakistan, tells *TNS* that the fund was working on sustainable cotton much before the launch of BCI. The purpose, he says, was to come up with standards related to clean production of cotton just on the pattern of 15 other items including livestock, tuna and sugar that WWF monitored. The good news is that around 1.5 lakh farmers are involved and Better Cotton is cultivated on 0.5 million acres of land at the moment. This, he says, is equal to 10 per cent of total cultivated land in the country.

Imran adds that the environmental footprint is quite high in the case of cotton due to the high use of pesticides and water. It is estimated that one T-shirt of cotton consumes 2400 liters of water starting from the farm to the finishing level. The whole purpose of this initiative, he says, is to make cotton production friendly to the environment and the people.



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TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN TROUBLE DUE TO HEAVY COST OF DOING BUSINESS

Amanullah Bashar

Sunday, October 18, 2015 - THE textile industry observed a "black day" and observed strike from Karachi to Peshawar last week to protest over what they called increasing cost of doing business, excessive taxes, and cost of utilities including power, gas and water rendering the textile sector unable to compete in the export market. According to informed sources, The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) in a presentation to the Federal Government has pressed 10 demands which the textile representatives consider as vitally important for the textile sector to compete internationally.

These demands are including withdrawal of electricity surcharge; removal of gas infrastructure development cess (GIDC); (zero rating of local taxes on textile exports; adding of spinning industry in the long-term finance facility (LTFF); three percent tax on unregistered buyers instead of two percent; rebate on focus market exports; strengthening of domestic market; duty on import of yarns and fabric; clearance of pending claims by the FBR; and **direct** subsidy to cotton growers and farmers.

Tariq Saud, recently elected Chairman of APTMA while reviewing the state of the textile industry said that 100% of the country's textile exports and more than 50% of the country's clothing exports emanate from Member Mills that constitute the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association. The textile industry is the mainstay of our **economy**. It contributes 8.5% to GDP and employs over 40% of the manufacturing sector workforce. Besides, the spinning industry being the sole consumer of cotton worth \$5 **billion**, sustains the largest cash crop of the Pakistan.

Consequent to Pakistan's accession to the World Trade Agreement, the country's trade economy has been integrated with global trade that operates on the principle of free and open international trade. This is particularly true of Pakistan's textiles and clothing sector, that was integrated into the upcoming \$800 billion international textiles and clothing trade. The international textiles and clothing market is intensely competitive and operates on very low margins. Any sector or segment has to be competitive enough to survive in the quota-free world of international trade. With an eye on the characteristics and requirements of the WTO regime and to be able to compete therein, the spinning industry made \$ 3.5 billion investments since the quota-regime of ATC was done away with in favor of open and free international trade. It is noteworthy that the spinning industry operates in a free competitive environment especially with regards to the use and **availability** of raw materials.

It procures 11.5 million bales domestically and 3 million bales from the international market on international terms. International procurement became necessary due to insufficient cotton crop since last ten years. It is therefore perfectly legitimate for it to expect the latitude to market and sell its products in the international market on the same principles. Having done so much to attain international competitiveness, the free market mechanism is at the heart of our interest and

philosophy. The free market regime enabled a significant resource transfer to the farm sector on account of cotton sale proceeds at international prices. As a result an additional Rs. 200 billion has been transferred to the **agricultural** sector this year. Textile exports have also increased in proportion and likely to maintain the momentum by increasing up to \$ 4 billion this year.

The federal government is said to have put the special package for “under the weather” textile industry on ice due to strong opposition by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), however. Senior officials of the Ministry of Textile Industry made no comment on the likelihood of the **announcement** of a package meant to support textile industry. The All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) Punjab also observed a “black day” against what they claimed that the delay in the announcement of a special package that the government has committed would be announced by end September. Although, the government had agreed to **announce** a package for textile sector which was expected to be announced by the Prime Minister however so far there seems no movement on this issue from the government side on the package. On the government part, the Ministry of Finance has directed all the concerned Ministries to **submit** briefs on the targets agreed with the IMF along with progress. It is learnt reliably that IMF has also serious reservations on the **agriculture** package of Rs 342 billion announced by the federal government. However, Finance Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar reportedly clarified to the Fund that most of the incentives in the agriculture package were part of the federal budget.



Textile mills shut production to protest high cost of business

Posted: October 14, 2015 -

LAHORE: A large part of the textile industry was shut down Wednesday to observe a 'Black Day' in protest of escalating cost of doing business in Pakistan.

"High power tariff and gas infrastructure development cess (GIDC) add around Rs170 billion to the cost of doing business every year," Tariq Saud, chairman of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Aptma), said at a press conference the previous day.

Industry leaders said that the protest was also against the delayed announcement of the textile relief package by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

"All the member textile mills will stay closed on Wednesday to observe a black day against the delaying tactics of the government on the textile relief package," Amir Fayyaz, Aptma Punjab chairman, had announced at a separate press conference.

Industry leaders said a majority of Aptma members desire not to run their factories until the government announces the package.

The finance minister promised a relief package for the sagging industry in the first week of September.

Textile exports fell to \$1.83 billion in August as against \$1.9 billion in the same month a year ago and industries in Punjab were already told that there would be no gas supplies for three months November onwards.

Philippines textile and apparel industries likely to revive by joining TTP

YarnsandFibers News Bureau, 2015-10-18 12:00:00 – Manila



In the Philippines, even among business leaders there is still very little appreciation of Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) for its beneficial effects on the Philippine economy. For instance, some claim that the contents of the TPP Agreement are a secret. The TPP is envisioned to be similar to the European Common Market. The goal is to eliminate trade barriers especially tariffs and quotas among countries in the Asia Pacific region. The first batch of signatories included Australia, Brunei, Canada Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States and Vietnam.

Although the Philippines is not in the first batch, Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario stated, two

months ago, in a round table discussion, that the Philippines had begun preliminary negotiations to join the second batch of TPP countries. Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo has also said that Philippines want to join the TPP.

The first batch of TPP has four ASEAN members – Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam. In a recent Bloomberg report, it said that the biggest beneficiary of the TPP would be Vietnam because it would have the lowest wage policy compared to the other member-nations. Once the Philippines joins, this nation will certainly be one of the biggest beneficiaries of this new Common Market.

There is a possibility that joining the TPP might result in the Philippines being flooded with duty free American made products.

Textiles and apparel are among the product categories that will be duty free. The major textile and apparel countries – China, Bangladesh, Cambodia – are not going to join the TPP. This presents a golden opportunity for the Philippines to revive its textile and apparel industries. Since China is organizing its own Common Market, the manufacturing hub of the TPP will be Vietnam and, hopefully, the Philippines. However, Indonesia is also expected to join and is also another potential hub.

The United States is interested in joining because the TPP will open up new markets for its service industries. This will present potential competition for local companies in the financial and professional services. However, this also presents new opportunities for the Philippines.

The 12 countries now in the TPP account for 40% of the world economy. The next batch of nations will include, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan and the Philippines. The TPP will create the most powerful and wealthiest economic region in the world.

The Philippines must join the Trans Pacific Partnership, among Filipino companies, there will be winners and losers. But for the nation as a whole, joining the TPP will mean more jobs, faster economic growth and reduction in poverty.

EDB moves to stamp 'Brand Sri Lanka' in global Batik map

Posted on October 15, 2015 | In Pictures

Sri Lanka's apex export facilitator EDB stepped up its efforts to stamp 'Brand Sri Lanka' in the global Batik map—and linking with top institutional stakeholders, EDB is directly accessing the SMEs of the country in this new initiative, as announced on 8 October. "24 leading Lankan SME Batik manufactures are displaying their samples today to gain access to high end markets while sharing experience and knowledge with experts in the industry" said Himali Jinadasa (Actg. Director General of EDB) on 8 October in Colombo.

Actg. Director General Jinadasa was addressing the "EDB Seminar & Sample Display Event of Lankan Batik Manufactures" on 08th October at the auditorium of EDB where 24 leading Lankan SME Batik makers splashed the Forum with the best of their wares and designs. The session was assisted by Erik Sooriyasena (leading exporter and artist), Colvin Settinayake (Veteran Art and batik Master Craftsman) and Selyna Peiris (Director – Selyn Exports) as resource persons. Representatives from two leading giftware & lifestyle companies were also invited and represented this event to explore possibility to market linkage of the products manufactured by SME batik manufacturers to high-end markets. The essentials for the up market such as design, neatness of waxing, clarity of colors, were presented by resource persons followed by a question and answer sessions.

327 Lankan Batik makers and firms are presently registered with the government—still it is believed that with numbers of the unregistered makers, the industry base is much larger with a reported 200,000 workforce—mostly female-engaged in it.

"One day Seminar & Sample Display Event" is the second stage of this programme and 24 Lankan SME Batik manufactures are displaying their samples to gain access to high end markets while sharing experience and knowledge with experts in the industry. Today's event also picks 10-15 suitable beneficiaries for the third stage i.e. Design Development programme which is planned to be implemented in near future. We also invited National Craft Council (NCC) and five Batik manufacturers with National Craft Council to display their samples" said Himali Jinadasa (Actg. Director General of EDB) in her opening remarks.

"Sri Lankan Batik products are premium products. Our Batik sector is so good that once Unilever purchased a Lankan made Batik saree for no less than \$15000—not rupees but dollars!" said Erik Sooriyasena (leading exporter) and added: "With today's initiative, we begin a long process of linking Lankan batiks to global market."

The October 8 initiative was the second stage in a programme series implemented in three stages aimed at linking Sri Lanka's Batik supply chain to the international markets. The first stage of the programme (in consultation with National Craft Council, National Environment Authority-NWP & Sri Lanka Institute of Textile & Apparel -SLITA) was already completed in Kurunegala with the participation of 77 batik manufacturers. Under the first stage, the North Western Provincial Office reviewed the Batik industry and based on the observations, two basic awareness seminars were conducted on quality improvements and technical expertise on quality dyeing. Participants lauded EDB for organizing such an event to support the SMEs engaged in this sector. "We thank EDB for this effort. Batik is one of Sri Lanka's leading design traditions and it is time that we bring them to the global markets in a bigger way" they voiced.

Indonesia is recognised today as the world's leader in Batiks with UNESCO acknowledging Indonesian Batik as cultural heritage. It is believed that Batik was introduced to Sri Lanka by the Dutch colonial masters and was promptly adopted by women of Kandyan kingdom, thereby kicking off the Batik tradition in Sri Lanka. (News Release)

Green and sustainable fabrics to be exhibited Monday at textile show

The China Post news staff

October 18, 2015, 12:23 am TWN

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- German apparel company SympaTex is set to exhibit its specialized outdoor wear at the 2015 Taipei Innovate Textile Application Show (TITAS) starting tomorrow. SympaTex is a leading global supplier of high-tech protective workwear including footwear and other accessories manufactures its products using recycled membranes. Its 100-percent waterproof and windproof materials allow climate control using dynamic heat insulation, including a layer of 3D foam dots that provide increased functionality as spacers to the skin. The membrane of SympaTex products is 100-percent recyclable and PTFE and PFC free while containing no fluorine compounds. The use of PTSE in production, which provides resistance against flammability, has been scrutinized in recent years over worries it could be a culprit in health problems.

The company cooperates with well-known brands in Europe, including Hugo Boss, Vaude and Halti. It is also partners with several Asian brands such as Kailas, OneWay, Kolping and Taiwan's St. Malo. Its products are widely used by security services, including military, police and firefighting forces.

Another 400 exhibitors will join the company at the TITAS show, which will be held from Oct. 19 to 21 at Taipei's Nangang Exhibition Hall.

Taiwan's TIFE 2015 displays smart textile products

October 14, 2015 (Taiwan)

The **Textile** International Forum and Exhibition (TIFE) 2015 recently held in Taiwan exhibited smart and technologically advanced textile products at its 15th event co-hosted by the Department of Industrial Technology, under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Taiwan Textile Research Institute (TTRI).

The theme for three-day event held from 5 to 7 October was “Innovation and Value Creation” as per Taiwanese media reports. Bai Chi-chung, president of TTRI said that for Taiwan to retain its competitiveness in the international market, it needs to produce exclusive textile products and provide value added services and products.

One unique product exhibited TIFE 2015 was a heat-resistant smart garment made using USB cables and fire-resistant fabric cable. Another innovative product displayed at the event used fabric for making cable jackets and also invited interest of domestic cable suppliers for Apple, which can be used to power electronic equipments like phones or music players.

Besides displaying key technological advancements in the textile industry, the event had many forums and lectures by well-known domestic and international entrepreneurs, experts, and scholars on topics of common concern like technology, inspection, and marketing management with the aim of driving innovation and **sustainability** in Taiwan's textile industry. (HO)

Universal Design Center in Istanbul to make clothing for the disabled

ANADOLU AGENCY

ISTANBUL

20 October 2015

Istanbul Technical University's (İTÜ) Universal Textile Design Center was recently inaugurated with a ceremony overseen by Emine Erdoğan, the First Lady of Turkey, and İTÜ Chancellor Mehmet Karaca. Speaking at the ceremony, Erdoğan stressed her support for the textile design center for disabled people. "This is the first time in Turkey that a center such as this has opened. God willing, the center will produce fabrics and design clothes to make life easier for disabled people," she said. Stating that the initiative of the İTÜ is a result of the history of the university and its 200 years of technical accumulation, Erdoğan said the foundation of this center is an important step for universal textile design, which is a new trend in textile manufacturing. "Actually, 'universal design' means 'design for everyone.' According to this view people who are affected by obstacles are not only limited to those who are disabled. Everyone experiences limitations during their infancy and childhood. Many people might experience limitations due to pregnancy, old age or traffic accidents; hence, this center addresses a large part of the society," Erdoğan said. She stressed that the projects the center will undertake to make life easier for disabled people are encouraging, and İTÜ's initiative will enable disabled people to wear comfortable and aesthetically pleasing clothes. Erdoğan also wished that this center will set an example for other organizations, and said the concept of universal design should become widespread in every segment of the society.

The 180-square-meter İTÜ Universal Textile Design Center contains state-of-the-art technology, and was established to produce samples for various branches of the textile industry from fabrics to clothing. The center features knit fabric, textile finishing and chemical testing laboratories along with a textile design and ready-wear workshop. The center will manufacture and design comfortable and aesthetically

pleasing clothing that can be easily used and washed by disabled people. The center will also produce smart textile products intended for the disabled and people with special needs, and it will also create the necessary research environment, as the center is equipped with the latest technology. Moreover, the center will be able to measure people's sizes with 3-D body scanning technology. Testing for comfort and quality of the fabrics and clothes will also be conducted at the center.

Ce que l'Accord de libre-échange avec l'Union européenne va changer

DIMANCHE 11 OCTOBRE 2015 - 15:01:42 [IMPRIMER](#)



Jean-Jacques Bouflet, chef du Service du commerce et de l'économie de la Délégation de l'UE au Vietnam. Photo: CVN

Jean-Jacques Bouflet, chef du Service du commerce et de l'économie de la Délégation de l'Union européenne (UE) au Vietnam, a eu un entretien avec la presse sur l'accord de libre-échange Vietnam-UE dont la signature est prévue en fin d'année.

- Comment voyez-vous l'évolution de la balance commerciale entre parties après la signature de cet accord ?

Actuellement, le Vietnam a un important excédent commercial avec l'UE. En moyenne, chaque année, ses exportations sont du double de celles de l'UE. Je crois qu'après la signature de cet accord, cette tendance va se poursuivre, l'accord demeurant profitable aux deux parties.

- Pourriez-vous nous détailler le processus de réduction tarifaire prévu ?

Le Vietnam et l'UE ont convenu de supprimer au fil des années 99% de leurs lignes tarifaires. Dès le premier jour de l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord, 65% des lignes tarifaires sur les produits vietnamiens, et 71% de celles sur ceux de l'UE, seront supprimées. La feuille de route de l'ouverture des marchés sera de dix ans pour le Vietnam et de sept ans pour l'UE. Je voudrais vous préciser que cette différence est due à quelques incompatibilités entre entreprises vietnamiennes et européennes, demeurant le fait que les entreprises vietnamiennes ont besoin de plus de temps pour s'adapter aux réductions des taxes.

- Quelle sera la taxation par l'UE du prêt-à-porter, des chaussures et des produits agricoles vietnamiens ?

Je n'ai pas encore de données précises. Mais pour le prêt-à-porter et les chaussures, le Vietnam bénéficiera d'une suppression totale des taxes au bout de sept ans. De même pour les poissons tra et basa, les crevettes d'eau douce et du café transformé. Quant au riz, il sera exempté de taxes dans la limite des quotas convenus. L'UE a accordé au Vietnam le bénéfice du Système généralisé de préférences tarifaires (GSP), ce qui bien sûr ne changera pas avec l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord. Par exemple, si l'accord prévoit un droit d'entrée de 12% pour les produits du textile vietnamiens, mais que ceux-ci bénéficient du GSP, qui prévoit un taux de 9%, c'est ce dernier qui sera appliqué afin de ne pas les pénaliser.

- Quid de la taxation des produits européens exportés au Vietnam ?

Les taxes qui frappent les produits du textile et les chaussures de l'UE seront supprimées dès l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord. Pour les aliments surgelés, la taxe d'export sera supprimée au bout de dix ans pour le poulet, de sept ans pour la viande de porc et les boissons alcoolisées, de cinq ans pour les produits laitiers et de trois ans pour la viande de boeuf. Sept ans après l'entrée de cet accord, les motos d'une cylindrée de plus de 150 cc seront importées au Vietnam sans taxation. Pour les voitures, il faudra compter dix ans.

- Avec ces suppressions de droits de douanes, de nombreuses entreprises vietnamiennes craignent une multiplication croissante des barrières non-tarifaires. Votre avis ?

Nous n'établirons pas de barrières non-tarifaires spécialement pour les produits du Vietnam. En réalité, il s'agit de dispositions générales auxquelles les entreprises européennes elles-mêmes sont également soumises. Elles sont reconnues au niveau international et reposent sur des critères de transparence dans l'intérêt des parties en présence. Néanmoins, ces barrières techniques non-tarifaires seront prochainement modifiées afin que les entreprises vietnamiennes puissent s'y adapter progressivement. Si vous surmontez vous-mêmes ce défi, vous aurez une grande récompense en ayant accès à un marché de 560 millions de consommateurs au revenu moyen de 24.000 dollars par an. Ces derniers temps, j'ai constaté plusieurs procédures visant à empêcher des exportations vietnamiennes en UE, mais leur initiative n'est pas publique, il s'agit d'acteurs privés.

- Si de telles procédures se poursuivent ou augmentent, les entreprises vietnamiennes peuvent-elles s'attendre à bénéficier de mesures de soutien de la part de l'UE ?

Actuellement, l'UE a des programmes de soutien des entreprises vietnamiennes pour les aider à améliorer leur compétitivité pour bien s'intégrer aux échanges internationaux. Nous suivons les normes de notre secteur public, mais s'il y a de graves problèmes résultant d'initiatives privées, nous interviendrons. – CVN/VNA

Vietnam et Italie discutent de leur coopération économique

17/10/2015 21:23

La 2^e réunion du Comité mixte de coopération économique Vietnam-Italie a eu lieu le 16 octobre à Rome, afin de promouvoir la coopération bilatérale dans l'économie, le commerce et de concrétiser le partenariat stratégique établi en 2013.

L'événement était placé sous la présidence de la vice-ministre vietnamienne de l'Industrie et du Commerce, Hô Thi Kim Thoa, et du vice-ministre italien du Développement économique, Carlo Calenda.



Le textile-habillement, un des secteurs de coopération prometteurs entre le Vietnam et l'Italie dans le temps à venir. Photo : Quốc Việt/VNA/CVN

Lors de la réunion, les deux parties ont constaté que le commerce bilatéral avait atteint en 2014 un record de 4,08 milliards de dollars, soit une hausse de 17% sur un an. Les échanges commerciaux lors des huit premiers mois de cette année ont progressé de 6% par rapport à la même période de l'an dernier. Désormais, l'Italie est le 18^e partenaire commercial du Vietnam.

Cependant, les deux parties ont reconnu que l'investissement réciproque et le commerce bilatéral n'avaient pas été à la hauteur des potentiels et de la demande des deux nations. Elles ont avancé des mesures pour resserrer les liens économiques et

commerciaux, en particulier dans les infrastructures, les énergies renouvelables, l'exploitation minière, l'aquaculture, le textile et la chaussure, l'information et la communication, les sciences et technologies.

Lors de la réunion, le Département de promotion du commerce du Vietnam (VIETRADE) et la Fédération des PME italiennes (Unimpresa) ont signé un protocole d'accord de coopération.

La 3^e réunion du Comité mixte de coopération économique Vietnam-Italie aura lieu au Vietnam en 2016, à l'occasion de la 2^e Vietnam Food Expo à Hô Chi Minh-Ville.

Le même jour, un peu plus tôt, la vice-ministre vietnamienne de l'Industrie et du Commerce Hô Thi Kim Thoa et le vice-ministre italien du Développement économique Carlo Calenda avaient assisté à l'ouverture du forum «Accord de libre-échange Vietnam - Union européenne : opportunités d'affaires et coopération économique pour le Vietnam et l'Italie».

VNA/CVN

Apparel giant Hansae turns from Vietnam to Haiti

By Jens Kastner | 20 October 2015

Font size    Email  Print

South Korea's Hansae, one of the world's largest apparel manufacturers, is betting on Haiti as a base to target the American market, reducing its reliance on Vietnam.

A Korean language note released by the company explains that Haiti offers competitive advantages, despite the passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which is supposed to boost Vietnam's attractiveness as an outsourcing base.

Hansae has announced it will establish a plant in Haiti's state-run Sonapi Industrial Park, which will employ 5,000 people and may start production as early as the second half of 2016. The US grants tariff-free treatment on certain Haiti-manufactured textile and apparel goods under the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA).



Labour costs in Haiti are currently half of those in Vietnam

"[With the Haiti project], we will shift our current production location proportion of 60% in Vietnam, 20% in Indonesia and 20% Latin America [including the Caribbean] to 50%, 25% and 25% respectively," Hansae's note explains.

It also has factories in South Korea, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, the US-controlled Northern Mariana Islands and Nicaragua.

"Labour costs in Haiti are currently half of those in Vietnam, and with future improvement of education and lifting of automation levels, the competitiveness of Haiti's manufacturing base will continue to grow to a level comparable to Vietnam," Hansae adds.

The company says that as Haiti's electricity bill rates are higher and roads worse than those of neighbouring Nicaragua and Guatemala, it is consulting with the Haiti authorities to overcome these shortcomings.

Hansae stresses that although the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was finally agreed on in early October by the 12 negotiating nations, "it will take at least three years until each TPP member country approves the deal."



Last update 07:30 | 18/10/2015

Possible impacts of TPP on VN

VietNamNet Bridge – Experts and HCMC Securities Corporation (HSC) have projected possible impacts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement on certain sectors in Vietnam’s economy after trade ministers of a dozen Pacific Rim countries concluded negotiations earlier last week.

Apparel

According to HSC, tariffs for many textile products will fall to 0% after the TPP takes effect and duties on certain sensitive items will be eliminated over a long period as agreed by the parties concerned.

HSC cited the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) and the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) as saying that currently the U.S. imposes tariffs of 5-25% on apparel imports from Vietnam and the average duty is 17%. Japan’s tariff on Vietnamese textiles have already dipped to zero as a result of the Vietnam-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (VJEPA) signed in 2010.

Textiles and garments will be categorized into three groups for tariff reductions and exemptions with rates applicable to Group A of the least sensitive products going down immediately to zero and Group B of more sensitive products gradually cut and removed over five years after the TPP comes into force. Meanwhile, tariffs on Group C of the most sensitive items will be slightly slashed and then remain unchanged over 10 subsequent years for knit-related items and 15 years for woven products.

As the TPP’s rule of origin requires apparel exporters to use yarn and fabric materials from the TPP member countries if they want to benefit from tariff incentives. The rule is aimed at promoting integrated supply chains and investments within the TPP countries.

The agreement also has a single set of rules of origin that define the origin of a particular item. These rules are product-specific. An exception of the “yarn forward rule” will be a short supply list.

Last update 06:00 | 14/10/2015

BUSINESS IN BRIEF 14/10

Smaller firms fear inability to cash in on new agreement

Though the textile, clothing, and footwear industry will supposedly benefit the most once the historic Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement comes into force, not all industry insiders are bullish over the opportunities offered by the agreement.

According to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (Vitas), not many businesses will have the capacity to cash in on the opportunities brought by this major trade deal.

Only big group with steady finance could become well prepared for TPP integration, whereas firms of small and medium size will face challenges ahead, Vitas assumed.

In the words of Dang Phuong Dung, Vitas' general secretary, one obstacle is that the textile sector has lagged behind the production pace of garment exports. Investment in textile is more costly than in the garment sector, coupled with a very lengthy capital recouping process.

Nguyen Van Thai, chairman of TNG Investment and Trading, said that most of the materials feed the textile garment sector were sourced from China, which was not a TPP member. Therefore, the sector would not reap many benefits from the TPP, as under TPP regulations, tax incentives only apply when using materials from TPP member countries.

Phi Ngoc Trinh, representing Hung Vuong Garment JSC in the northern province of Phu Tho, assumed that foreign invested firms could be major beneficiaries when Vietnam participates in the TPP, as two thirds of Vietnam's textile garment export volume came from foreign invested enterprises.

The textile, clothing, and footwear industry's other players, however, stood ready to cope with challenges created by the TPP.

Nguyen Phuong Nam, managing director of aothun.vn, is one example.

His company, founded in 2009, specializes in providing comprehensive solutions for elastic T-shirt to individuals and corporate customers, as well as original design manufactures (ODMs).

The company's products are mainly exported to Japan. Two years ago, it shifted into importing materials from markets outside China.

Aware of their modest financing on exploiting nice markets and carefully choosing customers to be able to introduce a suitable supply chain.

"Vietnam joining the TPP will not influence our export contracts very much, since we serve niche markets and have the capacity to control the value chain. We are ready for the TPP," said Nam.

Now aothun.vn controls the entire process, from manufacturing end products, designing, to printing. When the items from TPP countries flow to Vietnam, the company will concentrate on designing, printing and increasing the added value of products, according to Nam. Meanwhile, Le Thanh, managing director of a shoe market Veritas Shoes Canada, was upbeat about opportunities brought in by the TPP. This firm has an outlet network in both Canada and Vietnam.

Currently, the company's products incur a 18% import duty when exporting to Canada. Therefore, the TPP's enforcement will benefit the company. "We are considering going into an alliance with a local firm on shoe production and intend to enlarge production scale through capital contribution," Thanh said.

Last update 09:10 | 13/10/2015

Vietnam grows more attractive to foreign investment

VietNamNet Bridge – China has lost its competitive edge as a low-cost manufacturing hub with producers of everything from handbags to clothing to basic electronic components relocating to Vietnam economists at Savills said recently in a research report.



Quoting research by the Standard Chartered Bank, Savills said there has been a shift of FDI away from China to ASEAN member countries such as Vietnam to best position to take advantage of the Vietnam-EU and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade accords.

Vietnam is one of the 12 countries participating in the TPP, a landmark 12-nation free-trade deal whose negotiations concluded earlier this week.

The accord, if ratified, would let Vietnam ship many products tariff-free to countries that constitute two-fifths of the world's trade.

The shift is best illustrated by the waning foreign direct investment (FDI) into China, which has alternatively been flowing into manufacturing companies operating in countries like Vietnam and Thailand.

Vietnam's Foreign Investment Agency (FIA) tallied newly-registered and supplemental FDI for the eight months leading up to September at US\$13.3 billion, a year-on-year 30.4% surge, Savills underscored in its report.

Cost savings drive FDI

The impetus for the healthy FDI figures appear to be a combination of cost saving benefits from the Vietnam-EU and TPP trade deals in tandem with lower labour costs in Vietnam, Savills underscored in its report.

Notably, both trade deals contain rules of origin provisions requiring high percentages of clothing and textile industry exports to originate within member countries and this in turn has been driving investment dollars into the industry's supply chain.

By relocating their supply chains to Vietnam the multinational corporations are better posturing to maximize their profits and take full advantage of lower labour costs and potential reduced tariffs afforded the trade agreements. In reality FDI in Vietnam is dominated by a few large corporations and over three-fourths of it has flowed into manufacturing companies in the clothing and textiles industry Savills said in its report.

So far this year, three textile plants operated by Polytex Far Eastern Co Ltd, Hyosung Istanbul Tekstil and Worldon Vietnam Co Ltd of Hong Kong have registered FDI of US\$1.24 billion.

Industrial zones attract foreign investment

Additionally, Microsoft had earlier this year announced it will relocate two Nokia plants from China to Vietnam in the near future.

Microsoft also said it plans to invest US\$210 million in the Vietnam-Singapore industrial zone in Bac Ninh, which will increase the number of its jobs in the zone threefold.

Meanwhile Samsung Display Vietnam had earlier this year committed to increasing its FDI in Bac Ninh Province by US\$3 billion.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) have also contributed greatly to creating favourable conditions for investment in Vietnam Savills reported.

The Vietnam-Singapore industrial zone located in Quang Ngai Province has attracted US\$7.8 million of FDI since it first opened in late 2013.

Recently, the Mapletree Group based out of Singapore pledged another US\$1 billion of FDI to construct manufacturing facilities in it.

VOV



October, 10 2015 08:10:00

TPP has long-term advantages



Red fish caught for export in the southern province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau. Viet Nam could experience an increasing trade deficit in the initial stages of the Trans-Pacific Partnership due to higher foreign direct investment. — VNS Photo Viet Thanh

HA NOI (VNS) — Viet Nam could experience increasing trade deficit in the initial stage of joining into Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) due to higher foreign direct investment.

However, the country's exports would be higher after production becomes stable, thus narrowing the difference in the trade balance.

Truong Dinh Tuyen, former trade minister told the press meeting held yesterday in Ha Noi that the trade deficit would not be bad for the economy as FDI into Viet Nam had increased several times in 2007 in comparison with 2006 after the country's admission to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Sharing his ideas, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Tran Quoc Khanh, who is also the head of the government's negotiation delegation on international trade and economic issues, said the opportunity to access the goods market would be increased as the tariffs would gradually be reduced to zero.

However, TPP member countries such as Japan and Canada have goods structures that complement Viet Nam's.

"In recent years, Viet Nam has continuously seen trade deficit. The country's goods structure tends to complement that of other countries, thus resulting in more exports than imports," Khanh said.

He said the TPP would expand Viet Nam's GDP by US\$23.5 billion in 2020 and \$33.5 billion in 2025. The nation's exports will increase by \$68 billion in 2025. In particular, the zero import tariffs in large markets like the United States (US), Japan, and Canada would create a huge advantage for Vietnamese exports.

According to the calculation, Viet Nam could have the highest benefit among 12 countries in the TPP.

However, he also emphasised that the pharmaceutical and livestock industries would need enough time for restructuring and overcoming difficulties despite the challenges ahead.

The deputy minister said this was not the first time for Viet Nam to integrate into the international market and the government had always paid attention to the sector.

"The difficulties would be seen as the imported taxes on pork and chicken meat would be reduced to zero. The livestock would have 10 years to prepare for the integration," he said, adding that farmers should not be worried as the effect would not be too big.

According to the ministry, the garment and textile industry would benefit most from the TPP. In the first half of the year, exports of garments and textiles to TPP member countries accounted for 70 per cent of the sector's total value. It is expected that the market share would be double when Viet Nam joins the TPP. In addition, export turnover of garment and textile would create jobs for around 250,000 people.

The report from the ministry also revealed that apart from garments and textiles, shoes, agriculture, forestry and seafood would see major opportunities to increase their exports.

Vietnamese businesses would have a chance to participate in the procurement purchasing market in the US, Japan and Canada. This could be an interesting channel for local exports.

"Viet Nam has gained favourably and is flexible about joining the TPP. I confirm that the results of the negotiation in the TPP are fair," he said.

The deputy minister said a member of the negotiation delegation would review the legal aspects to ensure commitment and declarations for the correct results of the negotiation.

The agreement's contents would be widely published in the first half of this month.

"The signing of the agreement would be implemented after completing the step. It would take 18 to 24 months to be ratified by the parliaments of TPP countries," he said. — VNS

Textile : le Vietnam souhaite diversifier l'approvisionnement de ses matières premières

MARDI 13 OCTOBRE 2015 -



Conférence de coopération dans le textile Vietnam-Inde. Photo: VNA

La diversification des sources d'approvisionnement en matières premières à l'extérieur de l'ASEAN et de la Chine est un des besoins urgents pour le secteur textile du Vietnam. Et l'Inde est une solution convenable.

C'est ce qu'a déclaré le vice-ministre de l'Industrie et du Commerce Do Thang Hai, lors d'une conférence de coopération dans le secteur textile Vietnam-Inde tenue lundi à Hanoi. Un événement organisé par l'ambassade d'Inde au Vietnam, le ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce et la Chambre de commerce et d'industrie du Vietnam (VCCI).

Selon Do Thang Hai, l'Inde fournit des matières premières textiles de bonne qualité et à des prix très compétitifs, selon l'engagement entre les deux pays figurant dans l'accord de libre-échange ASEAN-Inde.

Selon le secrétaire adjoint au ministère indien des Industries lourdes, Vishvajit Sahay, chaque année, l'Inde exporte pour 400 millions de dollars de produits textiles au Vietnam. Ce pays est également le deuxième plus grand producteur et exportateur de coton au monde. L'an dernier, le gouvernement indien a adopté un

programme de crédit de 300 millions de dollars pour les projets de coopération entre les filières textiles des deux pays, a-t-il affirmé.

Les relations entre le Vietnam et l'Inde ont connu un bon développement ces dernières années. Le commerce bilatéral a atteint 5,59 milliards de dollars en 2014, soit une hausse de 9,84% en un an. Le Vietnam a exporté pour 2,46 milliards de dollars vers l'Inde, en tête ordinateurs, téléphones portables et accessoires, pièces automobiles, caoutchouc, poivre, bois, etc, et a importé machines, produits halieutiques, maïs, fer et acier, pétrole. -VNA

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VN garment and textile firms: ready & waiting

Aware of the benefits from upcoming free trade agreements, local garment and textile firms have been expanding their investment and changing their strategies.



Mr. Nguyen Van Thoi, Chairman of the TNG Group, one of ten largest Vietnamese garment and textile companies, is seeking a site to build a new factory in northern Thai Nguyen city, bringing the Group's factory numbers to 12. In June it launched a cotton production line in the city that will be able to supply more cotton to surrounding textile factories.

Moreover, Mr. Thoi said, the company is preparing to issue corporate bonds this quarter, to raise about \$10 million for future investment plans. "I see growing opportunities in the garment and textile industries," he said. "This is why I want to expand our investment."

The opportunities he mentions come from the free trade agreements (FTAs) the Vietnamese Government has signed or is about to sign, in particular the EU-Vietnam FTA and the TPP.

Garments and textiles, it's agreed, will benefit the most from these agreements. In the first half of this year alone, Vietnam signed FTAs with South Korea and the Eurasian Economic Union, which includes Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia, and Kyrgyzstan. Many foreign garment and textile companies have also been flocking to Vietnam to seize the advantages presented by the FTAs and the TPP.

Vietnam even surpassed China to become the most important production base of global footwear giants Nike and Adidas.

The investment expansion by foreign companies in the industry helps Vietnam create jobs but it also increases the competitive pressure on local firms. For local companies like TNG, if they want to survive the only way is to change. Mr. Le Quang Hung, Chairman of Garmex Saigon, believes that local garment and textile firms may miss out on opportunities or lag behind their foreign competitors.

"With the new challenges, if we don't prepare to cope we will face a number of risks, even bankruptcy," Mr. Hung said.

Fortunately, he believes that many local companies have recognized the task ahead and are changing the way they do business.

Like TNG, Garmex Saigon opened a representative office in the US in 2013 to prepare for global integration.

Mr. Hung revealed that his company is considering acquiring the distribution chain of a US company that will allow it to sell its products directly in the country.

Mr. Thoi believes his company can sell clothes under the TNG brand name in the US market after 2020. "This is our long term strategy," he said.

Right now, outsourcing remains TNG's main business, but it has also opened a subsidiary to make clothes under TNG brand.

The company is cementing its footprint in the domestic market through outlet expansion. “We want to learn from Uniqlo,” he said, in sharing his strategy for TNG.

Learning from Uniqlo, a Japanese retailer of women’s, men’s, and children’s clothing, means that TNG will focus on affordable clothes and serve the majority of customers rather than a small niche of wealthy people.

He also believes that foreign companies will continue dominate Vietnam’s garment and textile industry because they are strong in finance, production capacity, and market development.

“It will take time for local companies to participate deeper into the global supply chain,” he said.

One challenge for Vietnam’s garment and textile industry is raw material supply and the “yarn forward” rule, or rule of origin, in the TPP.

Most raw materials for garment and textile factories are imported from China.

The “yarn forward” rule in the TPP requires that yarn, fabric and final garments exported within TPP members are produced in TPP countries.

This means that final products exported from Vietnam will not enjoy duty free status if their raw materials are imported from non-TPP members.

This is behind TNG investing in two new cotton production lines over the summer. It also plans to further expand its cotton investment in the future to localize raw materials, in accordance with the TPP.

The good news is that Vietnam is seeking a “transformation roadmap” to implement the “yarn forward” rule in its garment and textile industry.

If the proposal is approved by other members it will allow garment and textile companies to export apparel duty free to the US and other

TPP members that were made with yarn and fabric imported from countries not in the TPP, such as China.

Mr. Le Tien Truong, CEO of Vinatex, said the issue of raw materials will be resolved shortly thanks to the investments by local and foreign companies.

Over the last three years the number of textile projects has increased sharply compared to ten years ago.

In 2014 investment capital flowing into textile projects was equal to the combined capital of the previous six years.

This shows that domestic companies are indeed preparing for the FTAs and the TPP, Mr. Truong said.

Vinatex, Vietnam’s largest garment and textile concern, has also been increasing its investment. From 2011 to 2014 the group invested in 217 projects nationwide, primarily focusing on fiber and textile projects.

Last year it began construction of five projects, including the Phu Cuong Fiber Factory, the Nam Dinh Fiber Factory, and the Que Son Fiber and Textile Complex. Most will be operational either this year or next.

A year ago Vinatex also announced it would invest \$228.5 million in three projects in the central province of Quang Binh, including a fiber plant and a garment factory in Ba Don town and a garment factory in Quang Ninh district.

In addition to these three projects the group also signed a memorandum of cooperation with Quang Binh province regarding four other projects, such as the research and development of cotton and eucalyptus materials for the group’s spinning mills, investment research for the construction of a fiber plant in Quang Ninh district, investment research for a fiber weaving and dyeing complex at the Bac Quan Hau Industrial Park, and an investment survey relating to garment factories for export in Le Thuy and Quang Trach districts.

With such preparations, Mr. Truong firmly believes the opportunities available from FTAs and the TPP will not only benefit foreign firms but also domestic firms.

VN Economic Times Online

TPP: Le Vietnam semble être le grand gagnant

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Le Vietnam semble être le grand gagnant parmi les 12 pays parties à l'Accord sur le Partenariat Trans Pacifique (TPP), traité commercial hors-norme entre l'Amérique et l'Asie signé le 5 octobre dernier à Atlanta (Etats-Unis).



Photo de famille des ministres du Commerce des 12 pays signataires de l'accord, à Atlanta, aux Etats-Unis, le 1er octobre 2015. Photo: Reuters

"Ceci est vraiment transformationnel pour le Vietnam", a déclaré, l'économiste en chef en Asie-Pacifique d'IHS Global Insight, Rajiv Biswas. "Ils vont obtenir un très grand avantage sur beaucoup d'autres exportateurs de vêtements sur le marché américain."

Le TPP élimine ou réduit les barrières commerciales entre 12 pays - l'Australie, le Brunei, le Canada, le Chili, le Japon, la Malaisie, le Mexique, la Nouvelle-Zélande, le Pérou, Singapour, les Etats-Unis et le Vietnam.

Selon La Presse Canadienne, l'agence de presse et d'information multimédia au Canada, le Vietnam devrait obtenir un coup de pouce dans l'industrie du textile et de l'habillement, qui pourrait avoir un impact sur les emplois dans les secteurs de l'habillement et de la chaussure dans des pays comme le Mexique et le Canada.

L'accord de principe qui est l'aboutissement de discussions entamées en 2008, doit maintenant être ratifié par les parlements de chacun des pays et il s'agit d'un des plus importants traités de libre-échange jamais signé.

Le TPP couvre une zone représentant 40% du PIB et 30% du commerce mondial. La création de cette zone devrait apporter un complément de 300 milliards de dollars chaque année au PIB mondial.



Les pays signataires représentent autour de 40% du PIB mondial. Photo: Internet
L'investissement étranger devrait aussi monter en flèche au Vietnam. "Les fabricants tels que Samsung Electronics ont implanté de nouvelles usines au Vietnam depuis plusieurs années, soulignant son attractivité croissante par rapport à la Chine, une puissance manufacturière mondiale de longue date qui a été touchée par la flambée des coûts de main-d'œuvre", rapporte ABC News relevant de l'American Broadcasting Company (ABC).

En 2025, l'économie du Vietnam va s'accroître de 11%, ou 36 milliards de dollars, grâce au TPP, tandis que les exportations vont progresser de 28%, fait-il savoir, citant un rapport d'Eurasia Group publié en juillet.

"Ce niveau de croissance éclipse les gains réalisés par tout autre pays", estime le rapport. Le Vietnam deviendra la +destination préférée+ pour les producteurs à moindre coût qui cherchent à rester compétitifs, avec les industries s'appuyant sur une main-d'œuvre bon marché, principalement l'habillement, la chaussure et le textile, sur les rangs pour engranger les meilleurs bénéfices. – VNA