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Message from the Director-General

Dear CACCI members:

It is a pleasure to present to you the latest edition of “Asian Textiles & Garments Council” newsletter. This publication is a compendium of relevant news, reports, and analyses on recent developments in the textile and garments industry in Asia Pacific countries.

The reports indicate that the textile industry remains vibrant with the addition of Tajikistan’s cotton production, more and new organic textiles produced in South Korean and United States are entering the market, and discoveries in nanocomposites textiles to regulate thermal energy promise better garments. Recent news indicate factory relocations from China to Cambodia apparently pursuing lower cost and protection from potential tariffs. Equally important is the report containing recommendations to recycle textile.

In Bangladesh and Vietnam, where the textile industry is more established, there is a drive for higher value-added production and efficiency; while we observe Pakistan’s robust export numbers and its designers entering the European market. In the other extreme of Asia, Turkey is also showing strong textile exports.

We hope that this latest issue of the Asian Textiles & Garments newsletter will enable you to better understand the trends and conditions of the textile market throughout the Asia Pacific region. Enjoy your reading!

Ernest Lin
Director-General
 CACCI

Uzbekistan increases its presence in Chinese market

[Azernews, Abdul Kerimkhanov, 15 March 2019](#)



Today, the textile industry of Uzbekistan is part of the intangible cultural heritage, which has preserved the traditions of ancestors in the production of textile products - the manufacture of fabrics, clothing, carpet weaving.

Uzbekistan attaches priority importance to further strengthening the strategic partnership with China. Expanding cooperation between the two countries in

all areas is based on the principles of mutual benefit, consideration of interests and equality.

The delegation of the Association "Uztextileprom" and domestic manufacturers of the textile, garment and knitwear industry take part in the International Exhibition of Textile Fiber, Yarn Expo Spring 2019 in Shanghai (China), the press service of the Association Uztextileprom reports.

The Uzbek delegation visited an exhibition in order to expand export deliveries to the countries of Southeast Asia, as well as to establish direct contacts with potential consumers and to conclude export contracts with them, on March 12-14.

Yarn Expo is an important sourcing platform where suppliers from Asian and European countries showcase their latest collections of fiber and yarn, including natural (cotton, wool, silk, linen, ramie), artificial, blended, reconstituted, as well as speciality products.

For foreign suppliers, it was an opportunity to strengthen trade relations in the region and increase its presence in the Chinese market.

Such companies as Textile Technologies Group Surxon Teks and Global Textile Solutions, as well as a number of domestic companies in the industry, took part in the exhibition.

During the exhibition, meetings and negotiations with potential investors were organized and the parties discussed issues of further expanding cooperation in the textile and garment and knitwear industry.

In parallel with Yarn Expo Spring 2019, four more exhibitions will take place: the leading exhibition of apparel fabrics and accessories Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics," the exhibition of home textiles InterTextile Shanghai Home Textiles," the exhibition of

knitted clothing and knitwear PH Value" and the fashion exhibition CHIC, in which delegation of the Association Uztextileprom will participate.

These exhibitions are an ideal opportunity to gain access to the leading suppliers of textile raw materials in China. They help to strengthen the trade relations of domestic manufacturers of the textile and garment and knitwear industry in the region and increase their presence in the Chinese market.

Diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and China were established on January 2, 1992.

The trade turnover between the two countries totaled \$ 6.43 billion in 2018. Of this amount, \$ 2.869 billion is Uzbek exports, as many as \$ 3.559 billion is imports.

China received \$ 2.1 billion due to an increase in construction in Uzbekistan. With this money, Uzbekistan has acquired special construction equipment from China.

China to invest \$ 300 million in cotton processing in Tajikistan

[Azernews, Abdul Kerimkhanov, 7 March 2019](#)



Strengthening and developing bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation with China is one of the priorities of Tajikistan's foreign policy. Meanwhile, China is also very interested in the Central Asian region as a whole.

China State Machinery Industry Construction Group Inc. will help to raise \$ 300 million for the development of the textile industry in Tajikistan.

A delegation of Chinese businessmen under the leadership of the trade manager of China Machinery Industry Construction Group Inc Hu Sina met with Nematullo Hikmatullozoda, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan said.

At the meeting, it was noted that the Chinese state corporation will assist the "Shino Tajikistan Kulyab Textile Industry Park" enterprise in attracting foreign direct investment for processing cotton fiber.

This enterprise is located on the territory of the newly formed Kulyab free economic zone, the press service of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade reports.

It is expected that investment in this enterprise will be carried out in two stages. At the first stage, financing will be \$ 130 million, and at the second - \$ 170 million.

It is planned to create 5,500 jobs at the enterprise, the annual processing of cotton will be 35,000 tons.

The resolution on the establishment of the Kulyab FEZ was adopted by the Tajik Government at the end of February 2019.

Since 2008, four FEZs - "Sogd", "Dangara", "Pyanj" and "Ishkashim" have been operating in the republic.

Founded in September 1953, China Machinery Industry Construction Group Inc is the largest construction state corporation in China.

Until the middle of the 2000s, cotton was considered one of the two main export goods of Tajikistan (along with aluminum). In the 1980s, about 800,000 tons of cotton were harvested annually in Soviet Tajikistan.

At the same time, most of the cotton fiber produced in the country is exported as raw materials. The processing of these products within the country is insignificant.

Diplomatic relations between Tajikistan and China were established on January 4, 1992.

It was previously announced that it is planned to increase the foreign trade turnover of Tajikistan and China to \$3 billion by 2020.

Azerbaijan to export cotton yarn to another European country

[Azernews, Mirsaid Ibrahimzade, 28 February 2019](#)

In early March, Gilan Textile Park company began to export its first batch of yarn to Portugal, the company told Trend. According to the source, the primary shipments there were expected to be in small quantities.

"Currently, the company is negotiating with European partners on the export of finished products. progress is also expected in this direction," the company said.

The company products are environmentally friendly and meet international quality standards.

Based on its production potential, Gilan Textile Park is considered to be one of the largest processing enterprises not only of Azerbaijan, but also of the whole region.

Gilan Textile Park uses cotton grown in Azerbaijan as a raw material for the manufacture of various products, and provides great support for the development of industry and agriculture in the country.

Weaving, dyeing and sewing factories operate in the base of the Gilan Textile Park, commissioned in 2012 in Sumgayit.



Gilan Textile Park produces products of high quality cotton meeting European standards. The base of the enterprise includes Weaving factory, Paint and Sewing factory. Currently, in Textile Stock Gilan bedroom garments and also uniforms for different destination are produced. No chemical products harming health of the human are used in production.

There is a rich tradition and great potential for the development of cotton growing in Azerbaijan. Year 2016 was a turning point

from the perspective of cotton-growing in the country.

In early 2017, the State Program for 2017-2022 was approved with an aim of strengthening measures directed at developing this sphere. The purpose of the State Program is to develop cotton growing, increase export potential in this sphere, ensure employment of the rural population and increase the production of cotton.

The new goal of the state is to bring the cotton production up to 500,000 tons by 2022 from the current 260,000 tons.

Statistics says that Azerbaijan exported cotton fiber worth \$80.5 million (an increase of 49%) and cotton wool yarn worth \$24 million in 2018. Compared to 2017, exports of cotton yarn increased by 2.4 times.

Bishkek hosts 1st International Specialized Exhibition Fashion & Textile 2019

[Azernews, Trend, 25 February 2019](#)



The First International Specialized Exhibition “Bishkek Fashion & Textile 2019” opened in Bishkek at the Palace of Sports, Trend reports referring to [kabar.kg](#).

The opening ceremony was attended by Turkish Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan Cengiz Kamil Firat, chief trade advisor Behzat Erten, head of the trade policy department of the Ministry of Economy of Kyrgyzstan Askat Bekov, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic Rima Apasova, President of the Association of Markets and Business of the Kyrgyz Republic Sergey Ponomarev, general director of the international exhibition company Leader Expo Fazil Murat Guner, general director of the international exhibition company BiExpo Viktor Linovitsky.

The organizers of the exhibition said that the products exposed are leading producers of clothing, accessories, fabrics from Turkey. The textile expositions presented are of interest not just to the residents of the capital and its guests, but also for production shops, wholesale buyers of Turkish production in Bishkek.

As part of the exhibition program, visitors will have a great opportunity to discuss innovations in the field of light industry, new styles and models, prospects for further development, as well as the main problems faced by both manufacturers and sellers of finished products.

The first International specialized exhibition of fashion and textiles “Bishkek Fashion & Textile 2019” will last until February 26.

Azerbaijani designer shines at New York Fashion Week

[Azernews, Laman Ismayilova, 15 February 2019](#)



Famous Azerbaijani designer Rufat Ismayil took part in the New York Fashion Week.

His collection "Butterfly Effect" was presented as part of the fashion show, Trend Life reported.

The fashion collection was inspired by the Monarch butterfly, which he saw during one of his visits to North America. Black, orange and white pattern can be seen in the fabrics.

The fashion collection features orange, emerald green and black colors.

While creating these looks, the designer used luxurious materials, such as crepe-chiffon, silk and fabrics, custom-made with a pattern of the wings of a Monarch butterfly.

Talking about the collection of the autumn-winter 2019-2020 season, Rufat Ismayil stressed that it is for strong, strong-willed and mysterious women who will tease with their breathtaking appearance, while being inaccessible.

Rufat Ismayil became the first and only Azerbaijani and Turkish designer to date, whose collections were shown at such significant events in the fashion

world as Italian, Dubai, Turkish, Iranian, Beirut fashion weeks.

For the first time, Rufat Ismayil represented Azerbaijan at the New York Fashion Week on September 7, 2018.

His fashion collection "Power of Fire" stunned fashion lovers.

Rufat Ismayil is the Creative Director and Co-Founder of AFFFAIR brand. He is involved in the Collection Design and leads the innovative and creative lab of the garment production line.

As a teenager he started modeling for fashion houses, which brought him the title of Best Model of Azerbaijan in 2000. He continued working as a model for major names such as Paco Rabanne and Valentine Yudashkin. Soon his passion for fashion shifted from modeling to creating his own looks.

He decided to move to Istanbul to pursue the launch of his own label. That has been the beginning of "AFFFAIR" as it is now. Rufat is involved in all the areas of establishing a collection from design and creative direction, to being in charge of the textiles and garment production factory.

Moreover, Rufat Ismayil was recognized as the best Turkish designer by Turkish Association of Fashion Designers.

Rufat presented his unique and imaginative collections in Italy, Iran, Turkey, UAE and other countries.

His men's clothing collection was shown at Pitti Uomo 2015, the most important International event for menswear and men accessories collections.

The world's leading fashion publications, including Vogue magazine (Italy) wrote about fashion collection created by the Azerbaijani designer.

Bangladesh's organic push earns global praise

[The Daily Star, Refayet Ullah Mirdha, 21 March 2019](#)

Bangladesh sees fastest growth in internationally recognised organic textile factories

Bangladesh is fast forging its way to be a hub of organic textile manufacturing amid a rise in demand from international apparel retailers.

In the country, the number of globally recognised textile factories, which use organic raw materials, rose 29% last

year, with the growth rate being highest globally.

In 2018, organic certification grew 25% in North America, 23 % in Pakistan and 23% in South Korea, said the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), an international benchmark.

“Bangladesh continued its second position and registered a growth rate of 29% in terms of GOTS certified facilities,” Sumit Gupta, GOTS representative for India and Bangladesh, said in a statement.

Globally, the number of facilities certified by the GOTS rose 14.6% to 5,760 in the year. GOTS certification covers the processing of certified organic fibres along the entire supply chain from field to finished product. Certified factories are located in 64 countries.



In terms of total numbers, the highest increase is reported from India, which added more than 315 factories, followed by Bangladesh at 155 and Europe 98.

Bangladesh has the second most GOTS-certified factories worldwide with 689 facilities, just behind India with 1973 factories.

The other top countries in terms of total number of certified units are: Turkey (519), Germany (500), Italy (340), China (301), Pakistan (238), Portugal (215), the US (127), and South Korea (85).

In the statement, GOTS Managing Director Claudia Kersten said: “The increasing number of certified facilities aligns with the common desire to solve sustainability related problems.”

“It confirms that GOTS is seen as part of the solution. Company leaders use GOTS as risk management tool and as market opportunity. Consumers value the verifiable certification from field to finished product.”

David Hasanat, chairman and chief executive officer of Viyellatex Group, a leading apparel exporter, said export prospects of organic products from Bangladesh are good as the demand for such products is growing worldwide.

Of the total exports of Viyellatex, 5% to 7% are organic products.

“The use of organic products in Bangladesh's textile mills is growing gradually,” said Monsoor Ahmed, secretary of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), the spinners and weavers' platform.

Some textile millers are expanding capacity to produce organic products, he said.

Organic products account for 5 to 7% of the shipment of almost all the big and compliant garment companies in Bangladesh, said Siddiqur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Rahman's exports include at least 7% organic products. Bangladesh imports nearly 8 million bales of cotton every year, mainly from India, the US and from some African countries, Ahmed said.

Of the imports, nearly 6% is organic cotton that comes from India and the US, he said.

“The price of organic cotton is higher than other fibres as it needs special care

during cultivation,” Ahmed said, adding that no pesticide or chemical is used during farming.

Hasanat said the number of customers of organic products is low, so factory owners do not produce these items on a massive scale like they do in case of traditional garment products. The GOTS was developed by the Organic Trade Association of the US, the Japan Organic Cotton Association, the International Association Natural Textile

Industry of Germany, and the Soil Association of the UK.

It includes the entire postharvest processing of apparel and home textiles made with certified organic fibre and has both environmental and social criteria.

Key provisions include a ban on the use of genetically modified organisms, highly hazardous chemicals, and child labour, while requiring strong social compliance management systems and strict waste water treatment practices.

Textile stocks fail to bring cheer in Bangladesh

The Daily Star, Ahsan Habib and Refayet Ullah Mirdha, 22 February 2019

| COMPANIES THAT INCURRED LOSSES (JULY-DEC 2018) | | COMPANIES WITH NEGATIVE EARNINGS (JULY-DEC 2018) | |
|--|----------|--|----------------------------|
| COMPANY | EPS (TK) | COMPANY | GROWTH OF EPS (IN PERCENT) |
| Alltex Industries | -2.99 | Safko Spinnings | -64.29 |
| Dulamia Cotton | -2.28 | Tosrifa Industries | -57.63 |
| Mithun Knitting | -0.74 | Anlimayarn | -56.76 |
| Tallu Spinning | -0.62 | Zaheen Spinning | -37.80 |
| Zahintex Industries | -0.51 | Hamid Fabrics | -34.31 |
| Al-Haj Textile | -0.32 | Matin Spinning | -20.83 |
| Mozaffar Hossain Spinning Mills | -0.27 | RN Spinning | -19.44 |
| Metro Spinning | -0.06 | Far East Knitting | -16 |
| Maksons Spinning | -0.05 | Evince Textile | -11.39 |
| | | Generation Next Fashion | -8.16 |
| | | Argon Denims | -7.18 |
| | | Shasha Denims | -4.89 |

SOURCE: DSE

More than 40% listed textile mills' profits declined in the second half of 2018 thanks to the slide in prices of garment items and stockpiling of yarn for invasion of cheaper alternatives from India and China.

Of the total 53 listed textile, spinning and garment factories on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), nine companies logged in losses and 12 registered lower profits than a year earlier.

Those who saw their profits rise between the months of July and December last year

logged in marginal increases.

Investors on the stock market have long been complaining that the textile, spinning mills and garment companies were not paying handsome dividend using the excuse of lower profits or losses -- although the size of those companies is bigger than in other sectors.

Take the case of Hossain Chisty Shiplu, who bought some textile and spinning companies' stocks expecting high dividends.

"I had thought that the textile, spinning and garment companies would make hefty profit since garment exports are increasing. But I am disappointed," he added.

Some of the companies though are making good profit thanks to expansion of production capacity, installation of modern machinery, improvement in product quality and product diversification, industry insiders said.

Envoy Textiles is one such company. The company got listed in December 2012 and began paying cash dividend from 2015, when it gave its shareholders 17% cash dividend and 5% stock dividend. In 2018 it gave 10% cash dividend and 2% stock dividend. In 2017, it handed out 7% cash dividend and 5% stock dividend.

"We have taken so many initiatives from product diversification and investment to recruiting new designers for keeping up with the latest market trends," said Kutubuddin Ahmed, chairman of Envoy Textiles.

The company has taken a lot of initiatives to reduce the cost of operations like reducing water consumption, energy and wastage. It is the world's first platinum rated LEED certified company for its green operations. "We have recruited Chinese, Italian and Turkish designers so that we can manufacture different varieties of yarn and denim fabrics," Ahmed added.

A spinning mills owner whose company failed to make any profit between July and December last year said the yarn price has been on the slide in the last few months of last year due to availability of cheap yarn from China and India.

The widely consumed 30-carded cotton yarn is now selling for \$2.90 to \$2.95 a kg, down from \$3.05 to \$3.10 a kg before November last year. "Besides, the demand for cotton-made yarn is also falling as the demand for man-made fibres is rising worldwide," the miller said.

In Bangladesh, the majority of the spinning mills produce cotton yarn, he added.

Jahangir Alamin, former president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, the platform of spinning, weaving and dyeing mills owners, echoed the same. "Various problems are afflicting the primary textile sector," he added.

The exact amount of profits made by a company is not reflected due to faulty audit reports, said the managing director of a spinning mill listed on the DSE upon condition of anonymity to speak candidly on the matter.

Surge in textile sector investment in Bangladesh

[The Independent, Md Habidulla, 10 February 2019](#)

Dhaka - To meet the growing demand for fabrics and yarn, Bangladeshi investors made an investment of nearly Tk7,000 crore in the primary textile sector, the backward linkage industry for the readymade garments (RMG) sector, in the last five years.

According to the Bangladesh Textile Mills' Association (BTMA) data, local entrepreneurs invested, on average, Tk 1,400 crore per year from 2014 to 2018 in the primary textile sector to meet the demand of fabrics and yarn. During this period, 44 new textile mills also became members of the association.

BTMA president Md Mohammad Ali Khokon said the demand for yarn and fabric was high in the country as local investors made huge investments in the sector.

The primary textile sector of Bangladesh has turned into very a strong backward-linkage industry for the RMG sector.

Currently, local manufactures are capable of supplying 85% of yarn and fabric, along with 40% of woven fabric, required by the knitwear sector, said Khokon.

“The total demand for textiles for the local market and export is more than 12 billion metres. Of them, only 3 billion metres are manufactured in the local market. The came from abroad in different ways,” said BTMA secretary Monsoor Ahmed.

Monsoor Ahmed said 40% of the yarn was exported from the total yarn manufactured and 30–40% of fabric was exported from the total fabric manufactured in the country.

According to Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data, around 377,790 tonnes of cotton yarn was imported, while 551,388 tonnes of fabric was imported in 2018.

To give an idea of the growth of the country’s textile market, Monsoor Ahmed said there were only 341,000 spindles in 1983, but the figure rose to 13,400,000 in 2018.

“We have enough stock of textile products,” he said, adding that the illegal import of different textile products was a threat for the country’s textile sector.

According to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data released on September 11 last year, Bangladesh’s export earnings from the readymade garment sector stood at USD 5.73 billion during July and August of FY2018-19, up by 3.82% compared to USD 5.52 billion in the same period a year ago.

The export earnings were 3.96% higher than the target of 45.51 billion set for the month of August.

Of the total amount, knitwear products earned USD 2.91 billion, which is 1.53% higher than the USD 2.86 billion earned in the same period a year ago. Woven products earned USD 2.82 billion, up by 6.28% from USD 2.65 billion a year ago.



Raw cotton consumption is projected to increase to 6.7 million bales in FY2017-18 due to stronger sales of garments and other value-added products in both domestic and foreign markets as well, said the USDA report.

The report also said yarn and fabric consumption was expected to rise to 1.13 million tonnes and 7.4 billion metres in FY2017-18 on the basis of strong international demand for clothing due to population growth, urbanisation and disposable income growth.

According to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data, Bangladesh's textile and apparel sector received in 2017 a foreign investment of USD 421.68 million, which is 15.70% higher compared to the USD 364.44 million received in 2016.

According to BTMA data, over 86% of the export earning comes from textiles and textile-related products in Bangladesh. The country has around 425 yarn manufacturing mills and around 796 fabric manufacturing mills. Here the textile sector contributes more than 13% of the GDP.

Demand for quality clothing has also increased in the domestic market as wages and living standards are on the rise.

The retail market size of clothing in Bangladesh is more than USD 8 billion a year, according to industry insiders.

“This year, the demand of fabric is greater than the previous year’s. Besides, the stalls of different companies from several countries, especially China, India, Brazil, Hong Kong and Thailand, displayed different types of fabric to draw the attention of the delegates of local companies,” said Majharul Islam, manager of sales and marketing department of CEMS Bangladesh.

He was speaking about the participation of countries at the recently held Yarn & Fabric Show in Dhaka.

“The demand for fabric in the local market has increased significantly this year,” said Islam, adding that the number of stalls had increased by 30 to 40% compared to last year.

“It's normal. Our exports are rising. Since the government is giving LNG supply, many more factories will come into operation and the yarn production will also grow,” said an official of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association.

Commerce minister Tipu Munshi said 81.23% of the total revenue came from the garments sector in the last fiscal year. “The government is working relentlessly to generate more than USD\$50 billion revenue annually from this sector by 2021,” he added.

A four-day long 15th Dhaka International Yarn & Fabric Show-2019 (Winter Edition) was held from January 23 to January 26 at the International Convention City (ICCB) in the capital. It was organised by CEMS Global and the Sub-Council of Textile Industry (CCPIT TEX), China.

A total of 370 international exhibitors from over 22 countries presented their fabrics, which are ready-to-use for garments, accessories, industrial use and other applications at the exhibition.

Nurnoby Hossen, assistant manager of China-based Shaozing Chunyi Modern Textile Company Limited, told The Independent that fabric consumption in the local market had increased due to higher consumption of clothing items by the people. “We are here to exhibit our products. We have displayed three types of fabrics like Pollar fleece, Mesh, and Polly S jersey,” he said.

“Last year, we got orders for around 3,000 tonnes of fabric. This year, we are expecting to get order more than last year,” he added.

An official of Purbani Yarn Dyeing Limited, a Bangladeshi company, said the demand for local yarn in the market was higher than in the previous year. “We produce around 26 tonnes of both yarn and fabric per day,” she added.

“Though the price of local yarn and fabric seems too high, the product is better than the imported one,” she said.

Md Shaharul Islam Shaharia, executive officer of China-based Bowarm Textile Company Limited, said: “We import products that are not available but have a demand in the local market.”

“Last year, we got fabric orders from local companies to the tune of around 400 tonnes. In the current fiscal year, we expect the fabric order to increase by 20–25%,” he added.

Shohag, a representative of Narendra Emporis Limited of India, said they participated in the yarn and fabric expo for the first time. They were getting good response and expecting huge orders, he added.

SK Abid Mahmud, country manager of Anhui Hanlian Top Dyed Melange Yarn Company Limited, said they had several varieties of yarn. He also said there was a scope for further increase in production in the country.

Some students of the National Institute of Textile Engineering and Research (NITER) came up with their innovation in the fair.

Shahriar Shovon, a fourth-year student of the institute, told The Independent that they mainly displayed some yarn produced from waste yarns after recycling. Yarn companies do not reuse waste yarns. “We found a way to use and produce yarn from the waste yarns,” he said.

Leading Chinese textile maker starts to build huge factory in Cambodia

[Xinhua, Yurou, 6 March 2019](#)

Phnom Penh - Shenzhou International Group Holdings, a leading Chinese clothing manufacturer, broke ground for the construction of a new US\$150 million garment factory here after operating in the country for 14 years.

Lt. Gen. Hun Manet, deputy commander-in-chief of the Royal

Cambodian Armed Forces, and Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Wang Wentian, attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the factory, dubbed Marvel Garment Co., inside the Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone on the western outskirts of Phnom Penh.

Manet said the company's expansion truly reflected its confidence in Cambodia's peace, stability and development.

"Cambodia has become a huge and successful base for the company to produce garments for Nike," he said. "This new investment importantly contributes to helping developing Cambodia's Industrial Development Policy 2015-2025."

Manet, who is also the commander of the Royal Cambodian Army, was confident that with support and incentive provided by the government in combination with the firm's successful experience, the garment maker would continue to grow stronger in years to come.

"The company's success has not only benefited the company itself, but also contributed to boosting Cambodia's economy and creating jobs for Cambodian people," he said.

Ma Jianrong, chairman of Shenzhou International Group Holdings, said the firm had invested in Cambodia since 2005.

"Through 14 years of operation here, we deeply appreciate the supportive policy made by the Cambodian government and the hard work and dedication to jobs by the people in this country," he said.

Sam Ma, an assistant to the general manager of Shenzhou International Group Holdings, said after over a

decade in Cambodia, the firm had developed itself into the biggest textile manufacturer in Cambodia, with an export value of US\$440 million in 2018 and employing some 11,500 Cambodian workers.

"On this basis, we decided to make full use of the factory's experience in Cambodia to further expand the production capacity and facilities in Cambodia," he said.

He said the US\$150 million factory is scheduled to be completed in March 2021.

The assistant added that when completed, the factory will create 17,000 jobs.

Nike's Vice President Mark Griffie said Shenzhou has grown to be one of Nike's largest and most important apparel suppliers.

"The first shipment for Nike from Shenzhou Cambodia was in 2007. From that start 12 years ago, our business together in Cambodia has grown tremendously and today more than 3,000 Shenzhou employees in Cambodia produce products for Nike," he said. "The majority of the Nike products manufactured here serve our customers in Europe."

"Cambodia has been an important country for Shenzhou and for Nike," Griffie said. "With the new factory that will be built on this site, we look forward to continued growth together in Cambodia for many years to come."

How to end waste in fashion: stop making clothes, or value the ones we have already?

[South China Morning Post, Timothy Parent, 10 February 2019](#)

The price of fast fashion items, poorly made and sold as disposable, does not factor in the human and environmental costs of their production

Shutting down fashion production is impractical, but a 'circular fashion' economy can be built if consumers and industry ensure clothing is repurposed.



Sarah Fung, founder of "recommerce" site Hula, believes that technologies such as blockchain can help cut down waste in fashion.

What if we completely stopped making clothes?

No, we wouldn't all be romping around frockless; brands and individuals alike tend to hold on to an excess of clothing. Rather, we would reuse, repair, and eventually recycle what we already have. We wouldn't need to refuse clothes, as conscientious consumers are already doing. And we would finally have a truly circular fashion economy without waste. (A circular economy designs out waste and pollution, keep

products and materials in use, and regenerates nature.)

If the fashion industry continues to produce clothes at breakneck speed and with rampant greed, consumers will be the only force powerful enough to change the industry for good.

According to a study by The Business of Fashion and McKinsey, China will become the largest fashion market in 2019. China's middle class is projected to reach 700 million by 2020, but will this new consumer class overconsume and destroy the world? Or will Chinese consumers end overconsumption and save the world?



ReClothing Bank uses sustainable, natural materials and rescues unwanted materials and turns them into fashionable items.

This is the rhetoric of a fashion extremist, but fashion has always encompassed extremes: textiles have

been known to last thousands of years, yet fast fashion garments struggle to make it past the first wash; a single piece of couture can cost more than a house, while jeans can cost less than a cup of coffee; and fashion's extreme fixation with the new means that many products lose more than half of their value after just two or three months.

The problem with fast fashion is its dirt cheap prices and disposable clothing that can be easily bought and just as easily discarded. Fast fashion retailers are purporting to democratise fashion while simultaneously convincing consumers that they are saving money; however, there are environmental, human, and long-term financial costs to fast fashion that are not factored into the prices of its products.

Cheap clothes seem like a steal because they are a steal. The earth's resources and cheap labour in Asia are exploited to manufacture unspeakable amounts of clothing that go unsold and unused.

Luxchain leverages blockchain technology to solve problems with counterfeits, pricing, and sales of personal luxury products.

But to combat this cheap trend we don't have to stop producing clothes altogether, we just have to value them. Literally.

Your wardrobe is an asset and a tool for investment, so the main consideration when buying any product should be quality.

This ethos is shared by technologist Kenny Au, a partner in two fashion-tech start-ups, Luxsens and Luxchain.

Luxsens is building the world's largest database for personal luxury goods, while Luxchain leverages blockchain technology to solve problems with counterfeits, pricing, and sales of personal luxury products.

Through such innovations, modern-day consumers are now able not only to track the value of their wardrobes but to buy authenticated luxury goods in a sustainable, circular economy.

Sarah Fung, founder of "recommerce" platform Hula, believes that technologies such as blockchain can create regulated, transparent supply chains, allowing consumers to invest in authentic, ethically made products.



Hula is another example of the interplay between the real market value of a wardrobe and the circular economy. If a product is of good quality and is cared for, it maintains its value and never needs to be thrown away; it can be given a second life on platforms such as Hula.

However, there first needs to be a cultural shift: we have to believe that all materials have value, and clothing

should never be produced or bought if it will become trash.



Christina Dean, founder of Redress, aims to cut down on waste with a clothing bank.

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation, which works to inspire a generation to rethink, redesign and build a circular economy, suggests we “redesign [the fashion system] so there are only good choices for customers”.

Its Make Fashion Circular programme brings together people from diverse backgrounds, including education, finance, and government, to do just that, and to make the system of clothes production work better for customers, the environment and the economy. The foundation suggests clothes should be sold, then swapped, repaired or donated once they are no longer needed. Clothes can also be repurposed or upcycled.

What fashion currently lacks in sustainable practices it makes up for in creativity, and Shanghai-based stylist Natali D believes creativity creates tremendous value. “Repurposing clothes can make them feel new and personal and thus more valuable,” she says.

A leading figure in the circular fashion movement and founder of the NGO Redress, Christina Dean believes that “the creativity of the fashion industry will

solve problems and create value, and fashion can and will show other industries how to move all parts of a system to a circular model”.

Dean is focusing on two main initiatives to aid this process: stopping waste and dealing with waste. To stop waste, Redress has developed a curriculum to educate emerging designers on sustainable issues through its 110 university partners. It also educates consumers through a programme called Front Line Fashion, and has a sustainable-design award in its ninth cycle.

To deal with waste, Redress is building a textile bank which will rescue and redistribute textiles, among other initiatives.



More upcycled looks from ReClothing Bank.

ReClothing Bank – no relation to Hong Kong-based Redress – is one of the most cited examples of circular fashion in China. Founded by designer Zhang Na, the brand not only uses sustainable, natural materials but also rescues

unwanted materials and turns them into veritable works of art. Through the creativity of one, trash is truly made into treasure.

Zhang opposes extreme solutions to fashion’s waste problem, saying it would

be cruel to stop producing clothes since that would devastate those working in fashion and apparel. The designers behind Ffixxed Studios, a brand with bases in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, southern China, that is committed to sustainability, echo this sentiment. They say a total shutdown of clothing production would devastate developing economies in particular.

Ffixxed Studios believes that circular fashion begins with the high-quality, ethical production and processing of raw materials, but that ultimately consumers will choose what kind of fashion system they want.

Ffixxed Studios items are all made from upcycled excess fabrics.

So will China's consumption crisis become China's consumption miracle?



If we stop producing low-quality clothes, it definitely could.

We still need to educate consumers, hold companies accountable, and reconsider our relationship with fashion. However, Dean's advice is the perfect first step: buy less, buy better.

This article appeared in the South China Morning Post print edition as: how we can make a material difference

Fashion focus: 21 reasons why silk is not just for saris

Hindustan Times, Samreen Tungekar, 7 April 2019

Ever thought silk can be worn to work? Here's what you can do with the smoothest fabric ever!



Here are eight ways you can don silk and look stylish; Styling by Avneet Chadha; Make-up and hair by Artistry by Anjali Jain; Location courtesy: Jamun; Art direction by Amit Malik (Photos shot exclusively for HT Brunch by Shivamm Paathak)

When one thinks of silk, the first thought is ethnic. Structured, elegant, formal. But over the years, the fabric has been used for some of the most contemporary ensembles ever. Here's how you can wear silk to suit your tastes, tradition and personal style.

1. Flaunt the two-in-one tunic as a silk kurta-turned-dress

Add a modern twist to tradition by styling this silk ikat kurta that doesn't make you look like you forgot the pants!



Kurta, Madhu Jain; footwear, Tod's (Shivamm Paathak)

Celebrity stylist Rishi Raj believes the strongest point about this outfit is the graphic weave. "The colours make this look contemporary," he adds.

Fashion designer Jenjum Gadi adds that in ikat, a heavier body type

should avoid a bigger ikat pattern. “A darker colour pattern will work more for someone on the heavier side,” Jenjum says.

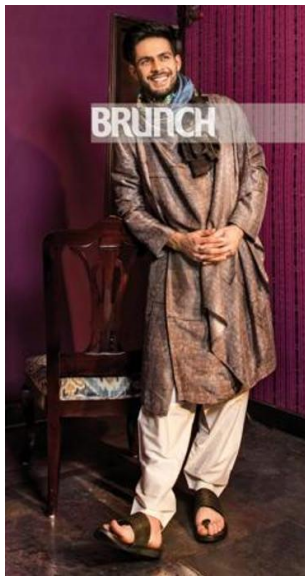
Wear this to: “A corporate event or a casual date by accessorising it accordingly,” says Rishi.

Avoid: “Experimenting with innerwear, as silk kurtas like this can be ultra sheer. It needs appropriate innerwear,” he suggests.

Pair it with: “A belt to cinch your waist if you have an hourglass figure,” Rishi advises.

2. Don an all-silk boy brigade in an anti-fit mulberry silk kurta

Feel at ease in a loosely-fitted drape of mulberry silk with cotton silk pants



Kurta, Divyam Mehta; pants and shoes, Rajesh Pratap Singh; scarf, Cottage Emporium (Shivamm Paathak)

Fashion designer Samant Chauhan believes mixing fabrics is more fun, but advocates for an easy drape over everything. “The best part about this outfit is that it doesn’t hug the body, as silk can be quite clingy. So it’s best for someone who wants an easy yet stylish outfit,” he says. Celebrity stylist Devanshi Tuli

adds, “You can wear the kurta with denims or cigarette pants if you want to

make it less festive but keep it formal,” she suggests.

Wear this to: “A mehendi or a sangeet function would be ideal,” she says.

Avoid: “Going overboard. The outfit should be standing out,” she adds. Pair it with: “Loafers or Oxfords for shoes and some rings,” Devanshi says.

3. Bring on the desi groove in a tie-and-dye silk dress

Stand tall and textile-friendly in bandhani silk with contrast pants for a formal yet stylish appeal



Top, Abraham & Thakore; pants, Payal Khandwala; shoes, Boots and Buckles (Shivamm Paathak)

Jenjum Gadi feels this ensemble brings a modern approach to our textile heritage. “The strong point about this look is despite being very Indian, it can be worn anywhere globally and will fit right in,” he says. “Because the cuts of the outfit are simple and the colour is

relatively dark, it will go on most people irrespective of their built,” he says.

Samant adds, “The dress has the perfect asymmetrical cut and the churidar contrast blocks the colour perfectly. Wear a gather dress on top of this to give it more volume,” he suggests.

Wear this to: “Evening events like a book launch or an art opening,” Jenjum says.

Avoid: “Traditional accessories. Go for contemporary accessories,” he suggests.

Pair it with: “Denims or a skirt with embroidery or motifs,” Jenjum advises.

4. Wear silk to the boardroom as the ikat kedia silk structured top

Look empowered to go to your conferences in an ikat Kedia silk top with cotton silk pants and a scarf that steals the show!



Shirt and pants, Abraham & Thakore; Scarf, Cottage Emporium (Shivamm Paathak)

The strongest point about this look, according to Jenjum Gadi, is its versatility to be a daytime outfit as well as an evening one. Devanshi adds, “I think the relaxed silhouettes make this outfit an easy wear.”

Wear this to: “Work, or even a girls day out,” suggests Devanshi.

Avoid: “Choosing pants that don’t have pockets. Pockets add a good cut to this look,” she says.

Pair it with: “The top can be paired with a black skirt and the pants with a white shirt,” says Jenjum. “Accessorise with a pair of sunglasses,” advises Devanshi.



Sari, Rimzim Dadu; jacket, Abraham & Thakore; shoes, Boots and Buckles; jewellery, Payal Khandwala (Shivamm Paathak)

5. Style tradition with the twist of a jacket in a silk sari that isn’t raw

Experiment with the drape in an organza silk sari instead of sticking to the raw silk structure

Fashion designer Sonam Dubal explains the difference between a raw silk sari and an organza silk one.

“Organza silk can layer beautifully if worn correctly with a silk blouse. It has a gentle flounce about it and works better for a day function, whereas raw silk is more for the evening and has a more structured drape,” he says. Celebrity stylist Eshaa Amiin adds, “Usually, the jackets complement the outfit but in this case, the black jacket enhances the look of the saree. It plays as a colour blocking phenomenon,” she says.

Wear this to: “A casual evening event since it’s chic, bold and confident,” Eshaa suggests.

Avoid: “Accessorising it too much. The sari’s colour is strong on its own,” she says.

Pair it with: “Boots for an edgier look, or heels without the jacket. You can also wear a waist belt to accentuate your waist or big bold earrings with hand cuffs,” she says.

6. Sport the indie-dandy vibe with the fit of a raw silk layer

Pull off an urban nomad look with a mix of bandhani-dyed raw silk and cotton silk



Shrug, Abraham and Thakore; jacket and pants, Divyam Mehta; jewellery, Payal Khandwala; shoes, Boots and Buckles (Shivamm Paathak)

Sonam Dubal says, "Raw silk moulds to the body. Most body types look great in waistcoats or Nehru jackets as they give a sharp fit to the body."

Celebrity stylist Rishi Raj believes layering always enhances the overall look. However, he adds, "The voluminous silhouette and

the layering makes this look more appropriate for taller men."

Wear this to: "A festive occasion since it's a dressy ensemble," he says.

Avoid: "Too many colour blocks. Keep the layering tonal," Rishi says.

Pair it with: "The layering on the top can totally go with denims," he suggests.

7. Look festive in a contemporary matka silk party outfit (left)

Dress up or down in a woven tunic with a contemporary drape

Matka silk, a rough handloom silk fabric made from the waste mulberry silk, is used for more than just traditional outfits. Fashion designer Resham



On her: Top and jewellery, Payal Khandwala; pants, Abraham & Thakore; shoes, Boots and Buckles. On him: Shirt, Akaaro; sari as a stole, Rimzim Dadu; pants, Divyam Mehta; shoes, Boots and Buckles (Shivamm Paathak)

Karmchandani thinks this ensemble is crisp and contemporary, with the strongest point being the drape tunic. "The drape tunic in the dark colour is versatile and can be dressed up or accessorised well," she says.

Wear this to: "A festive party or a cocktail," she suggests.

Avoid: "Wearing jewellery that takes away from your outfit," she says.

Pair it with: "Contemporary jewellery with chunky shoes," she says.

8. Experiment with a mix of trends: Bangalore silk special (right)

Gender-fluid alert! Layer a silk shirt with a scarf made out of a sari

Fashion designer Sanya Suri says the anti-fit Bangalore silk shirt breaks the monotony of the kurta. "The dhoti is a staple separate, but pairing it with a silk shirt has elevated the ensemble," she says.

Wear this to: "A traditional event because of the dhoti," she says and avoid: "Overdoing the accessories," she says.

Pair it with: "Traditional juttis," says Sanya.

Indonesia's textile industry seeks protection from high import growth

[The Jakarta Post, 26 March 2019](#)



One of the many textile shops on Jl. Pintu Air, Central Jakarta, offers various fabrics to be had at a bargain. (JP/Jessicha Valentina)

The textile industry is seeking the government's protection from high growth of imports as the sector could not compete in both domestic and international markets.

According to data from Statistics Indonesia (BPS), export growth in the textile industry has been just 3% annually over the last 10 years, while import growth was 20% annually in the same period. Indonesian All Textile Experts Association (IKATSI) chairman Suharno Rusdi said the textile industry was currently in very bad condition because the domestic market was flooded by imported products.

"If it is allowed to happen continuously, it would endanger our textile industry and textile products because we will rely on imported products and the local textile industry will further lose its domestic market," he said as quoted by kontan.co.id.

To deal with the issue, Indonesia needed to introduce a law on cloth

sovereignty to help the domestic textile industry to develop, Suharno said, adding that the law would not only regulate imports, but also had to offer incentives to support the development of the national textile industry. "The existence of such a law is urgent for the national industry. IKATSI will struggle to support the birth of such a law," he said.

Indonesian Filament and Fiber Producers Association (APSyFI) secretary-general Redma Gita Wirawasta made a similar statement, saying the upcoming Idul Fitri celebration should be used as an opportunity by the government to protect local textile products from the storm of imported products.

"In the last five years, Indonesia's local textiles could not benefit from Idul Fitri because of the entry of thousands of containers of textile products to the Indonesian market," Redma said, adding that in 2017, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati tried to stop the massive entry of textile products, but it only lasted six months.

Therefore, Redma called on the Trade Ministry to immediately control the entry of textile imports to help the local industry survive.

He also called on President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo to pay attention to the issue because the massive imports of such products had also contributed to the country's trade deficit. (bbn).

Iran's textile production, export up

[Iran Daily, 26 December 2018](#)



Iran's textile production increased by 2% while its textile products exports witnessed a 40% growth since March 21.

Iran's textile industry currently has 7,900 production units and currently employs 260,000 persons, said Director General of Textile and Garments Department at the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade Afsaneh Mehrabi in a ceremony in Iran's central city of Yazd, IRNA reported.

Referring to the steps taken by the government in recent years, she stressed that the officials are determined to smooth the way for producers to increase exports.

The government's decision to ban the imports of some goods provided an opportunity for domestic producers to

increase exports amid recent difficulties in the currency market.

Referring to the Yazd Province's 27% share in Iran's textile production, she said currently 662 textile production units with official operating certificate are in operation in the province and by taking into account the number of related industrial units, the figure reaches to 4,309, said the head of Industry, Mine and Trade Department of Yazd Province Mohammadreza Alamdar who also spoke at the ceremony.

He added that more than 100,000 persons are currently employed in Yazd Province's textile production units and the full implementation of 1,000 projects under construction will add another 30,000 to the number of the employed in the industry.

Since 1925, when industrial textile production began in Iran, Yazd Province has played important role in Iran's textile production and is currently the second textile manufacturer in Iran after Mazandaran Province.

Iranian researchers produce textile nanocomposites to regulate thermal energy

[Tehran Times, 19 December 2018](#)

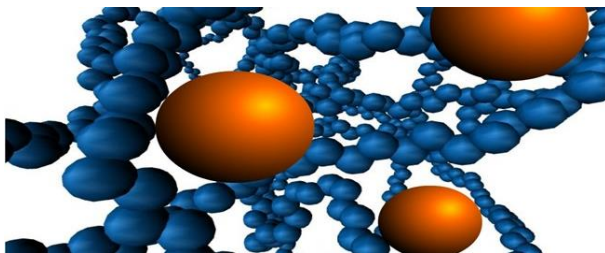
Iranian researchers at Amir Kabir University of Technology (AUT) produced nanocomposites that can be

used as heat regulating insulators for thermal energy management in the

construction and textile manufacture industries.

Dr. Majid Montazer, an associate professor at AUT, told ISNA that advances have been made in the use of phase-change material (PCM) — a developing substance — in the field of thermal energy storage, adding, "In these researches, using nanotechnology, we undertook efforts to improve the efficiency of PCMs and address their shortcomings."

The researcher said the synthesis method used in these studies was simple, inexpensive, single-stage and fast.



Commenting on the advantages of the technique, he said in this method there is no need for electrospinning processes, nano- and microencapsulation, polymerization, using solvent and synthesizing or separate preparation of nanoparticles.

The Iranian researcher added among other advantages are the reduced number of stages and time of the process and the method being ecofriendly.

Montazer noted that a PCM is a substance which, melting and solidifying at a certain temperature, is capable of storing and releasing large amounts of energy.

"Organic PCM is among the developing substances in this field, which, despite its numerous advantages, has two major problems: 1. Leakage and release of materials during the melting and freezing processes and 2. Poor thermal conductivity."

Therefore, he added, in this project, by creating a nanocomposite structure using copper nanoparticles and polyester fibers, in addition to resolving the problems caused by fatty acids, the efficiency of PCM was also improved to an optimum level.

Elaborating on the project, the associate professor said the assessment of the synthesized nanocomposite falls into two categories: The first phase is related to conducting characterization tests to confirm the presence of copper nanoparticles in the final structure employing electron microscopy, elemental analysis tests, X-ray diffraction and infrared spectrophotometry.

"In the second stage, the thermal performance of the nanocomposite structure was evaluated using differential scanning calorimetry techniques, thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA) and thermal conductivity testing."

Montazer said the generated structure maintains its durability and thermal stability after going through 100 heating-cooling cycles, adding the produced textile nanocomposites are used as temperature regulator insulators for thermal energy management in the construction, textile, polymer and material packaging industries.

The results of the study have been published in the Applied Energy Journal.

Iran's textile products trade registers \$8m surplus

[Financial Tribune, 5 March 2019](#)



A total of 260,000 tons of textile products worth \$955 million were exported from Iran in the first 10 months of the current fiscal year (March 21, 2018-Jan. 20) to register an 18.7% and 6.5% increase in tonnage and value respectively compared with last year's corresponding period.

"Imports stood at 339,000 tons valued at \$947 million during the same period to register a 38.4% and 36% decline in tonnage and value respectively year-on-

year," IRNA quoted Director General of the Ministry of Industries, Mining and Trade's Textile and Clothing Industries Department Afsaneh Mehrabi as saying.

Accordingly, Iran registered a trade surplus of \$8 million in the textile industry.

Mehrabi believes there is no problem in meeting domestic demand for apparel in the closing days of the current fiscal year (ended in March 20.)

Pakistan's textile exports can double in five years: APTMA head

[Dawn, Nasir Jamal, 4 February 2019](#)

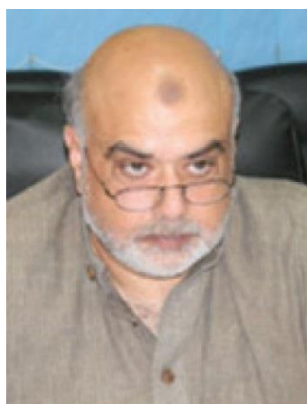
Pakistan's currency has cumulatively lost about 25% of its value against the dollar since the beginning of 2018. Gas and electricity prices for the five export industries have been brought down to the level of average regional prices and textile exporters are now able to import duty-free cotton.

The government is also working on ensuring the early payment of refunds of more than Rs200 billion to improve the exporters' liquidity position. It also announced some incentives to boost investment in greenfield projects.



Trade numbers for January will show that we are back on the growth trajectory (Photo: file)

All these measures have been instituted to boost the country's collapsing exports, especially textiles and clothing, a phenomenon that has significantly contributed to the widening current account deficit and forced the government to accumulate a massive pile of expensive foreign debt over the last five years.



Syed Ali Ahsan

And yet textile and clothing exports, which fetched \$13.5bn or almost 60pc of total export earnings last fiscal year, continue to struggle.

The industry's total shipments remained flat at \$6.64bn during the first half of 2018-19 on an annual basis. This raised questions about the rationale for the subsidy worth billions of rupees given to the country's largest manufacturing industry that contributes 8.5% to GDP and employs 46% of non-farm labour.

Trade numbers for January showed that we are back on the growth trajectory. Most exporters are fully booked for the until August.

“Do not be impatient,” says Ali Ahsan, chairman the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Aptma), during an interview with this correspondent.

“Most pro-industry initiatives announced months ago are being implemented. Others will be executed in the next few months and positive results have started to appear. You saw growth in our shipments when the government released trade numbers for January. It was enough to show that we are back on the growth trajectory. Most exporters are

fully booked until August. Even yarn shipments, which went down 17% in the first half of 2018-19, went up in January,” says Mr Ahsan. He said it was not possible to turn around exports overnight. In textile trade, he explains, it takes at least six months before the results start coming.

“Our exporters have received massive orders at Heimtextil 2019.” Mr Ahsan has a lot of good words for the PTI government for its support for the industry and clean-up of the mess created by the preceding government.

“This government is listening to businesspeople and trying to tackle their problems. But it should also give a long-term export and growth policy to help boost investment in new projects in the downstream industry,” he says. He believes textile and clothing exports can easily double to \$26bn in the next five years if the government continues to support the industry through a long-term policy.

“Those who are expecting instantaneous, massive growth in textile exports will continue to be disappointed. The government has done a lot in recent months. But a lot more also needs to be done for sustainable, high growth in exports. The steps taken thus far can increase shipments only to an extent. We need to increase our capacity to create an export surplus and invest heavily in value-added sectors.”

In the short term, he elaborates, it is crucial to remove upfront incidentals on the import of manmade fibres, which is short for industry consumption. This will enable the industry to diversify into products that are in high demand in foreign markets.

Further, the government must liquidate all outstanding refunds of the industry on account of sales tax, duty drawbacks and previous textile policies, withdraw gas infrastructure development cess (GIDC) arrears of pre-GIDC Act 2015, allow the payment of the post-GIDC Act arrears in instalments, and expedite new gas and electricity connections and tagging for the zero-rating of the industries by departments concerned, he said.

“The long-term export and growth policy should extend the long-term financing facility to indirect exports as well to boost investment in the value-added sectors, reintroduce industrial credit policy, invest in the garment industry infrastructure, enhance credit limits for new factories, discourage textile and clothing imports and stop smuggling to open up the domestic market to the local industry,” said the Aptma chairman.

He was hopeful that at least half of the textile capacity closed in the last five years will return to production, thanks to the recent supportive measures by the government. The rest of the factories have already been sold out and machinery junked, he adds.

“Now we need new projects for export growth. We cannot do it without creating integrated textile and apparel parks to provide plug-and-play facilities for local and foreign investors. We export 30% of yarn produced in the country. We need to establish new weaving, processing and garment units to convert that yarn into value-added products to boost exports. We can generate additional exports of \$20bn and create 1.5 million jobs by investing \$7bn,” he says.

Pakistan's textile industry gets Rs29b relief in duties, taxes

[The Express Tribune, Zafar Bhutta, 2 February 2019](#)



Pakistan is expected to produce 10.78 million bales of cotton in the ongoing financial year, a decrease of 9.7% compared to the previous year and down 24% from the initial target of 14.37 million bales. (Photo: file)

Islamabad - The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has given another bailout package worth Rs29 billion to the textile tycoons by waiving taxes and duties on the import of cotton – a vital input in textile manufacturing.

The PTI government, like the previous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz administration, is offering support to the industrial barons, who have got billions of rupees worth of incentive packages. They are now receiving gas and electricity at discounted tariffs.

The government has also recently approved a Rs25-billion gas subsidy for five zero-rated export-focused industries where textile giants are the major beneficiaries.

“The government has come up with another support package for the textile manufacturers by waiving 50% of the outstanding gas infrastructure development cess (GIDC), which amounts to Rs40 billion,” an official said. The textile industry is to pay a total of Rs80 billion in GIDC arrears.

With the scrapping of taxes and duties on cotton import, the government would lose Rs14.6 billion in customs duty, Rs6.9 billion in additional customs duty and Rs7.7 billion in sales tax, the official projected.

“The major beneficiaries are Pakistani textile barons and farmers of cotton-exporting countries,” he said.

Despite getting such incentive packages, textile exports from Pakistan to the global market have not increased significantly as Bangladesh exporters are eating into the share of their Pakistani counterparts.

According to a senior government official, the textile industry consumes around 12 to 15 million bales of cotton per year and it needs to import cotton to bridge the shortfall because domestic output was far below the demand.

Pakistan is expected to produce 10.78 million bales of cotton in the ongoing financial year, a decrease of 9.7% compared to the previous year and down 24% from the initial target of 14.37 million bales.

The textile ministry says around 10.78 million bales have already reached cotton ginning factories from farms by the beginning of January 2019.

Farmers argue the pro-industry policies of successive governments have destroyed the agriculture sector of Pakistan. The PML-N government's 2013-18 tenure also proved damaging for the agriculture sector when it posted negative growth and cotton harvest touched its lowest in recent history.

In 2015-16, the agriculture sector recorded a negative growth of 0.19% against growth projection of 3.9%, which indicated the lack of attention paid to the farm sector.

Cotton production in Pakistan has been virtually stagnant since 1991-92, fluctuating in a range of 10 to 12 million bales annually. The harvest fell to 9.9 million bales in 2015-16 compared to average consumption of 15 million bales, turning Pakistan a net importer of cotton.

"The current PTI government also seems to be following the same line as it is doling out support packages to the industrialists whereas the farmers are at the receiving end," the official said.

Pakistani textile exporters requested to participate at Milan Fashion Week this year



[Daily Times, 28 March 2019](#)

Italian designer Stella Jean along with her six-member Italian delegation recently visited Faisalabad's textile factories and showed their interest in working with Pakistani fabric

Pakistan's textile industry has achieved another milestone.

Designers from Milan have asked textile exporters to become a part of Milan Fashion Week 2019.

Italian designer Stella Jean along with her six-member Italian delegation recently visited Faisalabad's textile factories and showed their interest in working with Pakistani fabric.

"Faisalabad is a manufacturing hub of popular international textile brands such as Zara,

American Eagle and Walmart. Now, we are ready to take over European markets in collaboration with Italian experts,” Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Syed Zia Alamdar Hussain said.

“With this collaboration, Pakistani fabric will be introduced in the international markets which will increase our exports and improve Pakistan’s image,” Syed Zia Alamdar Hussain said.

‘Faisalabad is a manufacturing hub of popular international textile brands such as Zara, American Eagle and Walmart. Now, we are ready to take over European markets in collaboration with Italian experts’

He advised the designer to use Pakistani fabric for her future designs too and open a studio in Pakistan. He remarked that the delegation was impressed by Pakistani lawn and cotton fabric.

“We are the fourth largest cotton producing country. This is why we have an edge in cotton export,” Zia Alamdar Hussain said. “Cotton is like white gold for us,” he added.



Hussain also revealed on the show that an FCCI delegation is also scheduled to visit Spain to participate in an international exhibition in Barcelona. Pakistan’s participation is set to attract a huge number of buyers from across the world.

“It is a huge honour for Pakistan to be invited at Milan Fashion week to showcase and represent Pakistani fabric,” Karachi-based fashion designer Nomi Ansari. He remarked that it’s like a small step towards a greater future.

On March 4, Pakistani designer Syeda Amara showcased her bridal collection at Paris Fashion Week. Syeda Amara is the only couturier from Pakistan to showcase her extraordinary collection along with talented designers from the United States, France, New Zealand, Indonesia and India. She garnered laurels for mixing architecture, art, culture and fashion in her couture.

Milan Fashion Week will be held from September 17-23.

'Fashion revolution: The future of textiles' exhibition

[Manila Times, Iza Iglesias, 16 February 2019](#)



Fashion, no matter how beautiful, is one of the most environmentally harmful industries in the world. To address the increasingly alarming situation, the Swedish fashion industry is taking the lead in transitioning into a development phase toward a more sustainable and circular business model “that is as natural as it is necessary.” Nonetheless considered an exciting time in the Northern European country, it is Sweden’s hope that the research, innovation and cross-disciplinary collaborations taking place will eventually inspire the global industry.

With this in mind, The Embassy of Sweden in Manila, spearheaded by Ambassador Harald Fries, launched the exhibition “Fashion Revolution: The Future of Textiles” at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila to highlight Sweden’s active role in promoting sustainability in fashion.

Curated and produced by the Swedish Institute with the help of researchers and sustainable fashion experts, the exhibition highlights the fashion industry’s major environmental

challenges, showcases Swedish solutions, and guides consumers to contribute effectively to a more sustainable world.



The exhibition, which is running until April 30, is supported by major Swedish brands H&M Philippines, BabyBjorn and Houdini Sportswear. H&M Philippines features key pieces made out of sustainable textile from their H&M Conscious Collection, while

Houdini and BabyBjorn exhibit clothing and baby-carriers that are all made out of recycled/upcycled products.

Globally, the world’s population consume about 62 million tonnes of clothing per year — that is a small suitcase full of clothes per person — and only 20% is reused or recycled. Since year 2000, global clothes production has more than doubled, and the average person now buys 60% more items of clothing every year and keeps them for about half as long as they did 15 years ago. It takes 10,000 to 30,000 liters of water and 2 to 4 kilos of chemicals to produce 1 kilo of treated cotton. Fifteen to 30% of the plastic pollutants in the oceans consist of

microplastics, and 35% of that comes from laundering synthetic textiles.

At the launch of the Fashion Revolution exhibition, Ambassador Fries expressed hope for consumers to become more conscious and mindful of their consumption of fashion. The better informed people are, the greater the pressure that can be exerted on companies to act sustainably.



“The awareness that we must stop producing and consuming clothing without consideration for its adverse environmental footprints is taking hold. The fashion industry is in the midst of a much-needed fundamental change. We talk about a systemic shift in which the fashion industry is moving from focusing on producing as much and as quickly as possible at the lowest price without consideration for environmental impact—to a circular business model,” Ambassador Fries pointed out in his speech.

“The aim of this business model is that all phases of a garment’s life cycle — from choice of materials and design to production, transport, distribution, consumption and reuse — will be integrated with as little adverse environmental and climate impact as possible,” he added.

According to the Ambassador, a shift in business attitude among companies has taken place, as more and more brands have started to view sustainability as a profit opportunity instead of an obligation. New initiatives are also arising to pave the way to what some call “The Fashion Revolution” — the age of being “fashionably sustainable” and “conscious” consumers.



“This revolution will need everyone’s commitment and effort. For the consumer, the first and biggest step is to make conscious and informed choices — from something as simple as not using single-use plastics, to prolonging the life of your clothing and shopping second-hand. It comes down to mindful decisions. I am proud to say that Swedish businesses and research centers are among the main drivers for a more sustainable global fashion industry,” the ambassador explained.

According to the Swedish initiatives, the aim should be no less than to transition to cotton that is organic and certified in accordance with both environmental and social requirements, such as GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) — and to develop equivalent alternatives to cotton.

They added that transparency is a key driving force for change in the fashion

industry. Access to information about different industry actors' sustainability work is important to enable people to understand what the most critical areas of our value chain are.

While many individual brands have made progress in the area, there's also a need to have greater collective effort on both an inter-country and cross-industry level.

Role and contribution of ITC to Tajikistan's textile sector discussed in Dushanbe

[Asia-Plus, 3 December 2018](#)

The role and contribution of the International Trade Centre (ITC) to the textile and clothing sector of Tajikistan, as well as the results of the initial year of the new Global Textiles and Clothing Program (GTEX) were discussed at the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting in Dushanbe on November 30, according to ITC Tajikistan.

The PSC consists of representatives from Tajikistan's relevant ministries, agencies, private sector, academia, the donor (Government of Switzerland), and the ITC. The Committee's primary functions are to ensure transparency in implementation and that the project's outputs respond to the country's priorities.

This year, the ITC has launched the Global Textiles and Clothing Programme (GTEX), aiming to boost textile and clothing exports from Tajikistan to stimulate employment and income generation along the textile and clothing value chain. Tajikistan is one of the five countries selected to be part of this new four-year initiative, financed by the Government of Switzerland.



Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan

Mr. Zavqi Zavqizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan, emphasizes ITC's input in the development of the textile and clothing sector: "Our partners from the Government of Switzerland and ITC assist us in achieving one of Tajikistan's key strategic priorities shifting from agro-industrial to industrial-agriculture based economy. I'd like to thank ITC and our Swiss friends for the assistance they provide and we hope that this fruitful cooperation will continue in the future".

According to Mr. Zavqizoda, ITC project also made a great contribution in establishment and operationalization of a permanent

secretariat to the Coordination Committee on Trade Facilitation and creation of Tajikistan Trade Information Portal.



“Jobs. More and better jobs. Better – meaning more productive, more innovative and value adding, more competitive and, thus, well paid. This is what Switzerland believes is important for any country and what can drive prosperity of the people. This is also very true for Tajikistan that decided to enhance competitiveness of its strategic sectors with high-value adding and export potential to create such jobs. It was advised by the Government of

Tajikistan to support the local textile and clothing sector to unpack its potential in productive employment and to access the global market.

However, having domestic cotton production, cheap labor, and electricity are not sufficient success factors anymore to enter the highly competitive and demanding global garment market. Hence, our current support through ITC is focused on facilitating a conducive business environment with clear rules of the game according to international standards, long-term and affordable finance, high-level professionals and local trade support institutions. All these are prerequisites for successful competition and a prosperous Tajikistan.” – said Raphael Jenny, Program Manager, SECO.



Mr. Armen Zargaryan, ITC's Program Coordinator for the Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Mr. Armen Zargaryan, ITC's Program Coordinator for the Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, highlighted some main results of the project in 2018: “Our support has allowed the Tajik textile and clothing companies to enter new foreign markets and become more competitive in the regional markets. Only in 2018 we have taken the Tajik companies to five international fairs and one study tour abroad, where each visit ended with establishing new business contacts and partnerships with foreign companies and signing contracts to export goods and

import equipment. We have enabled local trade support institutions in improving their services, assisted universities in launching cooperation with foreign educational institutions. I also would like to mention that we have taken the work of the Union of the Private Sector Development of Tajikistan to a new level by strengthening their focus shift to the textile and clothing sector”.

“Vahdat”, a young, but already one of leaders of the textile industry in the country, is a committed ITC partner among the private sector. Its director Ilhom Mirzoev says: “With

ITC assistance we were able to keep the image of Tajikistan as a source of high quality textile and clothing products in the region. From the international fairs we returned with profitable contracts and a lot of useful experience. I also would like to especially mention our trip Shanghai. In December, in Shanghai, we got a unique chance to be part of the new global trade expo initiative. ITC also supports us in many other ways, such as provision of consultative services, trainings on marketing, branding, and quality management, establishment of new business contacts and etc.”

The International Trade Centre, supported by the Government of Switzerland, aims to increase the export competitiveness of the Tajik textile and clothing sector by supporting sector companies, and relevant trade support institutions from both public and private sectors.

This year Switzerland celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Dushanbe. Within the framework of a comprehensive cooperation and development program, Switzerland has supported the people and the government of Tajikistan in reforming the health, water and natural resource management sectors, in increasing access to justice and in facilitating the country’s transition towards a market economy. Switzerland invests approximately 20 Mio USD per year in projects implemented in all parts of Tajikistan.

Turkish textile firms eye over \$11 billion export revenue this year

[Good morning Turkey, 14 January 2019](#)



Turkey’s textile industry foresees weaker demand in the domestic market as rising costs will push prices higher, but hopes to boost exports this year.

“The overall costs of the firms operating in the textile industry have increased by 30% over the past one year due to the rises in energy costs and minimum wages as well as exchange rates. Those cost increases

will be reflected onto prices in the coming months,” said Ahmet Öksüz, the head of the Istanbul Textile and Raw Materials Exporters Association (İTHİB).

The expected price increases will translate into a contraction in the domestic market, according to Öksüz.

“This contraction will be felt particularly in the first half of the year, but the industry will see double-digit growth in exports,” he said. Exports of the textile and raw materials industry increased by 4.5% in 2018 from a year ago, hitting \$10.5 billion.

“Our target for 2019 is to generate more than \$11 billion in export revenues. We expect to boost exports in 75% of our markets. The industry’s three largest export markets are Germany, Italy and the U.S., while 50% of exports go to the EU,” Öksüz added.

Turkey is the seventh largest textile and textile raw materials supplier in the world.

“Many textile firms, which want to avoid risks stemming from the expected contraction in the domestic market, are increasingly focusing on exports. The costs in the industry are indexed to foreign currencies thus companies experience hardship when currency rates rose,” he said.

Öksüz also noted that 314 member companies of the association exported their goods for the first time in 2018.

“Last year, Turkish firms shipped goods to a total of 188 countries, but the EU remained the largest single market with \$5.4 billion in export revenues. Exports to Russia, meanwhile, soared 107% and sales to Belarus jumped 43%. Exports to Portugal saw a 26.3% increase.”

According to Öksüz, the textile industry will also target the South American and Far Eastern markets.

Vietnam to become "sustainable supplier of choice" for textiles and apparel

[Vietnam News, 12 April 2019](#)



Vu Duc Giang, chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS), speaks at the Global Textile and Apparel Supply Chain Conference held in HCM City. (VNS Photo: Bo Xuan Hiep)

HCM City – Vietnam could become a “sustainable supplier of choice” in the

textile and apparel industry if the country continues its efforts to ensure environmental protection in manufacturing, an official said at a global industry meeting held yesterday in the city.

Speaking at the 2019 Global Textile and Apparel Supply Chain Conference, Vu Duc Giang, chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS), said the industry creates long-term and well-paid skilled jobs since it can offer affordable labour resources.

Labour costs in Vietnam are relatively cheaper than those in China, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

“Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) also play an important role in helping Vietnam move up the value chain in the textile and apparel industry,” Giang said.

The country's textile and apparel industry contributes 15% of total export value and had an annual growth rate of 12% from 2010 to 2017. FDI companies have so far invested about US\$17.5 billion in the industry.

With some 6,000 factories and employing more than 3 million people, the industry is both economically and socially important for the country.

However, the sector has an adverse environmental impact. Intensive water extraction, use and discharge of waste water and high-energy consumption for water heating and steam generation are all environmental concerns.

Vietnam is one of the largest exporters of apparel goods in the world, mostly because of its low-cost production rather than its environmental standards.

Green commitment

Vietnam has committed to fully implementing 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure economic, social and environmental benefits.

“Implementing a shared responsibility to respond to the 21st century's biggest global challenge, Vietnam and the international community ratified the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2015. And the textile industry is part of that commitment,” Giang said.

Vietnam is also part of FTAs in which traditional tariff barriers will gradually be eliminated. However, instead of tariffs,

countries could create technical barriers to protect their products.

Barriers could be related to product quality, environmental standards, energy labels, and carbon labels, among others.

VITAS set up an Environment Committee three years ago and has taken part in an action programme for the Green the Textile and Apparel Industry group.

However, the challenge is that fabrics and materials in the country still mainly depend on imports (99% of cotton and fibers are imported every year), according to Giang.

Export processing is mainly CMT (Cut-Make-Trim - about 65%), OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer – 25%), ODM (Original Design Manufacturer) and OBM (Original Brand Manufacturer – 10%).

The technological level, except for sewing, remains modest, while another issue is low labour productivity, Giang noted.

Vietnam-China partnership

Bui Hoang Yen, deputy representative of the Department of Trade Promotion under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, said it was important to develop a sustainable textile and apparel supply chain partnership with China.

Last year Vietnam's national textile and apparel exports reached US\$36.2 million, with year-on-year growth of 16%, she said.

The country has become the world's third largest textile and apparel exporter after China and India.

Sun Rui Zhe, president of the China National Textile and Apparel Council, said the Chinese council has long been committed to promoting the social responsibilities of China's textile and apparel enterprises.

In recent years, with investment from Chinese enterprises in Vietnam, such as Shenzhou International, Youngor, Huafu Fashion, Luthai Textile, New Wide Group, Far Eastern Group and Jifa Group, the China-Vietnam textile and apparel industry confluence is increasing.

It is important to establish a sustainable supply chain relationship for the development of the global textile and apparel industry and long-term competitiveness of the industry in China and Vietnam, he said.

Initiated in 2008 and held each year by the China National Textile and Apparel Council, the conference is an international exchange platform committed to the management and brand development of textile and apparel supply chains.

The conference aims to improve supply chain management and competitiveness of Chinese textile and apparel enterprises, and facilitate their collaborative innovation in the international supply chain.

The conference was attended by nearly 200 delegates from the China National Textile and Apparel Council, China Textile Information Center, International Textile Manufacturers Federation, ASEAN Federation of Textile Industries and other international organisations such as WWF and World Bank. — VNS

Saigon textile expo attracts over 1,000 companies

[Vietnam News, 10 April 2019](#)



A booth at the Saigon Tex expo held in HCM City last year (VNS Photo)

HCM City - Saigon Tex and Saigon Fabric 2019 in HCM City offered local and foreign textile and garment companies a good opportunity to promote their brands and expand their market and seek partners.

The exhibition attracted nearly 1,050 exhibitors from 24 countries and territories, including Cambodia, mainland China, France, Germany,

Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, and the US with famous brands in machinery and equipment, garments fibre, weaving, and dyeing.

The products on display include machinery and equipment, automation technologies and feedstock and intermediate goods for the textile and garment industry.

There are many new fabric and accessory concepts such as bleached yarn, plant-based silk yarn, rayon, jute, acrylic, viscose, ramie, BCI, bamboo fibre, organic cotton, wool, polyester, lycra blend, CVC, glue, fabric glue, paper glue, heat transfer printing logo,

jacquard, yarn-dyed fabric, denim, lace, felt, non-woven fabric, woven garnet, lingerie fabric, garment fabric, mink, rabbit and otter fur, tape, zip fastener, abrasive tape, feather tape, and button made from pearl shell, Corozo and metal.

Besides showcasing the latest products and technologies, the exhibition will also feature several seminars where experts from Vietnam and other countries will share new economic trends and technologies for the benefit of the participants.

The events at the Saigon Exhibition and Convention Centre ran until April 13.
VNS

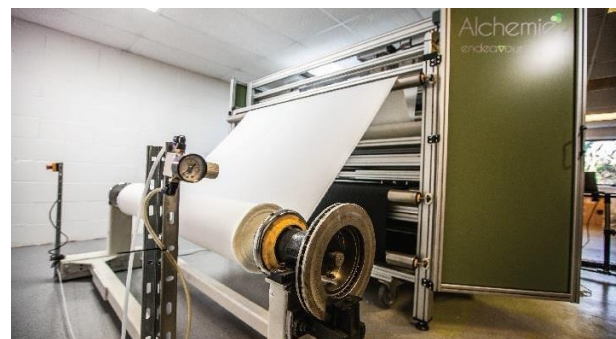
Alchemie launches waterless smart dyeing technology

Fibre2fashion.com, 12 April 2019

Alchemie Technology, a UK-based digital materials science company that bridges the gap between the digital world and the physical domain, has launched a breakthrough new technology in textile dyeing: The Alchemie Endeavour waterless smart dyeing process, at Interdye in Shanghai, delivering a step change in sustainability at a radically lower cost.

The Alchemie Endeavour waterless smart dyeing process is capable of throughputs of over 2,000 square metre per hour and will reduce waste water and energy by over 80%. This delivers a greater than 50% reduction in cost.

The waterless process can deliver dyed fabric that does not require post dyeing washing steps to deliver finished product; a remarkable sustainability advantage, the company said.



The technology delivers exceptional results with high colour consistency and colour fastness.

Based on Alchemie’s proprietary digital manufacturing technology, the system can deliver any colour shade required and enables on-demand digital colour changeovers in any run length from a few metres to several kilometres.

“At the heart of the system is a unique new dyeing process that distributes dye molecules deep into the fabric enabling very high absorption, homogeneous distribution and excellent fixing

efficiencies. This results in minimal wash out, even at very high saturation levels of dye: this is an industry first,” an Alchemie press release said.

The Endeavour technology includes a fully automated colour lab sampling system to perfectly match a customised colour in a very short time making the system a truly ‘end-to-end’ high performance sustainable dyeing solution with ultimate performance. (RKS)

Bangladesh invests in textile wet processing

[Fibre2Fashion, 12 April 2019](#)



The Huntsman Textile Effects and Swiss Colours Bangladesh team with some senior leaders and key decision makers (Photo: Huntsman)

More than 20 senior leaders from key Bangladeshi textile companies discussed challenges and opportunities in textile wet processing at a roundtable conference in Bangkok. The recent meeting provided a forum for business leaders to exchange ideas on how textile manufacturers in Bangladesh can improve their productivity and move up the value chain.

The meet jointly organised by Huntsman Textile Effects and Swiss Colours Bangladesh, was also an opportunity for the group to explore innovative new technologies and process innovations.

"As the long-term partner of Bangladesh's textile industry leaders, we are fully committed to driving sustainable solutions that are environmentally friendly and economically sound. We believe in collaboration and are pleased to be able to share our expertise and our technologies to help our customers produce higher value products from a cleaner and more efficient supply chain," Rohit Aggarwal, Huntsman Textile Effects president, said.

The roundtable also included a tour of Huntsman Textile Effect's world-class manufacturing site at Mahachai, which is about 50 km outside the Thai capital. Participants saw how Huntsman's high-quality reactive, wool and polyamide dyes and digital inks are produced and discussed environmental, health and safety (EHS) best practices with leaders at the site.

"Bangladesh is an important market for Huntsman Textile Effects and we work closely with our partner Swiss Colours to provide customised and innovative solutions for this market," said Chuck Hirsch, vice president, commercial, at Huntsman Textile Effects. "Our aim is to enable our customers to stay at the forefront of industry trends and regulatory changes and create a more successful and sustainable textile industry in Bangladesh."

The textile and ready-made garments (RMG) sector accounts for 84 per cent of the annual exports of Bangladesh, and downstream investment in textile processing is increasing to keep up with higher demand for high-quality dyed and printed fabric from local exporters. Price pressure in the sector remains intense, and costs are increasing as wages rise and mills make changes to meet stricter EHS standards and remove restricted chemicals from the supply chain.(RR)

About CACCI:

Founded in 1966, the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) is a regional non-governmental association principally composed of the national chambers or associations of commerce and industry in Asia and the Western Pacific. Its current membership of 29 countries and independent economies cuts across national boundaries to link businessmen and promote economic growth throughout the Asia-Pacific region. CACCI holds Consultative Status in the Roster Category of United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

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