

in 2013, registering an increase of 19 percent year-on-year, according to the trade statistics released by the Ministry of Finance.

On the other hand, the imports of clothing and accessories by Japan during the same period were valued at 3.247 trillion yen, showing an increase of 21.1 percent year-on-year, the data showed.

The increase in imports of both textile yarn and fabrics as well as clothing and accessories was greater than the 15 percent year-on-year rise shown in overall imports made by Japan during January-December 2013 period.

Region/country-wise, Japan's textile yarn and fabric imports from the US during the 12-month period were worth 21.702 billion yen, up 14.7 percent year-on-year; while those from the EU grew by 22.4 percent year-on-year to 62.142 billion yen; and from Asia by 18.8 percent year-on-year to 747.151 billion yen.

Among the Asian region, China accounted for 493.429 billion yen worth of textile yarn and fabric imports made by Japan, while the Asean region contributed 144.016 billion yen, and the Middle East region 5.241 billion yen.

Japan's clothing and accessories imports from the US climbed 21.8 percent year-on-year to 19.667 billion, whereas imports from the EU jumped 25.3 percent year-on-year to 154.046 billion yen and from Asia by 20.9 percent year-on-year to 3.037 trillion yen.

Within Asia, China accounted for the largest share of 2.423 trillion yen worth of apparel and accessories imported by Japan, showing a growth of 17.2 percent year-on-year, whereas the Asean region supplied 496.079 billion yen worth of products, registering a surge of 41 percent year-on-year.

The figures clearly show a small shift in Japanese garment and accessories imports from China to the Asean nations.

## Korea to host textile machinery fair

The South Korean city of Daegu is all geared up to host the 19th Korea International Textile Machinery Fair (KORTEX) 2014, scheduled to be held from March 5 to 7, at the EXCO Daegu Exhibition and Convention Center.

Organized by the Korea Federation of Textile Industries, the KORTEX 2014 fair held corresponding to the Daegu International Textile Fair (PREVIEW in Daegu), which was also scheduled to be held during the same time.

Over 150 firms operating in the textile and garment machinery sector showcased their latest innovative products during the three-day fair that brought together domestic and international entrepreneurs from countries such as Indonesia, India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, Vietnam and more.

The textile machinery fair aimed at providing a platform for the textile machinery manufacturers to identify and

understand the global trends in manufacturing of textile and garment equipments, as well as create business contacts with international buyers.

More than 2,000 visitors both domestic and international attended the textile machinery fair which also had several seminars where entrepreneurs got the opportunity to share their knowledge regarding the latest trends of textile and garment machineries.

Exhibitors at the fair showcased various products including spinning and weaving machineries, fabric dyeing machines, sewing and embroidery machines, warp knitting machines and more.

## India priority market for Chinese textile

"India is top priority market for Chinese textile machinery sector, revealed an official from the China Textile Machinery Association (CTMA) on the sidelines of a road show to promote ITMA Asia + CITME 2014.

Organizers of the textile machinery show - ITMA Asia + CITME 2014 to be held in Shanghai from June 16-20, 2014, hosted a road show in Ahmedabad to promote the event. It was attended by around 60 delegates who represented the textile value chain in Ahmedabad.

Providing more details, Mr Cong Zheng told fibre2fashion, "China is the biggest market in the global textile machinery industry and China textile machinery sector achieved revenue of \$18.1 billion from principal business in 2012 and also grew at an estimated growth rate of over 5% in 2013."

When asked about the various countries in which they are conducting road shows, Mr Zheng revealed, "Series of activities have been planned in India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Turkey and Indonesia, however India is our top most priority".

When asked if Chinese textile machinery manufacturers were firming up any joint ventures in India, Mr Sooraj Dhawan – Director of Falcon Exhibitions – the Indian representative for ITMA Asia + CITME 2014 said, "In December 2012, a Chinese delegation was in India and during mill visits, they were very much impressed with the technology used by Indian mills. There are clear possibilities in the future".

Providing information about ITMA Asia + CITME 2014, Mr Zheng informed, "ITMA Asia + CITME 2014 is a huge showcase of cutting-edge solutions for textile makers. We are expecting around 100,000 visitors from around the world. Over 1,500 exhibitors will take part in an exhibition space spread over 150,000sqm. To top it all, it has a stringent control in force to protect intellectual property".

Mr Dhawan added, "ITMA Asia + CITME 2014 is the largest display of textile machinery in Asia and India ranks very high as far as modernization of machinery and new investments are concerned, so it can prove to be a one-stop destination for those Indians planning to invest in new technology".



world news

# World Textile News

## The launch of Texworld Istanbul in November 2014

Messe Frankfurt is set to add another member to its Texworld Brand Family: the company announces the launch of Texworld Istanbul and with this enlargens its portfolio of fairs in Turkey. Texworld Istanbul is planned to take place in November 2014 for the first time at the Lütfi Kırdar International Convention & Exhibition Center in central Istanbul. In the year after that, it will enter the traditional cycle of fashion fabrics fairs and it will take place twice a year in Istanbul, the business and trade center of the Turkish Republic and the entire region.

Texworld Istanbul will reflect all product groups that are part of all other apparel fabric brand events around the world: cotton and blends, denim, shirting, linen and hemp, wool and wool aspects, embroidery and lace, silk and silky aspects, prints, functional fabrics, knitted fabrics, trims and accessories. A special feature of the fair will be the focus on Asian fabrics manufacturers. Next to them, there will be manufacturers from traditional and new markets from all over the world. Aleksandar Medjedovic, Managing Director of Messe Frankfurt Istanbul, the company's Turkish business unit, explains: "This mix of international exhibitors is the unique concept of Texworld fairs."

Texworld Istanbul will target buyers and professional visitors from Turkey and from the surrounding region. This includes the Middle East and the Gulf States, Central Asia, Russia, Southeastern Europe and North Africa. "Istanbul is a very convenient location to reach for all these countries, with several daily flight connections to all major business centers in those regions. This will add to the dynamic trade environment of Texworld Istanbul, which will be a new meeting point for Asian and global fashion fabrics manufacturers and their buyers from those fast-moving regions", explains Medjedovic.

## Spanish textile & clothing exports reach €12bn in 2013

Textile and apparel exports from Spain during last year amounted to €12 billion, indicating a rise of 12.4 percent year-on-year, as per the data released by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness.

According to the data on exports released by the Ministry, the exports from the apparel sub-sector totaled €8.6 billion during 2013, registering a surge of 15.4 percent compared to 2012. The textile and clothing exports accounted for 5.1 percent of the total exports from the country during last year. Meanwhile, in terms of imports, the country imported textiles and clothing worth €14.8 billion during last year, showing an increase of 5.1 percent year-on-year, of which apparel imports amounted to €11.2 billion, recording a rise of 4.4 percent compared to 2012.

According to the Ministry's monthly data for December 2013, Spain exported textiles and apparel worth €886.6 million during the month of December, indicating an increase of 1.2 percent year-on-year. Exports of the garments sub-sector totaled €645.7 million, incurring a decline of 1.1 percent compared to the same month in 2012.

During the month of December 2013, the country imported textiles and clothing amounting to €1.1 billion, registering a rise of 13.6 percent compared to the same month in 2012. Imports of garments sub-sector touched €872.5 million recording a rise of 12.6 percent year-on-year in the month of December 2013.

In 2012, Spain exported textiles and apparel worth € 10.733 billion, indicating a surge of 9.1 percent year-on-year.

## Japan's textile & apparel imports rise in 2013

Japan imported 849.785 billion yen of textile yarn and fabrics



Senior fellow at Nanyang Technological University's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, James M. Dorsey, told that easing of sanctions would allow Iran to achieve economic growth.

"While the IMF certainly has an interest in encouraging Iran to work towards a successful resolution of the nuclear issue, it also is accountable for its predictions," he noted.

"It comes as no surprise that an easing of sanctions would allow Iran to achieve economic growth. In fact, it would be surprising if that was not the case," Dorsey underscored.

Professor of economics at U.S. Northeastern University, Kamran Dadkhah, also said these predictions can be justified.

Dadkhah told that the Iranian economy has great potentials for flourishing and becoming one of the top 20 economies in the world. He said, however, the Iranian economy is currently in a sorry state suffering from high unemployment rate, high inflation, and negative growth rate.

Dadkhah cited three reasons for the positive outlook depicted by the IMF.

"First, the United States and other countries have eased sanctions, and Iran has been allowed to access some of its blocked oil revenues. It is hoped that the nuclear negotiations would succeed and more sanctions are lifted. That would give a boost to the Iranian economy. Second, because of the new government's expressed intention of coming to terms with the world, and improving the economic conditions, a positive attitude and hope of better future have been created among Iranians. Such expectations can help economic activity. Finally, the economic team of the new president seems to have the right ideas about the economy and have distanced themselves from populist ideas of the previous administration. Thus, it is not unreasonable to expect that the economy, after two years of decline, show improvement by 2015," Dadkhah noted.

Iran Applying Nanotechnology in Growing Number of Industries

**"At present over 8 Iranian industries enjoy and use nanotechnology," Sarkar told.**

"The industries in the fields of Agriculture, construction, nano materials, environment, water, hygiene and health, energy, automaking and textile are utilizing nanotechnology," he added. Sarkar also said that over 250 Iranian companies active in the Iranian market are using 150 nano-based technologies.

Sarkar had last year announced that Iranian experts and scientists are able to produce 38 nanotechnology laboratory tools and equipment.

"Iran produces 38 nano technology lab equipment domestically," Sarkar said in a meeting in the Northern city of Sari in September.

Stressing Iran's huge growth in nanotechnology, he predicted that the country will soon witness a new wave of progress in the field of nanotechnology.

Sarkar also said that different Iranian industries, including the country's auto-manufacturing companies, are making an increasing use of nanotechnology in their products.

"Nanotechnology has been employed in 8 Iranian industries, including the car-manufacturing industry," Sarkar told.

The nanotechnology growth indicators for Iran have marked a high rise during the recent years as in the total number of the scientific publications, the country has just jumped up two ranks (at the beginning of 2012) to stand 10th in the world. Iran ranked 14th, in the same list, at the beginning of 2011.

## Modern Clothing for Women on Display in ECI

The Economic Cooperation Organization's Cultural Institute in Tehran playing hosted to the Exhibition of Modern Apparel for Iranian Women.

Organized by Iran's Giva Designers Group the exhibition showed works by some Iranian designers until March 6.

"We are seeking to create costume designs so that everybody can recognize them as Iranian," said one of the designers.

The group has previously held three exhibitions, which were exclusively for women.

But, men are also allowed to visit the exhibition at the ECO Cultural Institute. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the exhibition, ECO Cultural Institute President Iftikhar Hussain Arif said that clothing is an important part of every culture and added that the institute aims to preserve the regional culture of ECO member states by holding such an exhibition.

He also said that the costume designs in this region are different from those that are common in the West.

He asked all ECO members states to help introduce their regional costumes to other countries.

## Iranian artists have designed the world's largest soil carpet with different colorful soil in Hormoz Island in the Persian Gulf, southern Iran

The unique art of soil, which is the island's fifth soil carpet, was unveiled on February 14, 2014.

The carpet area is about 1600 cubic meters and is a sketch of Persian Carpet painted on bare soil.

The new carpet's design and dimension are very different from the four previous ones. Some 60 artists have worked on the project since January 21, 2014.

The designers called the carpet 'Damahi' adapted from the name of a mythical fish. The enormous fish is believed to help the natives trapped in panic situations.

"Soil carpet as a symbol could attract many tourists to the area," said director of Islamic Guidance and Culture in Hormozgan province Hojjatoleslam Hossein Morshedi.

As part of Hormozgan province, Hormoz Island is located in the Strait of Hormuz, 5 miles off the Iranian coast.

# Iran Textile News

## Iran Produces Self-Cleaning Coatings for Textile Industries

The coating has been made by synthesizing titanium dioxide nanoparticles doped with silver and zirconium on polyacrylonitrile fibers, and it has photocatalytic self-cleaning properties.

The aim of this research was to synthesize titanium dioxide nanoparticles doped with silver and zirconium, and also to synthesize a joint doped sample by using silver and zirconium (Ag-Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub>) on polyacrylonitrile fibers to investigate their photocatalytic self-cleaning properties.

Recent studies on the modification of photocatalytic properties of TiO<sub>2</sub> through co-doping process show that the photocatalytic properties of TiO<sub>2</sub> improve due to the strengthening of the doping ions. In this research, too, the strengthening and interaction between silver and zirconium in Ag-Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub> nanocomposite improves the photocatalytic properties of TiO<sub>2</sub> in its photocatalytic self-cleaning behavior.

Taking into consideration the fact that this project can be used in textile industries and in the production of self-cleaning surfaces, the researchers will synthesize in their future projects the nanocomposites of titanium dioxide and other semi-conductors on various surfaces to study their photocatalytic properties.

## Antique Gabbeh & Kilim Exhibited in ECI

The exhibition of antique Gabbeh & Kilim and Modern Art kicked off during a ceremony held at ECI Headquarters on January 14, 2014 which was attended by Iftikhar Husain Arif, President of the ECO Cultural Institute, Dulatali Hatamov, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan, Fadi Hajali, Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon and a group of art enthusiasts.

Emphasizing on introducing the art, culture, civilization and

literature of the peoples of the ECO region as a priority of the Institute, the President of ECI said: "Inhabitants of this region share so many cultural, civilizational and especially artistic commonalities. Down the ages, peoples of each part of this vast area have tried to reproduce their treasured traditions within the spirit of their precious artworks. Among these artworks, the floor coverings, art of which date back to antiquity, enjoy a unique position in the everyday life of all the strata of the society."

Turaj Jooleh, an author and researcher on carpet, addressing the ancient art of carpet weaving in the region, said: "The art of weaving is one of the most popular, widespread arts and Kilim was the first Oriental artwork displayed in Western exhibitions. He referred to Germany as the leading country in recognizing Oriental Kilim and Gabbeh and said: "German artists have taken advantage of Oriental Kilim designs in their modern paintings." Pouya Ariyanpour, a contemporary artist, explored the similarities between the designs in Oriental and Western artworks and stated that: "Oriental art has an unpretentious feature, not seen in the Western art."

## Experts predict economic growth for Iran

Some international organizations predicted economic growth in Iran after the country and the P5+1 Group reached an agreement over Tehran's nuclear program.

A while ago, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its first regular assessment of Iran after more than two years predicted a positive growth in country's economy before the end of 2015. The foreign companies from time to time voice their intention to resume their activity especially in Iran's energy sector. Furthermore, the parliamentary delegations and high-ranking officials of several European countries visited Iran to discuss possible investments in the country.



## **CEMATEX continues to promote Research and Education with grant to institutes participating at ITMA 2015**

### **Grant to subsidise at least 50 per cent of exhibition booth cost**

The European Committee of Textile Machinery Manufacturers, CEMATEX, has announced that it will provide a grant to all participants of the Research & Education Pavilion at ITMA 2015. Charles Beauduin, President of CEMATEX, explained; "Investments in research and development, as well as education and training, are extremely important if the textile and garment industry is to stay ahead of the technology curve. Due to strong response and positive feedback following our initiative at ITMA 2011, we have decided to continue to provide the grant to pavilion participants at ITMA 2015."

He added, "We are inviting even more institutions to leverage on the ITMA platform to showcase their projects, capabilities and programmes, and these institutions will be able to enjoy discounts of at least 50 per cent of their booth cost."

The ITV Institute of Textile Technology and Process Engineering Denkendorf, Germany, is among the first to support ITMA 2015. Its director, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Götz T. Gresser, said: "As Europe's leading and largest textile research centre, our research projects span across the entire textile production and supply chain. ITMA attracts a great number of leading industry players from all sectors. Hence, we see the synergy to collaborate with ITMA 2015 as the ideal platform to network and showcase our complete spectrum of textile research and services."

### **Knowledge exchange hub @ ITMA 2015**

The R&E Pavilion at ITMA 2015 will continue to provide outstanding opportunities to research organisations and higher institutions of learning to share their R&D achievements, as well as current and future projects with the industry. In addition, the pavilion will feature a Speakers Platform for participating institutes to share their latest knowledge and projects.

Prof. Kunihiro Hamada, Dean of Shinshu University, Faculty of Textile Science and Technology, enthused: "We applaud ITMA's continuous focus on research, education and training to ensure the sustainable development of the textile and garment industry. We participated in the ITMA 2011 Speakers Platform which provided us with a unique opportunity to engage with the industry members and we look forward to participating again in ITMA 2015."

A technical committee is being formed to select presentations

for the Speakers Platform. More details will be released shortly. In the meantime, organisations keen to participate in the ITMA 2015 Research & Education Pavilion or apply for the grant can visit [www.itma.com](http://www.itma.com) or [emailapplication@itma.com](mailto:emailapplication@itma.com).

The Research & Education (R&E) pavilion provides an excellent platform for ITMA visitors to keep abreast of the latest research projects on garments, home textiles as well as technical textiles and nonwovens.

The pavilion was a major feature at the last ITMA exhibition in Barcelona, Spain, in 2011. It received overwhelming support from the industry. A total of 48 exhibitors from 20 countries took part in the pavilion, which also saw the debut of The European Textile Research & Education Pavilion. The Speakers Platform attached to the pavilion attracted 29 international speakers from 10 countries.

According to Jeroen Vits, Secretary General of SYMATEX (Belgium) who chaired the ITMA 2011 R&E Committee, there was strong participation from research organisations from around the world. The pavilion had the support of AUTEK, the Association of Universities for Textiles, which has 32 members from 24 countries, and TEXTRANET - European Network of Textile Research Organisations. A memorandum of understanding was also signed with EURATEX – the European Apparel and Textile Confederation - to formalise a stronger collaboration in fields such as research, technological development and innovations.

ITMA 2015 will be held from 12 to 19 November 2015 at Fiera Milano Rho in Milan Italy. Owned by CEMATEX, ITMA is the world's largest textile and garment technology showcase, which has been held since 1951. The last ITMA exhibition was held in Barcelona, Spain, in 2011. It featured 1,355 exhibitors from 45 countries, visitorship of 100,067 from 140 countries and some 50 delegations from 27 countries.

### **About CEMATEX & ITMA**

The European Committee of Textile Machinery Manufacturers (CEMATEX) comprises national textile machinery associations from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. It is the owner of ITMA and ITMA ASIA. Considered the 'Olympics' of textile machinery exhibitions, ITMA has a 64-year history of displaying the latest in machinery and software for every single work process of textile making. It is held every four years in Europe.