

In Ethiopia, several major foreign companies have invested in the textile and clothing industry and a number of high profile brand names have started sourcing apparel from the country, including: UK-based George at Asda (part of the USA-based company Walmart), Primark and Tesco; Sweden-based H&M (Hennes & Mauritz); USA-based Phillips-Van Heusen (PVH); and Germany-based Tchibo.

Also, several brands and retailers are reportedly in the process of setting up offices in the country, including Marks & Spencer from the UK, VF Corporation from the USA, and the Inditex brand Zara from Spain.

The increases in investment and sourcing from the country are reflected in employment and export figures. Between 2010/11 and 2013/14, apparel industry employment in Ethiopia more than doubled to 11,716 people, while textile and apparel export earnings rose from US\$12.6 mn to US\$111 mn.

In Kenya, as many as 46 apparel manufacturing industrial projects were approved by Kenya Industrial Estates in 2013. This was a record level and was more than double the annual average of 19 projects approved for the period 2009-12.

Furthermore, in 2014 delegations from several large companies interested in sourcing from Kenya visited the country. Among these companies were CherryField Sesby of Turkey, Li & Fung of Hong Kong and Phillips-Van Heusen (PVH) of the USA.

However, neither country has managed to create an internationally competitive cotton, textile and apparel value chain – mainly because domestic supplies of raw cotton, capital and skills are insufficient.

In order to trigger a major shift of apparel orders from Asia to Kenya and Ethiopia, therefore, there would need to be a significant transfer of technology and management knowhow, and an influx of foreign direct investment (FDI) on a massive scale.

Shima Seiki to host private exhibition in France

The French subsidiary of Japanese flat knitting machine manufacturer Shima Seiki, is hosting a private exhibition at its main office in Courbevoie near Paris from March 24-26, 2015.

Shima Seiki will show its flagship MACH2X series with SlideNeedles mounted on four needlebeds and the SWG-N series compact Wholegarment knitting machine.

It will also display the SRY123LP with loop pressers that produce unique knitwear with woven textures and the SCG122SN coarse gauge machine.

Visitors to the private show will also be able to see its new SVR series workhorse machine that has become the new industry benchmark.

Shima Seiki is offering demonstration on the SDS-ONE APEX3 3D design system that is at the core of the company's "Total Knitting System" concept.

According to a Shima Seiki press release, with comprehensive support of all aspects throughout the knit supply chain, APEX3 integrates knit production into one smooth and efficient workflow. "Especially effective is APEX3's capability to improve on the planning process with virtual sampling," it adds.

"Photo-realistic simulation capability minimizes the need for sample-making, effectively reducing time, material and cost from the sampling process," the knitting machine producer notes. (AR)

European fabric manufacturers are applying new techniques to achieve greater sustainability

A number of new technical processes are being deployed by European fabric manufacturers in order to achieve greater environmental sustainability. Manufacturers are also offering fabrics in natural colours.

The industry is increasingly conscious of the need for processes which are more environmentally sustainable, and many new processes and techniques are being directed towards this end.

One serious issue is the profligate use of water in textile manufacturing. And one potential solution which manufacturers have been adopting is the use of digital printing, which is a water-free process.

Another development is the use of plasma technology for fabric finishing, which – as well as leading to a reduction in the use of water – helps to reduce the amount of chemicals employed and consumes little energy. Also, there is no waste matter to dispose of. Moreover, the use of plasma technology results in an improvement in the fabric and its performance without changing the fabric's key natural properties.

The creativity and inventiveness shown by European fabric manufacturers through the application of new techniques and processes – combined with their craftsmanship and imagination – has resulted in a whole new textile aesthetic. One consequence of this is that buyers have been increasing their sourcing of fabric in Europe in recent seasons.

However, the European industry continues to have problems as the perceived pick-up in business appears to be confined to the top end of the luxury market.



year, along with new cafés and eateries mean a much wider choice for both exhibitors and visitors.

“As the first digital wide format and speciality printing event of 2016, exhibitors will maximise the opportunity to use FESPA Digital as a launch pad for digital devices that will address speciality printing markets,” he noted.

FESPA said its commitment to digital is stronger than ever as it continues to reinvest back into the exhibition and the global print community.

“FESPA Digital 2016 will once again celebrate the endless opportunities with digital print through industry leading exhibitors, seminars, workshops and networking opportunities,” the organiser too noted. (AR)

Stäubli textile machinery for technical fabrics at Techtextil 2015

Stäubli, the leading manufacturer of high-speed textile machinery, will showcase two machines for the production process of technical textiles at the upcoming Techtextil exhibition for technical textiles and nonwovens that takes place from 4-7 March 2015 in Frankfurt. After decades of experience as a supplier of shedding solutions for weaving machines, weaving preparation systems, and carpet weaving systems in the traditional textile industry, Stäubli continued its efforts in research and development to extend its product range.

The company now offers textile machinery dedicated to the production of technical textiles that is said to feature great performance characteristics, such as high reliability and flexibility.

The versatile Unival 100 is a single-end control Jacquard machine that is said to offer advantages for the production of sophisticated technical textiles, such as automotive and aeronautic textiles, technical textiles in the sports, industrial, medical sectors, and new fabric constructions, even with glass fibre, carbon, and Kevlar.

The MAGMA T12 is a warp tying machine for technical yarn ties monofilaments, coarse multi-filaments, PP ribbons, bast fibres, coarse staple fibres, and many other fibre types. It has been developed for universal application ranging from coarse technical yarns to medium yarn-count range. Its rigid design includes an optical double-end detection system. The company will also exhibit a selection of technical fabrics that have been produced in conjunction with Stäubli products, such as dobbies, Jacquard machines, warp drawing-in, and tying equipment.

DuPont & Adidas enter agreement to make football cleats

DuPont Protection Technologies, the global science and engineering innovation company that provides sustainable solutions and services to agriculture, nutrition, and apparel markets, and Adidas Group from North America, have signed a multi-year trademark license agreement for the use of DuPont Kevlar fibre and Dare Bigger trademarks, a new brand by DuPont, in football cleats.

Adidas recently previewed a limited edition line of cleats that incorporate DuPont Kevlar fibre, and will be launching the full line later this year. Adidas has selected the iconic brand to reinforce the plates in the cleats because of its lightweight strength and durability, DuPont informs.

Kevlar fibre is lightweight, extraordinarily strong and flame resistant. The use of Kevlar has been extended to everything from fire fighter and industrial protective clothing to vehicles, fibre optic cables, mining belts, and commercial aircraft and city roads. Kevlar fibre also is used in many consumer products such as mobile phones, tires, sporting apparel and equipment. McGillis, senior director for Adidas Football said, “Adidas Football is always looking to balance performance and protection. We build the lightest cleats in the industry to make every player on the field faster. DuPont Kevlar fibre optimizes both player safety and the lightweight playability of the adizero 5-Star x with Kevlar and the Freak x with Kevlar.”

In honour of the military force, Adidas recently unveiled the ‘STAND FREAK x Kevlar Black History Month limited edition’ cleat shoes.

Adidas is a global designer, developer, and marketer of athletic footwear, apparel and accessories with the mission to be the leading sports brand in the world.

DuPont Protection Technologies is a leader in technologies and products that protect people, the environment, and critical assets worldwide.

Major brands are beginning to source from Ethiopia and Kenya

Major brands are beginning to source from Ethiopia and Kenya. Such interest is believed to stem from rising wages in China, labour unrest and violence in Cambodia, and ineffective compliance with rules and regulations in various countries in South Asia – leading to fires and, in particular, the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh. Also, the governments in Ethiopia and Kenya are creating favourable conditions in order to attract investors.



World Textile News

Dubai to host second edition of ITF for fabric in April

The second edition of the International Textile Fair (ITF), UAE's premier platform for fashion, home textile fabrics, and clothing, would be held from April 26 to 27, 2015, at the Dubai international exhibition and conference centre.

This season, ITF is collaborating with distinguished fashion and trend experts to support regional designers with exclusive workshops and seminars on trend and colour forecasts for Autumn Winter 2016. The format is beneficial to design students and younger designers who can benefit from information otherwise confined to global textile shows.

ITF 2015 has teamed up with the prestigious colour and trend-forecasting agencies, Pantone and Nelly Rodi respectively, offering updated industry insight to visitors of the show. The organizers also plan on an extremely interactive fair with creative zones placed within the show area featuring modest fashion designs and wearable art, according to reports.

This will be an exclusive trade only event that will showcase pre-collection autumn/winter highlights. ITF 2015 Dubai aims to attract various agents in the industry to make them meet and greet as many suppliers as possible. It serves as a platform for agents to conduct B2B meetings with textile traders all across the world and create better business relations.

The trade event is expected to attract international large-scale textile producers and distributors to cater to the booming regional textile requirements. This one-of-a-kind platform would allow the Middle Eastern designers and garment retailers to access some of the largest global manufacturers of fabrics and prints. ITF 2015 would bring together over 200 exhibitors from Italy, Portugal, Turkey, India, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, and other international markets.

ITF's show director, Mr. Dilip Nihalani said, "Shows like ITF are held regularly in cities like Paris, Milan and New York and it gives us great pride to launch a show of this calibre in Dubai. The show injects additional zeal to the regional textile sector, as international players build new ties and establish business alliances with local and regional players."

UAE is the world's fourth largest trading centre of fashion and apparel, with the presence of about 150 apparel manufacturing companies that account for about 5.5 per cent of the world's annual textile and clothing sales. (GK)

FESPA Digital returns to Amsterdam in 2016

FESPA Digital 2016 marks its tenth year anniversary by returning to Amsterdam RAI from March 8–11, 2016 and will have sections like FESPA Fabric, Printeriors and European Sign Expo.

"Over the last ten years, FESPA Digital has firmly established its role as one of the most creative and inspirational exhibition platforms within the wide format digital printing industry," FESPA said in a press release.

"After careful deliberation with all stakeholders, the decision to host FESPA Digital 2016 in Amsterdam was an easy one to make," Roz McGuinness, divisional director at FESPA said.

"Not only is it very accessible for a visitor from Benelux, Germany and Northern Europe, but Schiphol is also one of the top five European airports, with routes to Europe, Asia and the Americas," he added.

The Amsterdam RAI has seen significant improvements since FESPA Digital was hosted there in 2009, with more new hotels in close proximity to the exhibition centre.

A brand new Congress Centre, which is due to open later this



A number of ministers and a group of officials from the private sector will accompany Rouhani, Iran's IRNA news agency reported on March 2. Rouhani and his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow are scheduled to sign documents on expanding cooperation in economic, political, and cultural areas.

In Feb. 2014, Iranian minister of industry, mining and trade Mohammad-Reza Nematzadeh said Iran and Turkmenistan have the capacity to double their trade exchanges.

In a meeting with the visiting Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov in Tehran, Nematzadeh said the two countries can raise the current \$5-billion trade transaction to \$10 billion.

The Islamic Republic exports machinery, construction materials, sedans, buses, food stuff, agricultural and petrochemical products, electrical products and home appliances to Turkmenistan, and imports natural gas, electricity, textiles and agricultural products from its northern neighbor.

The Persian carpet is weaving its way back to the top in global markets after giving ground under sanctions

Carpet exports rose 14 percent to \$314 million in the 10 months to February against the same period the year before, head of the National Iranian Carpet Center Hamid Kargar said.

The year 2013 marked the worst in recent decades for sales of the Iranian rug whose fame transcends all borders.

Demand wilted as the labyrinth of Western sanctions kept prospective dealers out. Kargar says the former government's policies also played a role after Iran unveiled a national subsidy program. Under the plan, every Iranian is meted out a monthly allowance to replace subsidies on food and energy.

"The decision has destructive long-term impact on carpets, one being direct payments of money which has retired many rug knitters, especially in villages," Kargar says. With the easing of the sanctions, the industry however is gradually finding its boom and beating foreign competitors. "Right now, China has bowed out of the race in the handmade carpet industry so that it has turned to one of the best destinations and the eighth importer of Iranian rugs," Kargar told.

Iranian carpets are known for their exotic natural colors and exquisitely intricate patterns and the craft has a long history in the ancient country.

Annual sales hit about one billion dollars before the US and Europe tightened sanctions. The US was the largest market for Persian rugs before the penalties went into force.

The absence of Iranian products also took its toll on the trade as cheap competitors from China, Pakistan, Turkey, Armenia and elsewhere moved in.

Minister Urges Implementation of Deals between Iran, Belarus

Iranian Trade Minister Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh underlined good relations between Tehran and Minsk, and called for the implementation of the agreements signed by the two countries.

Addressing the Iran-Belarus Joint Commission, Nematzadeh said Iran is ready to extend medical services to patients from Belarus.

The minister further noted that the ground is prepared for the two countries to trade in medicines and medical instruments.

"In the past three decades, those involved in economic and cultural sectors of the two countries have sought to boost ties. Iran and Belarus have signed favorable deals in various fields and this can pave the way to further promote constructive collaboration between them," he added.

Urging the Iranian private and public sectors to take up the opportunity, Nematzadeh said, "Some of the joint ventures have already become operational while others are in the process of completion. The presence of Iranian companies in Belarus indicates that Iran is extremely eager to expand mutual cooperation. This has also been underlined by Iranian officials."

"Although both countries are politically and economically independent, it seems that the intensification of some of the Western sanctions, particularly those pertaining to the banking sector, in the past few years, have created a number of problems to increasing trade ties," he said.

Last month, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Belarusian counterpart Vladimir Makei in a meeting in Minsk underlined the need for bolstering and reinvigorating bilateral ties, specially in economic fields.

During the meeting in the Belarusian capital today, Zarif and Makei reiterated that enhancement of economic and trade relations should take place in pace with the political ties.

The Iranian foreign minister pointed to the Iran-Belarus relations, and said, "Iran and Belarus have always shared an understanding on the international scene and will continue to support each other in the future."

He noted that Iran and Belarus have always had good political and economic relations, adding that the bilateral ties are expanding at a good pace now.

Zarif pointed to the Iran-Belarus economic relations, and said, "The two countries will hold a meeting of their joint economic and trade commission in the near future to discuss broadening of mutual cooperation."

The Belarusian foreign minister, for his part, said Minsk and Tehran rapidly developed their political relations in 2014, and added, "The value of trade exchanges between Belarus and Iran hit \$130 billion in 2014."

Iran Textile News

Iran 7th in world nanotechnology ranking

The secretary of Iran Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC) says the country has ranked first among Muslim countries and 7th in the world in science production in the field of nanotechnology.

While commenting on the visit by Iran's Leader to the exhibition on Nanotechnology achievements during which he had expressed his satisfaction with the developments in the field and hoped for a positive impact of the nano productions on people's everyday lives, Saeed Sarkar, the secretary of INIC maintained that Iran has ranked first among Muslim countries and seventh in the world by producing more than four percent of the world's articles and 42 percent of science production in the Muslim countries.

Sarkar noted that Iran has the fifth ranking in the world in registration of international standards for nanotechnology.

"As of today, about 31 percent of all inventions registered in Iran are related to nanotechnology but the increase in the cost of international registration has dropped our rating from 26 registered inventions in 2011 to 11 registered inventions in 2014," said Sarkar.

According to him, Chinese officials have asserted Iran has been successful in utilizing nanotechnology in its industries and expressed eagerness to cooperate in Iranian projects; "in a joint workshop with Chinese industries, we will present 30 nanotechnologies there in the near future." Iran's seventh ranking in the world gains more weight when one considered that in 2005 the country stood 35th in the world in terms of scientific output in nanotechnology but moved up to 7th place in the world in 2013.

The Islamic Republic established the INIC in 2003 to promote the nation's international ranking among the countries enjoying cutting-edge nanotechnology. Iran has made considerable growth

in nanotechnology over the recent years and the country produces a wide range of nano-materials.

Nanotechnology is believed to be able to create many new materials and devices with a vast range of applications, such as in medicine, electronics, biomaterials and energy production.

Iran exporting carpet to 80 countries worldwide

The Chairman of Iran National Carpet Center has said the exports of the current year have been improved compared with those in few recent years. Hamid Kargar who was attending the opening ceremony of Yazd national carpet exhibition on Wednesday said that Iran's exports to more than 80 countries exceeded \$235mn, showing 21 per cent growth in terms of value. "Germany, Sweden, Japan, and the UAE are the main destinations of Iranian carpet; Yazd has a good place in carpet exports, with Germany as the main destination of the carpets woven in the province," he told.

Kargar expressed hopes that holding exhibitions would contribute positively to publicizing carpet producers and find international markets for exports.

Yazd exhibition of hand-woven carpets will be held February 18-23 in Yazd Permanent Fairground. The exhibition will host 13 carpet producers in 87 pavilions in an area of 2,000 square meters. The public would visit the exhibition 16-22 hours local time.

Iranian president due in Turkmenistan for economic talks

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani will pay a two-day visit to Turkmenistan, starting on March 10, to discuss ways to expand bilateral economic ties.



Reseda Binder (Tarrissan Sanat Co.)
RIETER (draw frame; Mr. Amin Taleghani)
RIETER (Rotor spinning; Mr. Amin Taleghani)
SAURER Schlafhorst (Omnicolor S.A.)
Schönherr - Stäubli group (M. YARAGHI EXPORT & IMPORT)
STOLL (Nobaf Persian Co.Ltd)
Texpa (ATC, Armin Textile Company)
Thies (Iranstrick Textile Engineering & Trading Co.)
Trützschler Card Clothing (Tarrissan Sanat Co.)
Trützschler Nonwovens & Man-Made Fibers (Iranstrick Textile Engineering & Trading Co.)
Trützschler Spinning (Tarrissan Sanat Co.)
Welker Spintech (Arya Machine Arman Gostar Co. Ltd.)
Xetma Vollenweider (Iranstrick Textile Engineering & Trading Co. for Textile and Parsian PolyTex Textile Trading & Consulting Co. for Carpet)

About VDMA

VDMA German Engineering Association represents over 3,100 mostly medium-sized companies in the capital goods industry, making it the largest industry association in Europe. The association represents the shared financial, technical and scientific interests of the mechanical engineering industry, especially with respect to national and international authorities and business groups. For the purposes of safeguarding of their interests, members are entitled to instruction, advice and assistance.

The German mechanical engineering industry is an international leader – in 25 of 31 comparable subsectors, German firms are among the top three providers in the world, and global market leader in as many as half.

Mechanical engineering is Germany's biggest industrial employer with 1,011,000 workers (October 2014). It develops and produces key technologies for the global market. The export ratio is 76 percent. With revenue of EUR 212 billion (2014), it is one of the leading branches of industry in Germany.

VDMA's membership covers the entire process chain – in the field of mechanical engineering including associated tools and components, of process, production, manufacturing, drive-train and automation engineering, office and information technology, software, and product-related services, i.e. from components to plants, from system suppliers and system integrators through to service providers. The association reflects the diverse customer-supplier relationships along the whole value chain and promotes sector-specific and overarching cooperation.

VDMA is divided into 15 cross-sector departments, branch offices in Berlin and Brussels, liaison offices in Brazil, China, India, Japan and Russia, 39 trade associations and labour groups, international committees and forums, six state associations and several service organisations.

About VDMA Textile Machinery Association

Around 120 of the most important manufacturers of textile machinery and accessories from all sectors of the trade are affiliated within the VDMA Textile Machinery Association. The largest parts of the companies are medium-sized firms and stand for approximately 90 per cent of the entire sector volume. In 2013, the branch exported textile machinery worth about 3.1 billion Euros.

The association's main activities are economic and technical representation of the branch's interests, exchange of experiences as well as services such as statistics, observation of significant markets and reporting on the situation in the textile industries throughout the world, active support regarding political decisions relating to exhibitions, regular circular letters containing any information important to the member companies, and public relations. Since the textile machinery sector is an export driven branch, sales support is a key topic. The textile machinery association is very active in organizing symposia / conferences in major textile markets. On the occasion of these conferences German companies present in lectures their latest technologies to high-ranking technical experts and decision makers from the respective textile industry. Great importance is attached to the manufacturer sourcing service. In the technical field, emphases are – amongst others – placed on information regarding statutory provisions for machine safety, standardisation, and joint research.

Question: How would you describe the advantages of machinery from a VDMA member company?

Mrs Brückner: The advantages become evident if one takes a look in a product life cycle of a machine and the accumulating costs. Besides the costs for acquisition, installation and start-up there are many expense factors to examine: Costs for maintenance, service and repair - but also for energy and operating, production waste and so on. Due to low maintenance charges, reliability in production as well as energy efficiency the initial investment for a German textile machine pays off after a few years.

Question: How is the current performance of German textile machinery exports to Iran ?

Mrs Brückner: German Technology still has an excellent reputation also in Iran. In 2014, Germany exported textile machinery to Iran worth 37 million EUR (+ 170 %). These figures as well as the high participation of 35 VDMA-member companies shows that our industry successfully revives the business relations with Iran. Due to the international sanctions against Iran, it is still difficult but not impossible to make business within the legal framework. The conference is a clear sign towards the Iranian textile and carpet industry that our industry is willing for further cooperation even in this economically difficult situation in Iran.

Question: Last question: Is it still possible to register for the event?

Mrs Brückner: We warmly welcome all decision makers from textile and carpet-related manufacturers in Iran to attend the VDMA conference. Interested persons can still register via internet for the event and all technology lectures they are interested in. B2B meetings can also be arranged on the website:

http://www.germantechnology-iraniantextile.de/p_registration.php

We are looking forward to our visit to Iran and to build-up new contacts and to deepen existing ones.

Participating companies (and their agents) in alphabetical order:

- technology lecture/presentation on 21 April (blue)
- technology lecture/presentation on 22 April (black)

ANDRITZ Nonwoven Division

Autefa Solutions Germany (Iranstrick Textile Engineering & Trading Co. for Nonwovens and Textile Machines Co. for woolen technology)

Brückner Textile Technologies (PEA Power Electronic Arjan Co.)

DIENES Apparatebau (Behfar Edman Co.)

DILO (PEA Power Electronic Arjan Co.)

Lindauer DORNIER (PEA Power Electronic Arjan Co.)

Erhardt und Leimer (Talon Industrial Development Co.)

FONG'S Europe (FARATEK Ltd. Co. and PEA Power Electronic Arjan Co. for Xorella-brand)

Groz-Beckert (Nobaf Persian Co., Ltd.)

August Herzog Maschinenfabrik (KERESM Co.)

HEUSCH (Jame Saran Pars Co. Ltd.)

INTERSPARE (Texofin Co.)

Mahlo (Farzhin Co.)

Christian Maier (Paralog Engineering Co. Ltd.)

Mayer & Cie (Iranstrick Textile Engineering & Trading Co.)

Karl MAYER (SULTEX Iran for warp preparation and GUIV FAR for warp knitting)

Merz Maschinenfabrik

A. Monforts (Iranstrick Textile Engineering & Trading Co.)

Neuenhauser Maschinenbau (Tarrissan Sanat Co.)

Oerlikon Barmag (SINATEX - Ayande Nigar Sanat Co.)

Oerlikon Neumag (FIBRIL FZE)

Pleva (Ava Persia Textile Engineering (ATE))

Reiners + Fürst (Behrisan Co.)





press
release

VDMA: GERMAN TECHNOLOGY TO MEET IRANIAN TEXTILE AND CARPET

Interview with Mrs Regina Brückner, Chairperson,
VDMA Textile Machinery Association, Germany



Question: Mrs Brückner, the technological VDMA-conference themed “German technology meets Iranian Textile” is scheduled for 21st to 22nd April in the Parsian Evin Hotel, Tehran. Which feedback did VDMA receive so far from the Iranian textile industry?

Mrs Brückner: Until 27 February 2015, 340 participants have registered for the event (100 delegates from 35 German companies and their agents plus 240 visitors). For the whole conference we expect 300 to 400 Iranian trade visitors for each day. It will be for sure a top event which will help the Iranian textile and carpet industry to improve their competitiveness. Let me quote Association of Alborz State Textile Industries in this context: “This conference will be so helpful for Iran textile industry manufacturers through introducing new technologies and textile machineries from Germany. We are so pleased to have German textile experts who are welcome to our country.”

Question: What is the target group and what can visitors expect from this conference?

Mrs Brückner: The event targets on decision makers and experts of the Iranian textile and carpet-related industry, e. g. mill owners, managing directors, technical management, quality and maintenance manager. 35 leading textile machinery and components manufacturers from Germany will present practice-oriented technology topics along the entire textile chain in two parallel sessions: spinning (natural and man-made fiber), twisting, circular and flat knitting, warp knitting, weaving, nonwoven finishing and dyeing machinery, measurement and control equipment and garment technology.

Question: How will the framework program look like?

Mrs Brückner: Via the conference website visitors can arrange B2B-meetings for those time slots they do not intend to follow a lecture. The meetings will take place in a separate meeting area in the hotel. The networking will be also supported by a conference dinner on 21 April 2015 in a relaxed atmosphere.

Question: Sustainability has become a competitive factor. Is the conference going to address this issue, too?

Mrs Brückner: The low oil price of the last months has distracted attention away from energy costs. But this price level will not last forever and sooner or later volatile prices for energy as well as for commodities will be on the top of the agenda of textile producers again. Therefore energy and material efficiency will be important cross-topics that will enrich the program for instance in an interactive discussion.