

## Digital textile fair Avanprint

Avanprint, the trade fair for digital printing solutions, running in parallel with Texworld Paris and Apparel Sourcing begins from February 15-18, 2016 in Paris, with WTIN as the knowledge partner.

"Avanprint will showcase innovative solutions and the latest developments in digital textile printing, where high-tech and creativity are entering an equal partnership," a press release from Messe Frankfurt said.

"The principal aim is to satisfy the need for meetings and exchanges between designers and product managers encouraged by the overall innovation which digital printing techniques provide," it added.

According to Messe Frankfurt, digital printing can slash the time from development to delivery, enhance stock management, improve resupply reaction time, offers more innovative design potential and offer sustainable production. Michael Scherpe, CEO of Messe Frankfurt France said, "The digital printing market has a bright future and will produce innovative industrial solutions to the textile, fashion and accessory sectors."

Digital printing has two advantages which respond to major current ecological and economic concerns as it allows water consumption to be cut drastically," Christophe Bulliard, marketing director at Sensient Technologies said.

"Textile printing used to require 20 litres of water per kg, while digital printing allows use to be reduced ten times over, to two litres of water per kg, using technology developed by Sensient," he added.

"There is no need, then, to go far into the country for a water supply, allowing a resumption of local urban production on an industrial scale," Bulliard stated.

Clothing now accounts for 42 per cent of the digital printing market and 650 million sq. metres were produced in 2015 and the forecast for 2019 is 1.6 billion sq. metres.

The ink price per square metre can account for between 0.4 and 1.2 per cent of the total price, which means that digital printing costs in clothing production are very economical.

## Turks textile face massive losses due to Russia sanction

Laleli, located in Istanbul famous for clothing exports has lots of stores which are mostly textile stores where very high quality and cheap price textile are found. Due to decline in the rouble's value in the past year, the traders had already lost 60

percent of the revenue. Not only that the slump made Turkish goods more expensive for Russian buyer, said the head of Laleli Industry and Business Association, Giyasettin Eyyupkoca.

Moreover, the Turkey-Russia tensions since November accounted for another 20% loss, he said, adding that traders would now seek other markets like Iran or African countries such as Ghana.

The traders and shopkeepers complain about the slump in trade since the Russian jet was shot down.

Turkish textiles are not officially included in the Russian sanctions. But exporters feel their goods are subject to an unofficial ban.

## Monforts debuts improved eco-friendly denim finishing

German textile finishing specialist Monforts has made its Monfortex compressive shrinkage ranges for denim finishing even more cost efficient and eco-friendly.

According to a Monforts press release, stretching and skewing functions for the denim fabric can be performed by a modified Thermex Thermo stretch unit.

"This configuration allows fabric speeds of up to 40 metres per minute to be achieved with 14.5 oz per sq. yards denim on the single rubber version," it added.

While a 'double rubber' version comprises two compressive shrinkage units and two felt calenders in line.

"In the 'double rubber' version, together with the innovative Thermex Thermo Stretch, fabric speeds of up to 80 metres per minute can be achieved with 14.5 oz per sq. yard denim," the company explained. On both range versions, the denim fabric is stretched and skewed far more gently than with conventional range combinations.

With the larger diameter of the shrinkage cylinder in combination with the automatic rubber belt grinder, the standard is determined in shrinkage technology for minimum residual shrinkage values and optimum fabric hand.

"With a quick-change facility available only from Monforts, the shrinkage belt can be changed in the shortest possible time and standstill times are absolutely minimised," it stated.

The proven, energy saving, Eco-Applicator soft coating process from Monforts for the application of liquors and functional chemicals is now also available for denim fabric applications.

The Eco-Applicator offers significant energy savings with reduced liquor application, while the multi-functional and multi-purpose process ensures the lowest energy input for consecutive drying to its minimal liquor application.

and garment industry supply chain, including spinning, weaving, knitting, dyeing, printing, finishing, testing, washing, embroidery, sewing and other related equipment in 1,160 booths.

Well-known brands such as Mayer & Cie, Pai Lung, Santoni, Shima Seiki, Stoll, Terrot, Picanol, M&R, CTMTC, Fong's, Groz-Beckert, Karl Mayer, LMW, Rieter, Saurer, Tajima and Toyota will take part in the exhibition.

## LMW showed innovative spinning technologies at ITMA

At the recently concluded ITMA 2015, the biggest textile machinery manufacturer in India, LMW Ltd displayed the latest technologies in spinning which were well received by the global visitors to its stall.

"Among the machines was the LC636 card, which offers high productivity at uncompromised quality levels," a LMW press release stated.

Following the philosophy of well carded is half spun; the LC636 is a 1.5 metre width card with production of up to 250 kgs per hour. Additionally, it has the highest active carding area of 1.95 sq. metres and highest active cylinder area of 3.95 sq. metres.

LMW was the first to launch world's fastest comber LK69 and which has been successfully working across the globe at 600 rpm. At the machine displayed at ITMA, the company introduced additional features like inverter controlled main drive and automated draft setting by hank input through display to enhance flexibility.

Another technology on show, the autoleveller drawframe LDAZ is ergonomically designed and is equipped with Duo digital autolevelling delivers quality sliver with CV 1m less than 0.4 per cent.

"The 4 over 3 drafting system with shortest delivery distance ensures consistency and higher efficiency and the inverter controlled main drive facilitates speed settings through display," the company said.

The compact ring frame LRJ9 SX with 1,824 spindles is designed to cater to customer's requirement of ease of producing wide ranging counts and value added yarns.

These value added yarns include compact, slub, multi count, multi twist and core yarn with various fibres with the unique change gearless drafting drive and a doff time of less than 100 seconds ensures higher machine utilisation.

It also meets futuristic green initiatives with low decibel spindles and lower power consumption through energy efficient motors, drives and patented inverter driven dual suction system.

LMW components such as spindles & rings, cots & aprons, top rollers, top arm and grippers too were on display along with

various yarn and fabric samples that were spun from LMW machinery.

## President Obama to open HANNOVER MESSE 2016

President Barack Obama will join German Chancellor Angela Merkel to open HANNOVER MESSE 2016. Obama will appear at the fair's official opening ceremony on Sunday, April 24 and is also scheduled for the traditional opening tour of the fair with Merkel, Germany on Monday morning.

HANNOVER MESSE 2016 will attract approximately 6,500 exhibitors and 200,000 visitors from around the world. President Obama's participation is the first time in the history of HANNOVER MESSE that a sitting U.S. President will attend. President Obama's participation offers a unique opportunity to showcase American innovation and ingenuity and to highlight the United States as a prime investment destination. While in Germany, the President will address efforts to advance negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. President Obama's visit to HANNOVER MESSE marks his fifth visit to Germany, underscoring the enduring political and economic ties between Americans and Germans. President Obama's visit also highlights the U.S. commitment to trade and investment as drivers of job creation and economic growth on both sides of the Atlantic.

"President Obama's participation sends a special signal about HANNOVER MESSE's international appeal," says Jochen Köckler, member of the managing board at Deutsche Messe AG. "And the timing is perfect: in the midst of its reindustrialization the United States has become a very attractive business partner for industry. For German machinery and plant manufacturers, the USA is once again the number one market."

For years HANNOVER MESSE has been the leader in promoting the digitalization of manufacturing under the rubric of Industrie 4.0. Modern manufacturing and energy technologies are core themes at the exhibition: with the motto "Integrated Industry – Discover Solutions", HANNOVER MESSE informs international trade visitors step by step how to transform their production facilities into smart factories for the digital age and how to build intelligent, networked systems for energy generation, distribution and storage. The United States is Partner Country at HANNOVER MESSE for the first time. Roughly 250 companies from the world's largest economy will present their solutions for networked industry at the Hannover Exhibition Center and meet potential business partners from all over the world.

## Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabric to see many pavilions

To ensure exhibitors effectively meet target buyers and so that buyers can find products, a number of country and region pavilions will feature at Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics—Spring Edition. Over 3,000 exhibitors are expected to participate at Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics which begins from March 16 at the National Exhibition and Convention Center in Shanghai and will occupy a gross area of 156,000 sq. metres.

Among the attract's is SalonEurope, a premium products zone, which will see participation from Europe's top suppliers as well as country pavilions and the Milano Unica Pavilion.

"The Premium Wool Zone will showcase high-end wool and cashmere fabrics from France, Italy the UK and elsewhere," a press release from the organiser Messe Frankfurt said.

Another is Verve for Design, where the industry's best studios from Europe and Asia will present their creative pattern design ideas.

Beyond Denim will feature the latest in denim products and trends, while at All About Sustainability, the entire textile sustainability supply chain will be on offer along with a display area and an educational zone.

"The Functional Lab is a new area for the Spring Edition which will cater to the fast-growing high-performance activewear market," Messe Frankfurt added.

"Both garment and fashion accessories from China and abroad will be showcased at the Accessories Zone," the organiser informed.

In addition to these areas, group pavilions organised by the industry's leading mills will present the latest innovative products, while domestic exhibitors will once again be grouped by product end-use as well as in various pavilions.

These include the China Bast and Leaf Fibres Textile Association Pavilion, and pavilions from Wujiang Shengze, Huzhou for silk, Haining for warp knits and Hangzhou Xiaoshan, Wuzhou Pingwan and Changle. Fairgoers will also be able to discover next season's trends in the Intertextile Directions Trend Forum, created by experts from NellyRodi Agency, Elementi Moda, Doneger Creative Services and Sachiko Inoue. According to Messe Frankfurt, there are further opportunities for exhibitors and buyers with four other concurrent fairs like Intertextile Shanghai Home Textiles, Yarn Expo Spring, CHIC and PH Value.

## Shima Seiki to hold private exhibition in Hong Kong

Shima Seiki (Hong Kong) Ltd., subsidiary of leading Japanese computerized knitting machine manufacturer Shima Seiki Mfg., Ltd. held a private exhibition in Hong Kong in January.

The Shima CrossTex exhibition presents connectivity as a key theme, and was held in cooperation with several noteworthy suppliers who presented their services at individual booths, offering visitors the opportunity to expand their network portfolio by connecting with businesses upstream of the supply chain.

Featured were the new flagship MACH2XS WHOLEGARMENT knitting machine with SlideNeedles mounted on four needlebeds and spring-type sinkers, as well as the compact SWG-N2 series WHOLEGARMENT knitting machine that offered increased color capacity as well as the capability for producing industrial textiles. SRY123LP features a pair of loop presser beds mounted above a conventional V-shaped needlebed and is capable of producing unique knit fabrics with woven textures as well as technical textiles.

The new SVR workhorse series reseted the industry benchmark for shaping machines in the tradition of Shima Seiki's legendary SES and SSG machines. Also on display was Shima Seiki's P-CAM series multi-ply cutting machine and APEX-T design system for weaving.

Demonstrations was performed on Shima Seiki's SDS-ONE APEX3 3D design system that was at the core of the company's "Total Knitting System" concept. With comprehensive support of all aspects throughout the knit supply chain, APEX3 integrated knit production into one smooth and efficient workflow from yarn development, product planning and design to machine programming, production and even sales promotion. Especially effective was APEX3's capability to improve on the planning process with Virtual Sampling. Photo-realistic simulation capability minimized the need for sample-making, effectively reducing time, material and cost from the sampling process.

## 13th Dhaka International Textile and Garment Machinery Exhibition

The 13th Dhaka International Textile and Garment Machinery Exhibition (DTG 2016) will be held in Bangabandhu International Conference Centre from Jan 28 to 31.

Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), Chan Chao International, and Yorkers Trade and Marketing Service are jointly organising the event.

DTG 2016 will represent more than 1,000 world class leading brands from 32 countries and regions, a media release from the organisers said.

Among the countries are Austria, Bangladesh, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, UK, US, and Vietnam.

They will exhibit machinery covering all processes in whole textile



Texcare hosted 153 exhibitors from 19 countries and regions that showcased a full spectrum of products, solutions and advanced technologies related to laundry, dry cleaning, dyeing, and ironing and textile management systems for industrial and commercial use.

Visiting the show were buyers with different requirements and demands.

Held alongside a portion of the show, the Texcare Forum Asia provided informative sessions that revealed the newest industry and product trends.

Prominent experts and market leaders from renowned research institutes presented on topics covering innovative smart laundry concepts, and cost-saving RFID and ICT technologies. They also covered specific fashion care principles that help achieve high productivity, sustainability and maximum profits.

The next edition of Texcare Asia is scheduled for the fall of 2017 in Shanghai.

## Ten students bag Italian Textile Technology Awards

Ten students studying in various countries were awarded the Italian Textile Technology Awards as part of the promotional activities linked to ITMA Milan 2015.

The award aims to promote knowledge and awareness relating to textile machinery technologies and manufacturing, as well nurturing links between training initiatives and Italy's textile machinery industry.

An ACIMIT press release stated that the textile machinery trade body and the Italian Trade Agency awarded a total of 10 prizes for research in the field of textile production and textile machinery.

Raffaella Carabelli, president of ACIMIT personally gave away the awards to the winning students, while thanking all the professors who assisted in the research projects of these students.

The awards consisted of a trip to Italy, with a visit to ITMA 2015, and the winning students also received a monetary prize.

The awards ceremony took place during a meeting with ACIMIT's member companies on Wednesday 18 November, within the trade fair's premises.

Among the award winners were two students from Ethiopia, Alemayehu Assefa and Aragaw Bizualem Kassie studying at the Ethiopian Institute Textile and Fashion or (EITEX).

Four Indian students, Gupta Anmol Ashok Kumar, Goyal Ojas Ajaykumar, Malu Ujwal Murlidhar and Dalal Parth Alpeshkumar studying at D.K.T.E. Society's Textile and Engineering Institute too bagged the award.

The other two awards were awarded to Natalia Prokhorova and Mariia Sorokovaia studying in the Moscow State University of

Design and Technology (MSUDT) in Russia.

Raffaella Carabelli said, "The 2015 Italian Textile Technology Awards confirm our association's determination to make a vital investment in promoting the future of operators in the textile sector."

## US procurement law hits Indian textile exports'

American legislation for federal procurement, which stipulates sourcing of raw materials from the designated countries or domestic suppliers, is hitting India's textile exports, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) has said.

In a representation to the Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ficci has requested the Government to take up the issue either bilaterally or multilaterally with the US government to resolve the issue amicably.

Indian textile exporters have reported that the buyers or companies based in the US supplying to their government departments and agencies have halted sourcing raw materials from countries like India, which are not part of the General Services Administration (GSA) Schedule Contract, according to an agency report quoting the Ficci representation.

The GSA is responsible for supporting several federal agencies in the US with basic functions, including procurement services.

Pursuant to the Buy American Act, the US federal acquisition process is based on preferential treatment of US-made products. Manufacturers are considered as US products if manufactured domestically and the cost of local components is more than 50 per cent of the overall cost of all components.

Under certain conditions however, the Buy American Act may be waived. The Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (TAA) gives the President authority to waive Buy American Act requirements for certain procurements. So far it has been waived for eligible products in acquisitions covered by the WTO Government Procurement Agreement, some relevant free trade agreements (FTA), as well as for least-developed countries.

As per the TAA, all products listed on the GSA Schedule Contract be manufactured or "substantially transformed" in a "designated country".

The designated countries, according to the GSA Schedule, consist of WTO Government procurement agreement countries, countries having free trade agreement with the US, least developed countries and countries based in the Caribbean-Basin.

As India does not fit into any of these criteria, the US-based buyers have stopped their sourcing from our textile manufacturers immediately, impacting the order books and the production lines of some of the major exporters, Ficci said.





# World Textile News

## Smart textiles from 3D Printing and Graphene

250 years after Manchester created the first industrial revolution in textiles it is happening again, but this time instead of coal and steam, 3D Printing is driving this new mass production industry. Manchester based Tamicare has spent the past decade developing and patenting a unique system to mass produce 3D printed textiles, and their first production line capable of producing up to three million items a year has just gone into operation. The system virtually eliminates waste, and uses environmentally friendly recyclable materials. Founder and CEO Tamar Giloh explained "Our Cosyflex® production system allows 3D printing to be used for mass production for the first time ever. Instead of creating items one at a time, Cosyflex® enables high volume high density production from a small footprint at costs far below traditional manufacturing processes." The company is already attracting attention from major brands who like the idea of being able to print an entire garment or shoe upper in a single process. CTO and co-inventor of the technology Ehud Giloh explained that "sports shoes can require over a hundred individual operations during manufacturing, but Cosyflex® reduces this to three. The same is true for many other complex designs. This allows companies to produce in one location what previously required a complex global supply chain". After signing a multi million dollar agreement with a major sportswear brand the company is now setting its sights on the wearables market. Many current smart textile applications require conductive fibres to be woven into the material or applied to the surface of a finished garment. Cosyflex® allows sensors and wiring to be printed along with the the rest of the garment in a single process. This helps realise a long held dream in the world of

smart textiles, where the garment is the device. To assist with this effort Tamicare is working with technology entrepreneur Tim Harper whose background in graphene, smart textiles and medical devices is helping Tamicare open up new markets. Initial work on printing graphene has shown that it is a highly promising material for applications ranging from medical and fitness monitoring through to smart bandages. Tim Harper commented that "the Cosyflex® system builds a garment layer by layer. Any one of those layers can be textile, polymer, latex or printed electronics allowing us complete freedom in the way we design smart textiles." The addition of graphene inks to the manufacturing process enables the creation of smart textiles and wearable electronics allowing the company to address new and emerging markets in fashion and health. The incorporation of graphene into polymers also allows the creation of high strength lightweight materials by strengthening the entire product or certain sections, with applications in footwear and personal protection equipment.

## Texcare Asia 2015 Attendance Up 20% from Previous Show

Texcare Asia, one of the region's acclaimed trade exhibitions for the international textile care sector, ended its eighth edition on a bright note, say show organizers Messe Frankfurt (Shanghai) Co. Ltd. and the China Light Industry Machinery Association (CLIMA). The biennial show returned to the Shanghai New International Expo Centre in late November. The three-day event—which fell during the Thanksgiving holiday celebrated in the United States—welcomed 10,267 visitors from 54 countries and regions, representing a 20% increase from the 2013 edition.



its neighbors and the whole international community could open unprecedented possibilities of peace for the region, starting from Syria, Yemen, and Iraq.”

## China, Iran to cooperate on hand-made rug

Hamid Kargar, the Head of INCC and Wang Jingping discussed the possible cooperation on introduction of Iranian hand-made carpet, where Kargar believed that carpet could provide better grounds for cultural ties and excellent conditions for both nations to know each other better; “the craft of weaving carpets had spread all over Iran since thousands of years; no city, town, village, and nomadic people would lack the sheer diversity and the richness of natural hues, eye-catching patterns, and intricate design of the native hand-made carpet; the craft had fused with the local rituals and cultural ceremonies of different ethnic groups, and would effectively communicate cultural messages,” he added.

Kargar hailed participation of Iran in Chinlee Shining and the cultural and artistic approach to the event and Iran Day event in the exhibition a good start for cultural cooperation; “As representative of the Iran’s carpet industry, we want to see some expectations fulfilled and issues fixed, including, inter alia, the lack of coordination by Indian and Pakistani participants, the ban on the participation of handicrafts other than carpets, the necessity of physical isolation of hand-made and machine-woven carpet sections, proportionate number of foreign traders invited to the exhibition, proper customs exemptions, and accelerated discharge of carpets from customs when returning Iran,” he emphasized. Chinese official for his part emphasized upon the prestige and fame of Iranian hand-made carpet and its international status, and called for improved cultural cooperation between Iran and China; he provided the meeting with a history of Tibetan carpet and a brief description of the province’s climatic, cultural, and social conditions, and also with a report of Association’s agenda and activities.

Shahzad Aminshirazi, the head of Carpet Museum of Iran, who was participating in the meeting, introduced the museum and the capacities and capabilities of the center.

INCC and Chinese Tibetan Carpet Association signed an MoU to improve cooperation on Chinlee Shining carpet exhibition, establish an Iran-China joint carpet museum, and hold scientific and cultural conferences on carpet.

and insurance services, technical and engineering capabilities, tourism and handicraft, as well as export capacities.

More specifically, the exhibition is aimed to pave the way for joint ventures between Iranian companies in the country so as to secure a place in the markets of the Arab country.

The previous version of the exhibition was held last year by Iran International Exhibitions Company (IIEC) in Muscat with representatives from a variety of sectors such as food industry and correlated machinery, floor covering, carpet and carpet tableau, and handicraft in attendance. Oman was the 17th biggest importer of Iranian non-oil goods in the previous Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, according to the Iran Customs Administration. Iran exported \$312.4 million of non-oil goods to Oman and imported \$149.8 million of non-oil goods from the country during the mentioned time expansion.

## Iran tells banks to prepare for bans removal

As Iran is moving toward a much-awaited removal of international sanctions, the government of President Hassan Rouhani has ordered the bankers to be ready for the imminent opening of the country’s doors to the international economy.

Valiollah Seif, the governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), held a meeting with top bankers on Saturday and emphasized that they should all take speedy actions to prepare for the day that Iran sanctions are lifted. Seif emphasized in the meeting that Iran should prepare its banking infrastructure for post-sanctions activities and also improve their standards to better operate when the sanctions are lifted. No date has yet been officially set on when exactly the sanctions against Iran will be lifted. Nevertheless, officials in Tehran have already emphasized that they expect this to happen within the next coming weeks.

Under the current regime of sanctions, Iran’s banks have been effectively shut out of the global monetary system.

This will end by the removal of the sanctions when the banks will be able to transfer money without limits in and out of Iran among other benefits. A key step to the same effect will be for Iran to reconnect to the SWIFT financial-transactions system.

Nevertheless, early signs have already appeared that a certain kind of such reconnecting has already been established.

Iran’s Petrochemical Commercial Company (IPCC) announced on Saturday that it has been able to receive payments for exports of its petrochemical products through an international bank in Spain. The IPCC said this – which has been made possible through a so-called “escrow account agreement” with the Spanish bank - has now officially opened the channel for banking transactions over its export activities that had been blocked for five years as a result of sanctions.

## Iran to hold exclusive fair in Muscat

The event will be an opportunity for Iran to introduce its investment services, trade and production affairs, consumer goods, banking

# Iran Textile News

## Polymer with high resistance to heat, flame produced

Iranian researchers from Kashan University succeeded in the production of laboratorial samples of a type of polymer that has high resistance to heat and flame concurrently, INIC reports.

According to Iran Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC), results of the research have applications in textile, aerospace, automobile manufacturing and home appliance industries. Cellulose acetate is a commonly-used material in various applications such as textile industry. The substance has desirable properties such as high toughness and impact resistance, as well as good transparency and perfect tonality. However, relatively low resistance to heat and flame are among the most important limitations of this polymer which prevents it from becoming an important and applicable polymer. Researchers have attempted to increase thermal and flame resistance of the substance by producing cellulose acetate nanocomposite. The mechanism of the nanocomposite is to slow down the flame. This way, even if the polymer does not resist against huge and permanent flame, it will slow down its emission and will provide more time to rescue people and extinguish the fire. Antimony oxide nanoparticles have been synthesized in this research through sonochemical method, and the effect of various parameters, including concentration and ratio, have been studied on the structure of nanoparticles.

Nanoparticles were added to the polymer bed as well as carbon nanotubes after being synthesized and being confirmed by using electron microscopes and carrying out spectrometry tests. Thermal gravimetry test was used to study the effect of thermal resistance. In addition, some tests such as UL-94 were carried out to study the flame resistance of the nanocomposite.

## Italy Eyes Growing Economic And Security Cooperation With Post-Sanctions Iran

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which the P5+1 (the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany) and Iran signed earlier this year, marked a watershed moment in international diplomacy. For 20 months, the P5+1 and Iran negotiated an accord to freeze Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for an unfreezing of Iran's economic relations with the world. At this juncture, many analysts are shedding light on the greater geopolitical implications of the nuclear agreement, the lifting of sanctions on the Islamic Republic, and how this will impact countries which complied with the sanctions regime, yet have an interest in exploring commercial opportunities in Iran.

Italian-Iranian relations are a case in point. From Rome's perspective, the JCPOA opened the door for many Italian firms to tap into the Iranian market. Tehran officials have long seen Italy as one of Iran's closest partners in the West. Undoubtedly, the level of trust between Iran and Italy is higher than between Tehran and most Western nations.

Not lost in the equation is the armed group Daesh ("Islamic State"), which considers its home in Iraq and Syria. Both Europeans and Iranians view Daesh as a grave menace to international security. Although the European Union and Iran have their differences with respect to the crises in Iraq and Syria, there is a growing call in European capitals for greater collaboration with Tehran in the international effort to counter the extremist group and its regional offshoots. Federica Mogherini, an Italian politician and the current High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, articulated this position shortly after global powers and Tehran signed the JCPOA. Mogherini wrote, "Cooperation between Iran,



# Textile recycling innovation challenges clothing industry

Tonnes of old clothes end up in landfill. Manufacturers and fashion houses need to think harder about recycling

Thanks mostly to retailers such as **H&M**, **C&A**, and Inditex (the owner of Zara), fashion has become far more affordable to millions of consumers. Once fiercely protective of their brands, high-end designers Roberto Cavalli, Matthew Williamson, Sonia Rykiel, and others have collaborated with H&M, bringing fashion-forward styles to the masses.

Cheap fashion, however, has a cost. The **World Wildlife Fund has estimated that it takes 8,500 litres (2,245 gallons) to raise 1kg (2.2 pounds) of cotton lint** – enough to make one pair of blue jeans. The use of pesticides and fertilizers, in addition to water, makes the global textile industry one of the most polluting and waste-generating sectors in the world. Plenty of companies boast about apparel made from PET bottles, but when that item of apparel is no longer wanted, its disposal once again becomes a nagging issue.

Further complicating the sustainability of the global fashion industry is that recycling textiles is problematic. H&M and C&A are quick to discuss energy efficiency in their stores, increased recycling of clothing hangers, and their shift towards organic cotton. The stubborn fact remains, however, that in the US alone, almost 11 million tonnes of textiles ends up in landfill.

One hurdle for increased textile recycling is that the various fibres that comprise clothing make reprocessing and recycling a challenge. Some materials such as cotton and linen can be **composted**, but petroleum-based fibres such as polyester have little chance for reuse.

Few municipalities accept textiles into their recycling programmes. Add the heaps of clothing rejected by retailers because of flaws or they've missed the season, and the result is a resource that is not as easily recyclable as aluminum cans, glass, or even plastic.

**New York City has experimented** with the increased scale of textile recycling by placing bins in high-traffic areas, but for most consumers the disposal of textiles requires an inconvenient trip. Most unwanted clothing ends up in a dumpster, even though charities such as Goodwill have served as a repository of unused clothing for decades.

More retailers, sometimes working with construction companies, have found creative ways to reuse unwanted textiles. Denim is making a comeback as a **building insulator**, and **Wal-mart is working with vendors to increase the recycling of polyester and nylon** for industrial use. Some clothing manufacturers are moving towards a closed loop system: **Patagonia**, for example, allows consumers to drop off unwanted clothing bearing its label at company stores, and allows consumers to post unwanted clothes back to its Nevada service centre. Earlier this year, H&M caused a buzz when it partnered with the French fashion house Lanvin for its **Waste** collection, but the line of dresses and bags were at too high a price point for many of its customers.

The future of textile recycling lies in the supply chain, not retail stores. One company that has mastered the intricacies of textile recycling is **LMB**, based in east London's Canning Town. The company has found a goldmine in Britons' annual disposal of one million tonnes of discarded apparel, and either recycles or finds an alternate use for everything from towels to sari fabric.

Each item is inspected by hand and sorted by material: wool socks end up as yarn, and items of higher quality end up in Eastern Europe or China where there is a market for used clothes that will not sell in "vintage" shops in the UK.

Companies such as LMB are the current laboratories of textile reuse. Their experimentation and innovation are necessary: while sustainability advocates focus on water and fossil fuel scarcity, **cotton, which requires heavy amounts of both resources, has faced a global shortage** in the past year. H&M, C&A, and their competitors will have no choice but to follow the lead of their suppliers, who are ahead of the curve.

<http://www.theguardian.com/>



# Cotton Outlook's Latest Supply And Demand Figures Imply Larger Reduction Of World Stocks

**November 30, 2015**

BIRKENHEAD, United Kingdom — November 30, 2015 — Cotton Outlook's November assessment of global supply and demand in the current 2015-16 season implies a reduction of 971,000 tonnes in world stocks, compared with 768,000 indicated a month ago. The downturn is still expected to occur principally in China.

An increase in Australia's production forecast was more than offset by lower output figures for major producing nations, including China, India and Pakistan. Global production is anticipated to fall by over three million tonnes from last season.

For the first time, consumption is also forecast to decrease, albeit modestly, during the current season.

<b>World Raw Cotton Supply &amp; Demand Forecasts</b>						
<b>Figures in tonnes for August/July season</b>						
	<b>2014/15</b>			<b>2015/16</b>		
	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>Change on month</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>Change on month</b>
<b>Major Producers</b>						
China	6,390,000	6,290,000	-100,000	5,380,000	5,010,000	-370,000
United States	3,553,000	3,553,000		2,904,000	2,904,000	
India	6,375,000	6,375,000		6,333,000	6,248,000	-85,000
Pakistan	2,300,000	2,300,000		1,925,000	1,825,000	-100,000
Uzbekistan	850,000	850,000		830,000	820,000	-10,000
African Franc Zone	1,078,000	1,078,000		1,061,000	1,061,000	
Turkey	725,000	725,000		600,000	600,000	
Brazil	1,533,000	1,551,000	+18,000	1,450,000	1,450,000	
Australia	520,000	520,000		450,000	500,000	+50,000
Others	2,222,000	2,238,000	+16,000	2,042,000	2,002,000	-40,000
<b>World Production</b>	<b>25,546,000</b>	<b>25,480,000</b>	<b>-66,000</b>	<b>22,975,000</b>	<b>22,420,000</b>	<b>-555,000</b>
<b>Major Consumers</b>						
China	7,350,000	7,250,000	-100,000	7,350,000	7,050,000	-300,000
Indian subcontinent	8,777,000	8,777,000		8,842,000	8,817,000	-25,000
Turkey	1,300,000	1,300,000		1,300,000	1,300,000	
Brazil	775,000	775,000		750,000	725,000	-25,000
United States	773,000	773,000		816,000	816,000	
Indonesia	670,000	670,000		620,000	620,000	
Others	4,015,000	4,015,000		4,065,000	4,063,000	-2,000
<b>World Consumption</b>	<b>23,660,000</b>	<b>23,560,000</b>	<b>-100,000</b>	<b>23,743,000</b>	<b>23,391,000</b>	<b>-352,000</b>
<b>Net Change in Stock</b>	<b>+1,886,000</b>	<b>+1,920,000</b>		<b>-768,000</b>	<b>-971,000</b>	





# ECO FASHION: HOW ECO-FRIENDLY FABRICS ARE MAKING A SPLASH

Turn on any evening entertainment TV show and chances are you'll hear it. We've all heard it. The proverbial question posed by media correspondents flocking the (not-so-recycled) red carpet, Who are you wearing? But, isn't it time we change the conversation with not just celebs - but with all Americans to - What are you wearing? Is eco fashion the answer? Let's find out.

## Toxic Heavy Metals in Clothing

Many of us go to extreme lengths to protect our health by purchasing soy-, gluten-, GMO-free and/or certified organic foods. However, we may be unaware of the toxic pesticides and heavy metals that we're exposing ourselves to via our clothing choices. Since our skin is our largest organ, it absorbs 60% of the topical products applied to it. This raises concern since it requires about a pound of chemicals to produce a single pound of finished cotton cloth.

Testing conducted by the Center for Environmental Health revealed lead contamination in purses, belts and shoes sold by Forever 21, Wet Seal and Charlotte Russe; some accessories of which contained more than 10,000 parts per million of lead or higher. Since lead is a neurotoxin, there is no safe level according to most scientists. Lead exposure has been linked to an increased risk of heart attacks, strokes, high blood pressure and other health concerns.

According to designer Stella McCartney, who owns a vegetarian fashion company committed to operating a responsible and honest business,

'The leather tanning process is among the most toxic in all of the fashion supply chain. Workers are exposed to harmful chemicals on the job, while the waste generated pollutes natural water sources leading to increased disease for surrounding areas. Studies have found that leather tannery workers are at a far greater risk of cancer, by between 20%–50%.'

## Pesticides in Cotton

The toxic-fashion buck doesn't stop with lead and leather. Today, 25% of the world's insecticides are sprayed on cotton and more than 10% of the pesticides are sprayed on cotton. According to the EPA, seven of the top 15 pesticides used on cotton in 2000 in the United States are deemed "possible," "likely," "probable," or "known" human carcinogens (acephate, dichloropropene, diuron, fluometuron, pendimethalin, tribufos, and trifluralin). In fact, Cotton is used to produce fifty percent of the total fiber to manufacture clothing today and more than 90% of this cotton is now genetically modified.

## Disposable Clothing

Let's face it; we're spoiled when it comes to brand spankin' new, low cost threads. Clothing today has sadly become a disposable commodity for most consumers. I personally have found that it costs more (upfront) money to take an article of clothing to my eco-friendly dry cleaner, than to purchase a new item from a fast fashion retail outlet. But, there is another cost.

"The fashion industry is a \$3 trillion a year business and only two percent of apparel companies source from suppliers that pay their workers a fair and living wage." Shannon Whitehead, Founder of Factory45 who takes sustainable apparel companies from idea to launch.

## Low Cost, High Price

While clothing costs decrease, environmental costs increase. According to Livia Firth, creative director of Eco-Age, the world now consumes about 80 billion new pieces of clothing and each American generates 82 pounds of textile waste each year. That adds up to more than 11 million tons of textile waste from the U.S. alone! We've witnessed a 500% increase in clothing consumption in the past two decades.