

# IGATEX Pakistan 2017 to showcase state-of-the-art textile technology with record international participation

The 11<sup>th</sup> IGATEX Pakistan exhibition is expected to have a record number of trade professionals to witness first hand, state of the art textile technology on display from all over the world. More than 500 representatives of international textile machinery leaders shall be present at IGATEX Pakistan 2017 to showcase their technological solution for the textile industry. IGATEX Pakistan 2017 is of particular importance for the textile industry of Pakistan because it is at a crossroads. The exports of textile and apparel have not fared well over the last two years. One of the main reasons is the fast eroding competitive edge of exports from Pakistan, due to the fierce competition from India, Bangladesh, Vietnam and China. The margins for the basic commodity apparel and textiles have been decimated making survival of a large number textile mills a daunting task.

In the financial year 2015-2016 the entire spectrum of textile exports from raw cotton, cotton yarn and cotton fabrics to value added sectors of knitting, home textiles, man-made fibre textiles textile made-ups showed a decline, except for ready made garments. The results of the first half of 2016-2017 released in February 2017 are more encouraging. The value added sectors of knitwear, bedwear, tents, canvas & tarpaulin, readymade garments and textile made-ups seem to have overcome the declining trend showing varied growth.

It is evident that the only way forward is to invest in the latest and efficient technology. Those companies who have invested in the technology for a high-value addition such as digital printing and energy efficient finishing technology over last few years are already reaping the benefits. While there is a dire need for investment to replace obsolete technology, the conditions for these investments could not be more favourable. The cost of financing these investments is at an all-time low at the moment and the government has announced a textile relief package of Rs. 180 Billion with a heavy focus on value addition.

IGATEX Pakistan has arrived at an opportune time for our textile industry. A record number of machines shall be on display by textile technology leaders from Europe, Turkey and the Far East. For the spinning sector, Suessen (RCO Group), Fadis, Marzoli, SSM, Murata, Loptex, Loepfe and Mesdan shall highlight their technology. World leaders of the weaving technology, Iteima, Picanol, SMIT and Toyota shall have a strong presence. For textile wet-finishing, Monforts, Bruckner, MCS, Thies, BENEKS, Atac, Arioli, EFI Reggiani, Biancalani, Corino, among many others shall offer their technological high-end solutions. In the value added sector of knitting, Santoni shall display their latest machines for the visitors at IGATEX Pakistan. Textile dyes and chemicals sector, that is vital for textile finishing shall also have representations of industry leaders such as Archroma who will showcase their eco-friendly range of dyes and chemicals.

Events such as a technological seminar presenting Italian technology displayed at IGATEX exhibition shall enhance the experience of the visitors at IGATEX 2017. Pakistan Textile Journal in keeping with our past traditions, shall publish three show daily newspapers during a four day show to be held from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April to keep the visitors at IGATEX updated with the show highlights and interviews conducted during the exhibition. We welcome all our readers to visit IGATEX 2017 for an enriching and valuable experience to help them make informed investment decisions. ♦

