

# High expectations from ITMA Asia + CITME 2018

With ITMA Asia + CITME drawing nearer in the following month, the global textile industry prepares to converge on the international platform in Shanghai from 15-19 October 2018. Since 2008, the combined show is known as "ITMA ASIA + CITME" has been held in China, scheduled to take place every two years. The milestone event features the unique strengths of the ITMA brand and China's most important textile event - CITME. This move to combine the two shows into one mega high-quality event is strongly supported by all nine CEMATEX European textile machinery associations, CTMA (China Textile Machinery Association) and JTMA (Japan Textile Machinery Association).

The sixth edition of the show will be held in mid-October at the new National Exhibition and Convention Centre (NECC), in Shanghai, China, and promises a myriad of opportunities for all interested parties, from textile machinery manufacturers looking to share cutting-edge innovations with the market, to trade visitors and potential investors from diverse backgrounds seeking to upgrade their equipment or learn more about developments textile machinery.

Over 1,700 exhibitors from nearly thirty countries are participating in the event, spanning over 170,000 sqm in seven halls. ITMA Asia + CITME continues to grow in scale with every edition, showing a 13.3% expansion in space from 2012 to 2014, and a further 6.25% expansion to 160,000 square metres in 2016. The number of exhibitors has also continued to rise, from 1298 in 2014 to 1675 in 2018. The visitor count has shown a positive increase of 8% from 2012 to 2016, and the organisers are optimistic that it will only continue to grow.

The dyeing and finishing sector and spinning sector will occupy the largest exhibition space, at 28.5% and 25% respectively. Knitting technology will occupy the third largest amount of space, followed closely by weaving. Other categories include winding, nonwovens, embroidery and braiding in a more modest capacity. Despite the fact that all the key textile machinery manufacturers from mainland China will be participating, and that the space occupied by local exhibitors will be more than half of the entire exhibition space.

The presence of European participants is significant, with the greatest number of exhibitors from Germany and Italy, followed closely by Japan. Other countries participating in ITMA Asia + CITME include Switzerland, Korea, Belgium, Spain, India, The Netherlands, Turkey, France and Britain. This show promises to be one of the largest and expansive textile machinery exhibitions in Asia. Roadshows and promotional events in Pakistan were held in Karachi, one of the largest metropolises in Asia, and in Lahore, whose proximity to the textile industry in Pakistan's Punjab province, provides easy access to the market. The organisers of ITMA Asia + CITME have been holding successful promotional roadshows, organised in collaboration with Pakistan Textile Journal for the last three editions.

In recent years, the mutually beneficial relations between Pakistan and her neighbour China have only grown in amicability and strength, and this exhibition provides further opportunities to strengthen those bonds and work towards generating more trade opportunities between the two countries. The turnout of Pakistani visitors was expected to be quite encouraging in ITMA Asia + CITME 2014, in view of the GSP Plus status by the European Union granted to Pakistan and an extension of the zero-rated duty regime for the imports of textile machinery.

Pakistan Textile Journal looks forward to participating in ITMA Asia + CITME 2018. Our readers are welcome to pay a visit to our stand C18 in Hall NH and share their experiences, to be included in the review issues of ITMA Asia + CITME exhibition. We wish all our readers and our associates a fruitful ITMA Asia + CITME 2018. ♦

