



### AUSTRALIA

#### Fast fashion bringing the textile industry back to Australia

In Sydney's inner west suburb of St Peters is The Textile Hub, an Australian start-up which specializes in digital textile printing. The printing plant occupies half a warehouse, has two machinery operators and opened its doors to local designers in September 2018.

Why any fashion house would go to a textile printer in the heart of Sydney instead of outsourcing it to China and India at a fraction of the price, people might wonder, but for Sydney fashion designer Tonia Bastyan, who is preparing to launch ethical children's swimwear brand Conscious Swim, going to China and India was simply not an option.



Tonia Bastyan.

She also considered going to Italy, but with the minimum requirement of 350 to 400 meters of fabric, it was going to be too expensive.

The Textile Hub is bucking the trend. The clothing and foot ware manufacturing industry have been in decline for many years and it employs less than 20,000 people in Australia, according to the latest Australian Statistics data.

While getting printing done locally can be three times as expensive as outsourcing, Lowe says local printing offers a faster turnaround time of one to two weeks, compared to 12 to 18 weeks overseas, and a smaller minimum printing requirement of 50 or 100 meters, compared to 500 to 1000 meters overseas.

So far, Lowe has worked with Australian fashion houses to get their fabric sampling done locally as well as smaller fashion designers like Bastyan.



### BANGLADESH

#### Textile chemicals market forecast US\$ 1.38 billion by 2024

Bangladesh textile chemicals market is forecast to grow from US\$ 864 million in 2018 to US\$ 1.38 billion by 2024, exhibiting a CAGR of around 8% during the forecast period, owing to robust growth in the garment sector.

Bangladesh, the second leading textile and apparel exporter worldwide, is witnessing high growth in the textile and apparel sector. Moreover, exemption from export duties, favorable governmental policies, and availability of labor at lower wages are attracting foreign investors towards the country's textile sector, which in turn is catalyzing the demand for textile chemicals.

Textile colorants dominate the country's textile chemicals market, owing

to their property of imparting aesthetic value and appearance to the finished textile products. Dhaka is the largest demand generating region for textile chemicals in Bangladesh, backed by the presence of a large number of textile mills in the region.



### CHINA

#### China textile overseas investment flows to BRI region

Countries and regions along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have become major destinations for China's overseas investment in the textile sector, an industry association has said. Over 80 percent of the industry's global investment has flown to the BRI region in the past five years, according to the China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC).

The textile industry can help industrial development, as well as create national wealth and employment in BRI regions, said CNTAC deputy director Xu Yingxin.

The CNTAC will facilitate international textile production capacity partnership, especially the development of overseas cooperation zones, Xu added. Industrial data showed that China's textile and apparel export to the BRI region continued to grow in 2018, up 5.3 percent year on year.



### GERMANY

#### Germany wants to show the world how to build with textiles

The applications of industrial textile are rapidly gaining popularity in the global construction market as builders seek light-weight and cost-efficient alternatives for products such as concrete and steel.

Textiles are already adopted by architecture specialists owing to features such as light penetrability, flexibility, and a limited weight-to-surface area ratio. Industrial textiles provide reliable tensility but, unlike steel, are light, making them easier to handle for projects of all sizes, be it vehicle roofs or football stadiums.



An upcoming conference seeks to raise awareness of industrial textiles for global construction projects. Buildtech, a part of the Techtextil trade fair, will be held on 14-17 May 2019 in Frankfurt, with the aim of growing awareness about how textiles can support the development of membranes, and light-weight and solid structures, in addition to activities related to earthworks, hydraulic engineering, and roadworks.

The upcoming Techtextil exhibition will shed light on these benefits, and many others, that industrial textiles can offer to the construction industry, according to Michael Jänecke, director of brand management for Techtextil at events company Messe Frankfurt, explains.

"Representing one of the 12 major areas of application for technical textiles, Buildtech is amongst the most innovative new [events to watch]," Jänecke claimed.

"Industrial textiles enable us, for example, to build decorative, airy, lightweight structures. This is one of the reasons why the proportion of trade visitors from the building industry and architectural practices continues to grow."



## Textile machinery imports in Q2 surpasses records

India's textile machinery imports have witnessed a skyrocketing growth in the Q2 of this fiscal year. The imports totaled to US\$ 1164.99 million with a growth of 23.90% over the previous quarter. All the commodities except nonwoven machines have perceived a positive growth in the second quarter of this fiscal. Printing machines, including digital printing machines, account for a major portion of 37% from the total textile machinery imports of India in Q2 with an import value of US\$ 430.22 million.



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- Rigid filament
- T400 filament
- Soft filament + rigid filament
- Soft filament + T400
- Rigid filament | T100



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For India, China remains the top sourcing market of textile machinery in Q2 too. The imports in the quarter totaled US\$ 368.07 million. In the previous quarter and CPLY too China was the top import destination for India's textile machinery requirements.



### **NIGERIA**

#### **Central Bank blocks forex for textile importation**

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has placed access to foreign exchange for all forms of textile materials on the FOREX restriction list, the bank's governor, Godwin Emefiele, announced in Abuja.

Mr. Emefiele made the announcement during a meeting with textile industry operators. He said the policy would take effect immediately. He said the restriction would rejuvenate the textile industry in Nigeria and ensure that the needed growth is actualized.

Accordingly, all FOREX dealers in Nigeria are to desist from granting any importer of textile material access to forex in the Nigerian Foreign Exchange market

Mr. Emefiele said smuggling would be dealt with seriously to discourage importation of textiles and force sellers of textile and garments to buy from Nigerian producers.

He said the bank would support the importation of cotton lint for use in textile factories, with a caveat that such importers shall begin sourcing all their cotton needs locally beginning from 2020.



### **PHILIPPINE**

#### **Yarn center to open in Iloilo in the Philippines**

A peso 41.57-million yarn center will soon open in the Philippines' Miag-ao town in Iloilo as part of the Western Visayas administrative region's efforts to revive its textile industry. With funding from the department of science and technology (DOST), the facility aims to supply cent percent Philippine-made yarns to domestic weavers and social enterprises.

The facility will be located inside the Miag-ao campus of Iloilo Science and Technology University (ISAT-U), said Rowen Gelonga, DOST regional director for the region.

DOST's Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) will train the staff to produce natural fibers from abaca, piña and other raw materials, according to a report in a newspaper in the country. The Miag-ao local government has partnered with the department of agriculture and the department of trade and industry to produce cotton-based fibers from cotton grown in five villages.



### **UNITED KINGDOM**

#### **MPs urge the government to charge retailers a penny per clothing**

Retails in the UK should be charged a penny per clothing to fund better clothing collection and recycling in a bid to end the era of fast fashion, a cross-party group of MPs has proposed. MP's urged the government to force fashion manufacturers to pay more towards collecting and recycling the waste they create.

Annually the fashion industry is said to be worth £28 billion to the UK economy but it said that if the fashion industry continued to operate under its current model then, by 2050, it could use more than 26% of the carbon budget allocated for keeping within reach of the 2°C average global warming limit. Because of fast-changing trends and low prices a significant increase in clothing purchases is happening.

The clothing industry consumes vast volumes of fresh water and creates chemical and plastic pollution. Manmade fibers are found in the deep ocean, the North Pole is few to be named. In 2017, consumer spending amounted to slightly less than 59.47 billion British pounds.

The Environmental Audit Committee said an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for textiles can raise £35 million for better clothing collection and sorting, which in turn could create new "green" jobs.



### **UAE**

#### **Plans unveiled for upcycling textile manufacturing plant**

At an industry conference geared towards sustainable innovation in textile manufacturing, leaders from across the United Arab Emirates' and Japan's public and private sectors revealed plans to establish a plant in the city of Dubai that will leverage a solution developed to upcycle old clothes into raw material pellets.

Through the initial investment of an estimated US\$30 million, facilitated by a public-private partnership, the new facility is seen as a way for textile manufacturers to shift their dependence from hydrocarbons-based pellets to more sustainable technologies such as that presented by JEPLAN (Japan Environmental Planning).

JEPLAN's PET resin is cultivated from a chemical recycling process that is said to retain the quality offered by petroleum made products while reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the use of oil.





**VIETNAM**

**Rise of the textile industry makes Vietnam world's third largest exporter**

The Vietnamese textile industry is one of the most important sectors in the country's economy. It creates a huge job opportunities and employment. The sector is the biggest export earner. Vietnam has about 6,000 textile and apparel manufacturing companies. It offers jobs to 2.5 million people. The population in Vietnam is about 90 million.

After China and Bangladesh, Vietnam, in 2016, has been recognized as the third top garment exporters in the world. The apparel exports account for 16% of the country's total exports (2017).

Vietnam exports its textile products to 180 countries. Garment manufacturing accounts for 70% of the total businesses. U.S. Europe, Japan, and South Korea are top markets for Vietnam textile and garment products.

Despite several challenges and pressures from the abandonment of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal

last year, Vietnam's textile and garment industry exceeded its 2017 target of \$30bn. The export turnover was over \$31bn, an increase of 10.23% from the previous year.

Along with export promotion, Vietnam's domestic market too experienced growth powered by emerging young consumers and growing disposable incomes with the coming of the urbanization. The country's retail sales are rising at a rate of 20% annually and spending on apparel is the second highest category followed by spending on food items.

While export potential is predicted to rise by 15% annually during the same period, the report further predicted that the Vietnamese textile and apparel industry, by 2020, will become US\$50 billion industry.

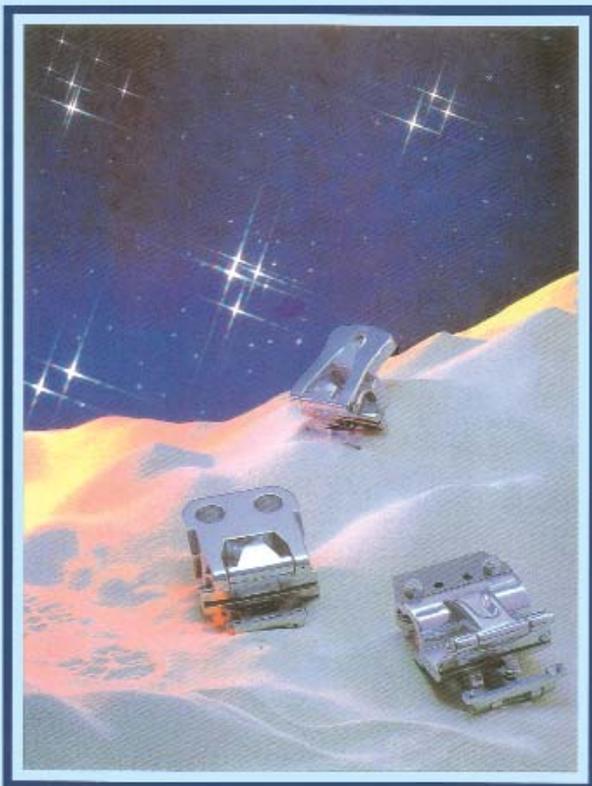
Research by the Ministry of Labor says every \$1 billion of export value generated from Vietnam's textile and apparel industry can create an additional 250,000 jobs. However, the textile labor cost in Vietnam is still relatively low compared to neighboring countries in the region. In 2016, the minimum wage of the garment manufacturing industry in Vietnam was about USD 108 per month.

But, the growing costs of electricity and transportation, along with an increase in minimum wages, are now becoming a bigger concern for the industry players. Consequently, despite remaining high at global demand, the industry faces many challenges.

Most of the manufacturers in Vietnam do not have their own brands. They produce for foreign brands. The manufacturing units in Vietnam are outsourcing partners. These limitations pose challenges for the new entrants in the industry. The small-scale enterprises are more vulnerable since big brands prioritise already established manufacturers.

On the other hand, Vietnam's garment industry is highly dependent on imports for its machinery, equipment, raw materials, and accessories which is a stumbling block for profit margins.

According to 2016 CRI report, over 80% of products of the garment manufacturing industry in Vietnam were exported, making the industry overly dependent on exports for its earnings and foreign investments. Meanwhile, Cambodia and Bangladesh pose tough competition to Vietnam as the wages there are lower than that of Vietnam. ♦



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