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Rain System Hits East China Cotton Belt

DATE: 2007/08/31

There is more worry over another rain system hitting the East China cotton belt. The troubling weather pattern is serious enough that on Wednesday, August 29, the National Development and Reform Commission issued a warning that extreme weather conditions, plant disease and insects could impact the autumn harvest. The weather system in North China this week has been unsettling to the mills and cotton trade.

Rain has now delayed cotton picking across most of Hebei, Shandong and Henan provinces, which are the largest cotton-producing provinces in East China. Showers were reported in the provinces of Shandong and Henan on Thursday and Friday, August 30 - 31, while the entire North China Plain is now forecast to receive another heavy rain event on Monday and Tuesday, September 3 - 4. This rain has delayed seed cotton movement, raised fears of boll rot in some areas and worry over fiber quality.

The South China cotton belt has also experienced additional precipitation this week. The Jiangsu Province cotton belt has been impacted by rain on Thursday, which is to extend through Saturday -- this same system has hit Anhui. Hunan Province has been wet, with more unsettled weather forecast to continue into next week. Only Xinjiang in the west is enjoying dry, clear weather.

Source: Globecot

Retailers Attack Anti-China Trade Legislation

DATE: 2007/08/31

The National Retail Federation (NRF) has urged Congress to reject legislation aimed at attacking international trade with China, charging that the legislation would drive up consumer prices and would not necessarily save US jobs. In a letter to the House Ways and Means Committee, NRF Vice

Source: China Textile Network Company

President and International Trade Counsel Erik Autor said: “The importance to the US retail industry of maintaining a constructive trade relationship with China cannot be overstated. China is an essential source of a wide range of products sold in the United States at retail, and is the dominant supplier of such basic consumer goods as footwear, clothing, toys, furniture, consumer electronics and housewares. Any restrictions on Chinese goods will have adverse consequences on the US retail companies and American consumers who would face fewer product choices and higher prices. He pointed out that 80 percent of Chinese exports to the United States are consumer products, and that seven of the top US importers of Chinese goods are retailers. He cited studies showing that increased imports from China in recent years have come at the expense of imports from other countries and that there is no evidence showing the overall increase in the US trade deficit is attributable to China. Autor said the various bills under consideration would fail to alter the US trade deficit and would not force China to revalue its currency or take other actions that would make US manufacturers more competitive or save US jobs.

US textile manufacturers and others impacted by imports from China take exactly the opposite tack. The American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC) urged the committee to approve a comprehensive approach to trade with China that would combat what AMTAC says are China’s “predatory trade practices”. Such legislation would include a currency reform act that would brand currency manipulation an unfair trade practice and permit the United States to use its anti-dumping and countervailing laws to combat it. AMTAC also calls for a measure that would address a disadvantage to US manufacturers caused by value-added taxes in other countries that are rebated to their domestic manufacturers. The legislation would direct the US Trade Representative to negotiate a remedy within the World Trade Organization, and if a satisfactory remedy is not achieved, the United States would charge an offsetting border tax.

AMTAC also is calling for legislation that would ensure the safety of US food and consumer products imports from China, adequate enforcement of intellectual property rights and enforcement of environmental and labor standards.

By James A. Morrissey, Washington Correspondent

Source: Textileworld

The Rupp Report: Strong European Nonwovens Industry

DATE: 2007/08/31

According to figures recently released by EDANA - the Belgium-based International Association Serving the Nonwovens and Related Industries - the production of nonwovens in Europe in 2006 grew by some 6.5 percent to a total of 1.494 metric tons (mt). This is compared with 1.403 mt in 2005, which achieved 5-percent annual growth.

According to EDANA estimates, based on the same group of companies in 2005 and 2006, the average price of nonwovens appears to have increased by almost 3 percent, from 3.33 euros (US\$4.50*) to 3.43 euros (US\$4.67) per kilogram. As a result, the total turnover of the European nonwovens industry is estimated at some 5,124 million euros (US\$6,983 million).

Needlepunched Nonwovens At The Top

Diverging trends are affecting the various bonding processes of drylaid nonwovens. Referring to the

Source: China Textile Network Company

different production sectors, Pierre Wiertz, general manager of EDANA, said: "Growth in the hydroentanglement process has still been substantial this year, at more than 6 percent. However, this year the needling process has recorded the highest apparent growth at 13.8 percent."

Polymer-based (spunmelt) nonwovens, also witnessed an impressive growth, with a more-than 10-percent increase in 2006. Airlaid production, compared to 2005 figures, recorded a slight growth, mostly due to an increase in deliveries to the hygiene sector. The major end-use for nonwovens remains the hygiene market, with a 33-percent share of deliveries totalling 497,900 mt. This represents an increase of 5.4 percent when compared to 2005 figures.

Growth Areas

The most significant growth areas for nonwovens in 2006 were apparel - with a 14.4-percent increase, primarily in protective clothing; and wipes for personal care, with a 13.8-percent increase. These categories were followed by liquid filtration - with a 12.2-percent increase; and geotextiles - with an 11.4-percent increase - a diversity that perfectly illustrates the ongoing growth and innovative end-uses of nonwovens, both for industrial and everyday applications.

Polypropylene, in either fiber or granule form, continues to be the most important polymer used in the European nonwovens industry, accounting for 766,200 mt, or 48.4 percent of the total fiber and polymer chip consumption. However, wood pulp has retained the highest growth rate, 12.1 percent.

Positive Export Balance

In 2006, the positive EU balance of exports and imports of nonwoven roll goods increased. The 27 EU member states exported 215,554 mt of nonwovens, compared to 193,716 mt in 2005, at a value of almost 928 million euros (US\$1,264.7 million), which represents an 11.3-percent increase in volume and a 14.4-percent increase in value when compared to the previous year. Furthermore, the positive balance of trade - almost 400 million euros (US\$545.1 million) - in nonwovens contributed to the trade surplus of the EU textiles sector by more than 30 percent.

EDANA

EDANA unifies the diversified interests of more than 190 member companies in 26 countries. It represents, protects and actively promotes the common interests of nonwovens and absorbent hygiene product industries and their suppliers in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Formed in 1971 as the European Disposables and Nonwovens Association, EDANA provides a comprehensive range of services, and supplies its members with the information and data necessary for them to enhance industry goals and performance.

**All monetary conversions based on the current rate of 1 euro = US\$1.3628*

By Jörg Rupp, Executive Editor Source: Textileworld

Spotlight Europe: France - Textile Output Stable - Greece Industry Improves

DATE: 2007/08/31

The French textile sector has enjoyed a rare period of stability during the first half of 2007. Monthly textile output actually posted year-on-year growth in four out of the last six months. Total textile output showed meager growth during the first half of 2007 of less than 1/2 percent. This however, marked the sector's best performance in over three years. Making the recovery even more

Source: China Textile Network Company

impressive is the fact that it has occurred despite French apparel output plunging to new record lows. June apparel production as measured by the INSEC Index of Output (2000=100, Adjusted for Seasonality and Working Days) fell to 38.9, which represented a 6 percent year-on-year decline and an all-time monthly low.

The French apparel sector has failed to take advantage of the country's rather robust retail sales environment for apparel. French retail sales of apparel surged 8.3 percent in June.

Greece's textile sector has also enjoyed improved output during the first half of 2007. with total textile output posting 1.9 percent year-on-year growth. This reflected a sizable turnaround for a business that suffered a year-on-year decline of 12.9 percent in 2006 and 14.9 percent in 2005. The improvement is connected to dramatic gains in yarn and fabric output in the second quarter of 2007. May yarn output surged 16.5 percent from a year ago, which was followed by a 16.8 percent increase in June, reversing weaker output in the February through April period. Fabric production also grew during this period, increasing 22.1 percent in May and 13.2 percent in June. The weakest textile groups remain made-up and knitted/crocheted fabric production.

Apparel sector output also made a recovery, with June production increasing 26.9 percent from the previous year. Total first half 2007 apparel output achieved 4.51 percent year-on-year growth, reversing reductions of 21.8 percent in 2006 and 12.8 percent in 2005.

Source: Globecot

VDMA To Offer Guided Tours At ITMA 2007

DATE: 2007/08/31

The German Engineering Federation (VDMA) Textile Machinery Association will offer trade visitors guided tours of textile machinery and technologies at ITMA 2007. Three tours, all offered in English, will be held Thursday, September 13 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Each tour will commence at the VDMA information booth, located at Booth 11 at the Association Center East Entrance.

Tour 1 will cover man-made fiber plants, spinning preparation and machinery, and nonwovens machinery. Tour 2 will feature weaving, knitting and braiding machinery; and Tour 3 will include washing, bleaching, dyeing, drying and finishing machinery.

More information may be found at the English version of the VDMA website, www.vdma.org/textile. Each tour is limited to 20 participants. The registration deadline is September 6.

Source: Textileworld

CNTAC signed MOU and cooperation agreement respectively with the counterparts of Germany, France and Switzerland

DATE: 2007/08/30



Beijing --- On the morning of August 27, Mr. Du Yuzhou, President of China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC), respectively undersigned Memorandum on Understanding (MOU) concerning the protection of intellectual property rights with Mr. Thierry Noblot, Delegate General of the Federation of the French Textile Industry (UIT), Memorandum of Understanding on the Co-operation in the fields of Environmental Policy and Health Care with Mr. Peter Schwartze, President of the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry, and Memorandum on the Cooperation and Memorandum on Understanding (MOU) concerning the protection of intellectual property rights with Mr. Max R. Hungerbühler, President of the Swiss Textile Federation.

Witnesses of the sign-up also included Dr. Wolf-Rüdiger Baumann, Director General of the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry, Mrs. Claudia Saam and Mr. Sven Eriskat, also from the German Confederation, Mrs. Barbara Schmidt-Zock from the Association of German Home Textile Industry, Mr. Thomas Rasch, Director General of German Fashion Association, Dr. Thomas Schweizer, Director General of the Swiss Textile Federation, Dr. Peter Pfneisl, President of the Association of the Austrian Textile Industry, and Mr. Salvador Maluquer, Executive Vice President of Spanish Cotton System Textile Industry Association. From CNTAC side

Source: China Textile Network Company

the attendees included Mr. Gao Yong, Vice President of CNTAC, Mme. Yuan Hongping, Director of Foreign Affairs Office, CNTAC, Mr. Sun Huaibin, Director of Industrial Consulting Department of CNTAC, Mr. Zhu Minru, Director General of China Nonwovens Industrial Textile Association, Mr. Chen Weikang, Vice Chairman of the Sub-Council of Textile Industry, CCPIT, Mme. Zhu Beina, Secretary General of China Cotton Textile Association, Mr. Wang Zhuo, Vice Secretary General of China National Garment Association.

The issue of IPR protection is widely concerned not only in the global market, but also within China. So the topic about IPR aroused a lot of discussion before the sign-up. The misunderstanding that only manufacturers should be claimed for the IPR violation were existing worldwide and it was not fair, Mr. Gao Yong, Vice President of CNTAC, emphasized. And all the representatives of the industrial organizations from different countries reached the common idea that manufacturers, buyers and consumers should work together to fight against IPR infringement.

CNTAC has set up an active relationship with the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry for a long time. Following the undersign of MOU on cooperation and IPR protection, the undersign of MOU on the Co-operation in the fields of Environmental Policy and Health Care are seen as the further development of the collaboration between the two organizations. Based on the MOU, more communication initiatives for both Chinese and German companies can be expected, in particular in the fields of nonwovens and technical textiles.

Another interesting topic during the whole section of signing up is the coming expiration of the textile agreement with EU and the concerns in another “surging export growth” as the first half of 2005 when the textile quota system came to the end. “We don’t see any possibility that the rushing situation will happen again in 2008, because that the 10 categories of textiles limited with the agreement only account for 18% of the exports from China to EU, and the quota based on the agreement for the 10 categories were not fully utilized these years. On the other side, a range of reforms and restructuring has accomplished within China. China’s textile and apparel sector is on the way of the transition of development pattern from quantity-oriented to quality-oriented. And CNAC has developed the specialized social compliance system for textile and clothing industry, namely CSC9000T,” explained Mr. Sun Huaibin, the Spokesman and Director of Industrial Consulting Department of CNTAC.

Source: CNTAC

Cheap Chinese Goods Destroyed Zimbabwe Economy

DATE: 2007/08/29

The entry of cheap and low-quality Chinese goods into the Zimbabwe market "devastated the Zimbabwean economy," an academic from that country says.

While China was exporting quality goods to the European Union, which had high quality standards, China dumped its "cheapest and lowest quality" products in Africa, including Zimbabwe, Professor John Makumbe from the University of Zimbabwe said on Thursday.

Makumbe is presently in Namibia and was a panellist at a conference with the theme “G 8 Countries and Africa - Partnership and mutual Responsibility”, organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Source: China Textile Network Company

"The flood of Chinese goods destroyed the textile industry in Zimbabwe, which contributed to unemployment and poverty," Makumbe told the conference.

"Zimbabwe used to have its own factories to manufacture clothes, shoes and electrical appliances, but these industries collapsed totally since the arrival of these Chinese products." As examples he cited textile factories that used to produce school uniforms for millions of schoolchildren in the country and also manufactured blankets. These factories are now standing idle, he said. "The Chinese impact on Zimbabwe escalated unemployment," Makumbe said.

Makumbe was supposed to give a lecture at the University of Namibia on Wednesday night, but Unam cancelled it a few hours before it was supposed to start. The co-organising Namibia Institute for Democracy (NiD) then changed the venue from Unam to a Windhoek hotel. Makumbe talked about poverty and daily life in Zimbabwe and the social crisis unfolding there. Zimbabwe has some 9 million inhabitants and approximately 3 million citizens living in exile.

Zimbabwe now has an annual inflation rate of 7 634,8 per cent, the highest in the world, and is plagued by food and fuel shortages.

Source: AllAfrica.com Brigitte Weidlich ©.

China's Quality Debate: Australia Tests Textiles

DATE: 2007/08/29

China's quality woes appear to be spreading into textiles and apparel, with Australia becoming the second country to examine Chinese textile and apparel imports. Once again, as occurred in New Zealand, it appears that Chinese manufacturers have used formaldehyde as a glue to bond fabrics together. The danger is that formaldehyde causes cancer and skin rashes, eye and respiratory problems. Australia's Competition and Consumer Commission and the Department of Health are now testing a range of Chinese-made apparel and made-ups for residual formaldehyde content. This situation has caused two Australian importers to issue a recall of blankets imported from China due to excessive formaldehyde residue.

The Chinese government has announced a four-month long "special war" against poor product quality and supervision, an effort that is being led by Vice Premier Wu Yi. Twenty retail targets have been set that must be met by year-end.

Source: Globecot