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China Trade Fair 2008 to be held in Nepali capital

DATE: 2008/03/14

The China Trade Fair 2008 is to take place in Nepali capital Kathmandu on April 25-28 on the initiative of Nepal-China Executives Council (NCEC) and Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Nepal.

At a press conference organized here Thursday by NCEC, Chairman Anupranjan Bhattarai said that the main objective of the fair is to impart information to Nepali people about ultramodern machinery, automobiles, electronic goods, medical and agricultural instruments and home appliances manufactured in China and blooming economy and tourism industry in China. He added the fair would prove to be an appropriate forum to exhibit quality Chinese products among Nepali people, to study the scopes of investment as well as to discuss with Nepali traders about the possibility of working together. The fair would also offer an opportunity for Nepali businesspersons and industrialists to assess the quality of Chinese products in own country. There would be a total of 80 stalls of 20 Chinese companies and around 150,000 individuals are expected to visit the fair, he informed.

The China trade fair was organized for the first time in Nepal in 2005 to mark the golden jubilee of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Nepal and China. The fair has been taking place following 2005 and upcoming event is the third one in Nepal, informed on the occasion.

Source: Xinhua

World Textile Conference AUTEX to take place in Biella

DATE: 2008/03/11

The Materials Science and Chemical Engineering Department of the Politecnico di Torino is organizing the 8th AUTEX Conference. The event is planned at Citt' Studi in Biella - Italy from June 24 to 26, 2008. The Conference will stimulate the interactions between Academy and Industry in a crucial moment to conjugate production excellence, product innovation, energy conservation and environmental concern.

Beside the topics characterizing the AUTEX 2008 Conference, a special opportunity will be given to synthesize the industrial perspectives and the research efforts with the organization of a forum, followed by one-to-one meetings. Wish of the Organizing and Scientific Committees is to enhance multisided collaborations in the VIth FP of EU.

Source: The Sub-Council of Textile Industry,CCPIT

China textile exports fall in February on weaker demand, harsh weather

DATE: 2008/03/14

China's textile and garment exports in February dropped 32.9 percent from the previous month, largely due to weakening U.S. and European demand and the severe winter storms, customs authorities said.

Exports reached 10.3 billion U.S. dollars last month, down 8.5 percent from a year earlier, according to the General Administration of Customs. Exports in January and February were 25.6 billion U.S. dollars, up only 9.6 percent from a year earlier, compared with an increase of about 20 percent for that period in previous years. China exported 171.2 billion U.S. dollars worth of textile and garment products in 2007, up 18.9 percent from the previous year.

The slowdown in February resulted from slack demand in the United States and Europe and the unusually harsh winter weather in China, said Zhang Bin, analyst with Sinolink Securities. But he said that it was too soon to decide if predicted full-year growth of 15 percent was excessively optimistic. The prediction came from the National Development and Reform Commission.

The February trade surplus shrank to a third of the year-earlier level. Exports to the United States fell 5 percent, while sales to Europe rose only 1 percent. The rising Chinese currency and labor costs played a role in dragging down textile and garment exports, said Zhang. Producers were reluctant to take orders for fear of exchange losses and many low-end orders went to other countries such as India, he said. China moved its currency, the yuan, away from a pegged exchange rate to the U.S. dollar in July 2005 and has allowed it to appreciate by about 14 percent since then.

Source: Xinhua

Indian Cotton Remains Popular Despite Contamination Issues

DATE: 2008/03/12

Indian cotton continues to dominate China's cotton import shipments as mill buying continued driven by the cost of the cotton relative to its quality. Despite improvements in cotton quality, spinning mills still have to remove contamination by hand, which is a very labor-intensive process. So far the extra cost of that step has not dampened spinners enthusiasm for Indian cotton. Color grade, staple and micronaire are reported to be excellent.

Source: Globecotnews

Xinjiang Party Secretary Again Calls for Less Cotton

DATE: 2008/03/10

Mr. Wang Lequan, Party Secretary and Chairman of the Xinjiang autonomous region, is a person of high stature in China's largest province. During last week's CPPCC Conference, Mr. Wang Lequan gave a speech regarding the Xinjiang cotton industry, suggesting that China should reduce its emphasis on textile exports. He stated that the cheaply-priced Chinese textile products only bring marginal profits for mills and causes frequent trade battles; instead, Chinese companies should focus on increased production of high-end products.

As to Xinjiang cotton acreage, Mr. Lequan stated that any further expansion in cotton acreage would have a negative impact on the provincial agricultural sector, and has emphasized in several of his most recent speeches that Xinjiang farmers and the powerful Production and Construction Corps (PCC) should plant less cotton. Cotton acreage in Xinjiang should be reduced back to 20 million mu and be replaced with other crops such as grains.

Source: Globecotnews

Value-added of Industry Grew up in February

DATE: 2008/03/13

The value-added of the industrial enterprises that above designated size (all state-owned enterprises and non-state-owned enterprises with an annual sales income over 5 million yuan) increased 15.4 percent from January to February, year-on-year. The sales ratio of industrial products was 97.50 percent, rose by 0.7 percentage points over the same month of last year. Industrial enterprises achieved a total export delivery value of 1082.8 billion yuan, a year-on-year rise of 14.8 percent.

In terms of main sectors, the growth rate of manufacture of textile, raw chemical materials and chemical products, non-metallic mineral products, smelting and pressing of ferrous metals expanded respectively 11.6, 13.3, 19.7 and 14.0 percent; that of manufacture of general purpose machinery, transportation equipment manufacturing industry, electromechanical equipment manufacturing climbed 21.9, 18.8 and 20.3 percent correspondingly; that of manufacture of communication equipment, computers and other electric equipment increased 14.5 percent; and that of production and supply of electric power and heat power rose by 11.8 percent.

In terms of major industrial products, the output of coal, crude oil and electricity respectively reached 360 million tons, 30.78 million tons and 516.9 billion kilowatt-hours, increased 13.4, 1.2

Source: China Textile Network Company

and 11.3 percent respectively. The output of pig iron, crude steel and rolled steel stood at 75.63, 79.45 and 89.05 million tons, rose by 7.3, 6.4 and 12.3 percent respectively; that of cement was 140 million tons, down by 2.8 percent; that of automobiles was 152 thousand sets, up by 12.5 percent, of which, 82 thousand sets of saloon cars with a growth of 10.0 percent over the same month of the previous year.

Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China

German chemicals firm invests in Shanghai

DATE: 2008/03/13

German chemicals manufacturer Freudenberg Group will build a 200-million-yuan Shanghai plant to make specialty lubricants and release agents. The company said yesterday local production could help boost its sales here. As well as lubricants and release agents, it sells auto interior filters and Vileda brand household products.

Sales in China rose 16 percent from 2006 to 3.585 billion yuan (US\$504.2 million) in 2007, Freudenberg said. Chemical products for the auto industry accounted for about 40 percent of total sales. Since 2000, the manufacturer has invested 1.4 billion yuan in Chinese projects. The Shanghai plant will be the company's first Chinese facility for lubricants. Freudenberg's two subsidiaries, Kluber Lubrication and Chem-Trend, set up a sales business in China 10 years ago. Lubricants and release agents are widely used in the auto, textile, plastic and timber processing industries.

"We decided to expand investment in China because the potential growth of the China market is stronger than other countries'," said Hanno D. Wentzler, president of Freudenberg Chemical Specialties KG. China is one of only a few markets in the world with a growing lubricant industry. Annual consumption of lubricants in China is between 4 and 4.5 million metric tons, the world's second highest.

The new plant, located in Qingpu, covers an area of 33,000sqm. The company expects an annual capacity of up to 13,000 tons.

Source: China Daily

Performance Fibers buys two plants in North America

DATE: 2008/03/12

Performance Fibers announced it has completed its acquisition of INVISTA's North America tire cord and polyester industrial filament businesses including four plants in the U.S. and Mexico that manufacture industrial polyester, Nylon-6 and tire cord fabric. Terms of the purchase were not disclosed.

The purchase includes manufacturing facilities in Salisbury, N.C; Shelby, N.C; and Winnsboro, S.C.; as well as the industrial polyester, industrial Nylon-6, and tire cord fabric-producing assets currently operating inside INVISTA's Queretaro, Mexico site. INVISTA Queretaro's PET Resin business and its manufacturing operations for fine denier staple were not part of the sale.

With the acquisition, the Richmond, VA. -based company increases its global manufacturing to 12 plants located in North America, Asia and Europe; an estimated \$1 billion in sales; and ap-

Source: China Textile Network Company

proximately 4,000 employees worldwide. The Company also adds Nylon-6 fibers used to reinforce larger tires to its core polyester offerings, and increases its range of industrial polyester sewing thread fibers and other polyester products. "This acquisition strengthens Performance Fibers' regional footprint in North America and is a gateway for us to grow in South America," said Greg Rogowski, president and CEO. "Combining the assets we have purchased from INVISTA with our current offerings broadens our product portfolio in segments we have identified as growth areas."

The Company's fibers, fabrics and sewing threads are used in a wide range of industries including energy, environment, architectural design, transportation, lifestyles and leisure, safety and security, and specialty segments for such uses as reinforcement of tires, belting and hoses, geotextiles, technical fabrics and offshore mooring ropes. "This acquisition reinforces our commitment to doing business with these industries in North America as a flexible and agile global supplier that can quickly respond to regional customer needs," said Fred Indermaur, vice president and general manager for the Americas. "It also brings us new and expanded technology capabilities that will enable us to continue to deliver products that meet our customers' highly technical requirements."

Performance Fibers has been pursuing a growth strategy since it became an affiliate of Sun Capital Partners Inc in December 2004 with strategic acquisitions, investments and expansions in North America, Asia and Europe. The Company also purchased INVISTA Resins and Fibers GmbH's German polyester yarn business in August 2006. "This latest acquisition in North America, along with recent expansions in Europe and Asia, confirms Performance Fibers' position as a high-growth industry leader," said Kevin Feinblum, Principal, Sun Capital Partners Inc. "Sun Capital, along with the management team of Performance Fibers, will continue to pursue opportunities to increase the value of the business for all stakeholders."

Source: Performance Fibers Inc.

The Rupp Report: Don't Hide, Think Global

DATE: 2008/03/12

For centuries, wool was probably the most precious fiber used to produce fabrics and eventually apparel. Fine wool was associated with wealth. According to surveys, the wool label was one of the most prominent labels around the world. This changed drastically in the last 25 years, as wool lost ground. The wool industry from Australia and New Zealand tried everything to remain competitive. In spite of all their actions, the market share of wool dropped. Because of marketing actions around the globe from down under, wool lost its exclusive flavor and became just "wash-and-wear." It went the same way as silk - it became a commodity.

Dirty Business

To make sheep farming more economical, John W. H. Mules developed the practice of mulesing. Everybody in the wool trade knows how much effort it takes to clean wool. And this begins when farming the sheep in the field. Mulesing is the physical removal of strips of wool-bearing wrinkled skin around the tail of the sheep. While shearing a ewe that had suffered several fly-strikes, Mules' hand slipped and his blade shears removed some skin from her rear end. After performing this procedure on his other sheep, Mules noticed that it prevented the occurrence of fly strike. Mulesing is common practice in Australia as a way to reduce the incidence of fly strike, particularly on Merino sheep in regions where fly strike is common. Originally, mulesing was carried out on sheep after they were weaned because it was considered too rough for lambs.

Source: China Textile Network Company

The New South Wales Department of Primary Industries states in the Standard Operating Procedures that, “while the operation causes some pain, no pre or post operative pain relief measures are used.”

Alternative Ways

Mulesing is different from crutching. Crutching is the mechanical removal of wool around the tail, anus (and vulva in ewes) and also down the inside of the hock where needed in breeds of sheep with woolly points. Mulesing is the removal of skin to provide permanent resistance to breech strike in Merino sheep. Other breeds tend to have less loose skin and wool so close to the tail and may have less dense wool. Crutching has to be repeated at regular intervals as the wool grows continuously. Frequent crutching of Merinos reduces the incidence of fly strike, but not as much as mulesing does.

Strong Opposition

Animal welfare advocates strongly oppose mulesing; and say mulesing without anesthesia is cruel and painful, and that more humane alternatives exist. Current veterinary opinion considers it a necessary compromise in providing for the general welfare of sheep in areas of Australia. It is expected to be phased out in Australia by 2010, and has already been phased out in New Zealand. But the problems for the wool industry increased due to massive pressure. In October 2004, US-based fashion retailer Abercrombie & Fitch Co. responded to pressure from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to boycott Australian merino wool due in part to the practice of mulesing in Australia. The boycott also seeks to draw attention to Australia’s live sheep export trade. PETA’s campaign has hurt the Australian wool industry, with some US and British clothing retailers agreeing to the boycott. One month later, representatives of the Australian wool industry voted to phase out the practice of mulesing in Australia by 2010.

New Problems

Proponents of mulesing are largely from Australia, where conditions are conducive for severe fly strikes. While alternatives are available, Australian farmers say alternatives are not yet economically viable. But is it more viable for a fighting industry to influence or even blackmail people in the days of global communication possibilities? This actually happened in Sweden, when a lobbyist from the Australian wool industry tried to prevent a report on television about the method of mulesing. He offered a free trip to Australia, if the person would not express herself in a negative way about mulesing. Unfortunately for the lobbyist, everything was filmed with a hidden camera. Cut.

The outcome of this strange story is that mulesing is now on the agenda of the European Union to take action, and even boycott Australian wool in Europe. The next page of this story is yet to be written.

Source: Textileworld