

Textile Briefs International

- ❖ Indian Textiles Minister Dayanidhi Maran urged European companies to invest more in his country and announced that India's textile industry made an estimated \$ 62 billion (45 billion euros) in sales in 2008-2009.
- ❖ Wool prices significantly climbed in US\$ terms in Australia, reflecting very good demand despite the sharp decrease in US Dollar currency. The strength in the euro stimulated demand from Europe which is expected to continue with sales of excellent qualities at good price.
- ❖ Thailand's clothing exports may suffer from the global economic crisis and the elimination of US limits on imports from China. Exports to the US market declined marginally over the last years: 2% in 2007, 6% in 2008 and 8% in 2009. The most important destination is United States, which only accounted for 46% of total shipments in 2009, from 53% in 2005.
- ❖ The fourth quarter of 2009 confirmed the strong rebound of global textile production. Global yarn and fabric production rose modestly in almost all regions, particularly in South America, while North America recorded stagnant output. Global yarn stocks fell slightly as a consequence of significant lower stocks in South America and Europe and despite slightly higher inventories in Asia, according to statistics from the International Textile Manufacturer's Federation (ITMF).
- ❖ The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Export Oriented Garments Washing Industries Owners Association (BEOGWIOA) and South Asia Enterprise Development Facility (SEDF) have entered into a tripartite agreement recently to improve environment compliance in the textile and apparel sector. The project is styled SEDF-BGMEA-BEOGWIOA programme. The project will also help promote cleaner production methods in the textile sector.
- ❖ The exports of Chinese textile and garment products fell 11.4% year on year in the first 11 months of this year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. This decline was attributed to continuing weak demand in the overseas market. However, the export delivery value of textile enterprises above designated size increased by 7.8% year on year to US\$66.6 billion in November, reflecting a growth for the second consecutive month this year.
- ❖ The Indian government has chalked out plans to seek investment from the US and European nations in the fast growing special textiles sector, which is engaged in production of the specialized variant of the commodity used by industries. The government expects investment of about Rs 5,000 crore in the next three years in the technical textiles.
- ❖ The post-quota period is offering extremely contrasted situations for US imports from China of the very important categories 338/339 (cotton knit shirts). While Chinese prices may have declined for a 10-digit HTS tariff line, they rose for another one. Growth of Chinese imports may also widely change from a product to another one.
- ❖ Changing global conditions have shut down several textile manufacturing units in China; the growth story in India has been a positive one in the past two years. In contrast (to China), the Indian market has developed quite positively, said German Engineering Federation, VDMA, Managing Director, Mr Elgar Straub.
- ❖ EU imports from China surged in a large number of clothing categories over the first half this year, after quotas were eliminated from January 1, 2010. China occupies a predominant part of the market in both volume and value terms, but Bangladesh and India resisted in knit clothing categories.
- ❖ US cotton trouser imports from China should be boosted by the removal of quotas effective from January 1, 2010. Mexico-located plants could be the main victims of the end of quantitative restrictions after Chinese suppliers shifted to the higher end of the US import market in the last three years. Exporters from Bangladesh, Vietnam and Cambodia would not be seriously affected by the definitive end of quotas, after successfully reducing their prices and therefore gaining shares in the past years.
- ❖ Thailand's textile exports, particularly to ASEAN member countries, still have room for growth despite the global economic crisis, said Commerce Minister Chaiya Sasomsap. He said China would speed up production of textiles and garment for domestic consumption and would compete less with other countries in the export market.
- ❖ US textile industry would be harmed by new trade liberalization, according to a U.S. official study. Removing current rules of origin on US duty-free apparel imports would dramatically depress US textile exports that are also protected by very high tariffs on apparel imports from Asia. Surging 43% in 2005-2011 without any radical change, US apparel imports would not be further boosted by a full removal of quotas and tariffs, the US International Trade Commission (USITC) estimated.
- ❖ Cotton prices further rose in New York and are expected again increasing in the near term. Drought in the United States, the end of US export subsidies and allocation of new import quotas in China are the three major reasons behind the rally in futures and physical prices.
- ❖ With three-fourths of the total foreign exchange being earned by the garment sector alone, Bangladesh exports in the just ended fiscal year are set to cross the \$10 billion mark, said officials of the Export Promotion Bureau. ◆