

Textile Briefs International

- ❖ The U.S. House took a major step in boosting employment opportunities in earthquake-ravaged Haiti, passing legislation to extend the country's trade preferences. Lawmakers in textile-rich states said the bill could burden the domestic textile industry. Most of the apparel produced in Haiti is made from yarn from American textile companies, but that the bill would change that and could allow Third World countries to ship "almost-finished" products to Haiti, which in turn could be sent to the United States duty-free.
- ❖ Asia, the largest consumer of fibres in 2008, having accounted for 73.2% of global usage, while Africa was ranked seventh and Oceania and Central America trailing with 1.5% and 0.1% respectively, said in a report of Global and Regional Trends in Textile Fibre Consumption, edition 2010.
- ❖ India's cotton production and consumption have also been forecast higher compared with last year, though there are no changes from the earlier estimates. Indian production is now estimated to be 5.19 tonnes (305 lakh bales) against last year's 4.93 tonnes (290 lakh bales). Consumption is forecast to rise to 7.54 tonnes (443.35 lakh bales) from last year's 7.21 tonnes (423.14 lakh bales).
- ❖ Turkey's exports are expected to reach some US \$111 billion in 2010, said Mehmet Buyukeksi, Chairperson of the Turkish Exporters' Assembly (TIM). Turkey's major exports items are apparel and clothing accessories, iron and steel, pearls and precious stones, tobacco, mineral fuels and cotton. The major export partners of the country are Germany, the United States, Britain, France and Italy. Buyukeksi also underlined the importance of the African, Latin American and Far Eastern markets.
- ❖ Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) awarded 10 labour-friendly garment factories. The winners are Aboni Knitwear, Iris Fabrics, Interstoff Apparels, Grameen Knitwear, Ragadi Textile, Viyellatex, Knit Concern, Fakir Apparels, Four H Lingerie and Benetex Industries.
- ❖ The global man-made fibre trade accounts for 60% of total trade in textiles. India's share in exports was below 3% at Rs. 15,767 crore (\$3.42 billion) in 2008-09. Man-made fibre exports have been growing at a healthy 12% annually over the last five years in spite of global slowdown.
- ❖ In recent years, China has overtaken the United States to become Asean's third-largest trading partner after Japan and the European Union. The overall trade balance has shifted slightly in China's favour, although there are significant differences among Southeast Asian countries' trade balances, said Thomas Kaegi, Head of Macroeconomic Research for the Asia-Pacific region at UBS Wealth Management.
- ❖ With domestic off take rising strongly in China, cotton consumption is likely to rebound strongly next year. Cotton Outlook, in its projections, sees Chinese consumption rising to 9.65 million tonnes (567.74 lakh bales of 170 kg each) from last year's 8.5 tonnes (500 lakh bales) and the previous estimate of 529.41 lakh bales made in November.
- ❖ İstanbul Textile and Raw Materials Exporters' Union (İTHİB) Chairman İsmail Güle said they expect the textile sector's exports to increase by about 15% in 2010, indicating deferred demand and depleted stocks as the driving forces behind this rise. The textile sector might achieve \$6 billion to \$6.5 billion in exports by the end of 2010 by exporting \$500 million in goods per month.
- ❖ Overall, global cotton production is now projected to rise to 22.36 tonnes (1,315.05 lakh bales) against the initial estimate of 22.06 tonnes (1,297.52 lakh bales). Last year, the production was 23.45 tonnes (1,379.47 lakh bales). World consumption is now estimated to rise to nearly 24 tonnes (1,411.64 lakh bales) from earlier estimates of 23.29 tonnes (1,370.11 lakh bales) and last year's 22.42 tonnes (1,318.52 lakh bales).
- ❖ Asean and China have gradually reduced many tariffs. However, under the free-trade agreement — which was signed in 2002 — China, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei will have to remove almost all tariffs in 2010. Asean's newest members — Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar — will gradually reduce tariffs in coming years and must eliminate them entirely by 2015.
- ❖ Major share of increase in global cotton production next cotton season would go USA (31.44%) India 5.4%, Uzbekistan 11.11%, Turkey 31.59%, Brazil 16%, China 7.7%, and Egypt 23%. In view of over 10% increase in world cotton production, world cotton prices are likely to rule between 65-70 cents next season.
- ❖ Textile and garment sector of Vietnam has targeted to generate over US \$10 billion through its exports in 2010, around 12% more than that of current year, said Mr. Le Quoc An, Chairman of the Vietnam Garment and Textile Group (Vinatex). The industry entrepreneurs are optimistic about achieving this target as it has witnessed demand surge from two of its major markets, US and EU.
- ❖ In the 2010 budget, government of Indonesia has allocated Rp 9 billion for modernization of old textile and leather machineries in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Modernization of machineries in these industries comes at a time when there is tough competition in the local market due to entry of cheaper textile and leather products from foreign countries. This program was to help modernize at least 50 %of the plants by the year 2014. ◆