

Apart from stressing on the necessity of continuing with the GenProm project, on the basis of successful and beneficial results for the industry and nation, UNDP program officer, Shakeel Ahmed was also urged to extend the project for five more years. Stakeholders of the textile industry were also urged to support such projects.

GenProm meaning gender promotion in the apparel or garment industry via development of skills was a United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) sponsored project for the private sector.

### New cotton policy being formulated

Federal Minister for Textile Industry, Rana Muhammad Farooq Saeed Khan has disclosed that government is formulating a new comprehensive cotton policy to safeguard the interests of all the stakeholders. He was addressing a seminar on "Compliance Issues in Textile Industry" at University of Faisalabad (TUF). He said that textile was a backbone of the national economy and it is at the top agenda of the

government to boost this sector.

He further declared that government would not put the cotton growers at the mercy of the market manipulators and would purchase the entire produce of the cotton and subsequently release it to the spinning sector as per demand.

He said that 15% regulatory duty was imposed on yarn export, keeping in view of saving the value added textile sector from its complete collapse as they are already facing a great deal of difficulties for honoring their export commitments made with the foreign buyers.

The Minister said that due to the imposition of duty on yarn export, the value added textile sector received a considerable relief and it will also bring down the prices of the yarn to considerable extent.

He hoped that the spinning sector would also appreciate the government decision for imposing duty on a right direction and it should be taken in a good faith and support it rather than making hue and cry.

### Appropriate decision on textile chain sought

Chairman, Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), Naveed Gulzar has requested all the stakeholders including Ministry of textile, spinners and value added sector to take appropriate decision for the survival of textile chain.

He said that the imposition of regulatory duty on export of yarn severely damaged the whole textile chain including cotton, spinning, weaving and value added sector. With the imposition of this duty, the rates of cotton, yarn and fabric have substantially declined and the exporters of value added sector are also facing difficulties to confirm orders due to uncertainty in the situation.

Foreign buyers are now hesitating to place orders for Pakistani exporters as they are not certain if they will get the shipments booked by them. Due to this uncertain situation, dollar has started rising as inflows have declined and it is also feared that the inflation will rise further. ♦

## 26<sup>th</sup> IAF World Apparel Convention returns to Hong Kong after 13 years

For the first time in over 13 years the 26th International Apparel Federation "IAF" International Apparel Convention will be held in Hong Kong. Nearly 300 delegates across the apparel supply chain, including key industry executives from around the world will gather in Autumn 2010 to explore how retailer brands, internet and green manufacturing are transforming the fashion business. Taking place from 5 – 7 October 2010, the convention will run in tandem with Interstoff Asia Essential Autumn.

Co-organized by the International Apparel Federation and Messe Frankfurt, representatives from both organizers announced the event dates at a press conference held in Hong Kong during Interstoff Asia Essential Spring edition.

The press conference was attended by some 20-industry related media representatives including Pakistan Textile Journal, as Mr. Han Bekke, Secretary General for IAF spoke on the importance of such an event in Hong Kong. "IAF's mission is to develop business contacts which foster dialogue and knowledge exchange between individuals active in the entire global apparel value chain."

He further stated, "It's a great opportunity for companies that have experienced decrease in sales in this competitive economic climate and need help identifying winning strategies and ideas for production, sourcing and distribution of fashion."

Meanwhile, Mr. Stephan Buurma, Managing Director for Messe Frankfurt Asia Holding highlighted the relevancy of placing the convention alongside the long-standing Interstoff Asia Essential trade fair.

He said, "This collaboration offers the optimal setting for the next World Apparel Convention. The location alone is of great importance for the international textile industry. Hong Kong, the most effective gateway to Asia Pacific, is the perfect destination for apparel and textile industry. Hong Kong is a city of inspiration.

It offers delegates a glimpse of the charming 21st century city, full of history but always with an eye on the future – a unique mixture of eastern and western culture."

This year Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturer and Exporters Association (PRGMEA) joined the International Apparel Federation (IAF), making Pakistan 44th country to join the federation. Membership of the IAF would help the Pakistani apparel industry and exporters develop direct business contacts with the business communities of 43 members of the IAF globally.

Besides, it will help the apparel industry of Pakistan to bring innovation and tracking it on the modern production line. The IAF would help the Pakistani industry obtain modern technology for upgrading the industrial units, which would ultimately help improve their products. According to the former Central Chairman of PRGMEA, their association encourages its members and SMEs to develop direct business contacts with the IAF members.

Further reinforcing the importance of this event is the support from the Textile Council of Hong Kong. Mr Willy Lin, Chairman for the council wrote in a statement that they "are proud to take part of this meaningful event in Hong Kong."

Presently the council is comprised of eleven prominent textiles and clothing associations from Hong Kong, representing the bulk of the Hong Kong textile & clothing industry whose business activities range from spinning, weaving, knitting, dyeing and finishing, garment making and the manufacturing of textile goods globally.

The 25th edition of International Apparel Federation (IAF) World Apparel Convention (WAC) was held between 19-20 November 2009 at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi, was against a challenging back-drop where many companies are just recovering from the economic crisis. The convention focused on the theme, 'The Future of Fashion through Consolidation and Collaboration'. The convention saw approximately 300 stakeholders from the global textile and apparel industry deliberate on trade regulations, the growth of emerging markets, etc

Further information: [www.iafnet.com](http://www.iafnet.com).