



# ITMF Annual Conference 2018

## Nairobi, Kenya - Sep. 7 - 9, 2018

Supply Chains & Business Models in Times of Rapid Change

### Speakers' Biodata as of August 30, 2018

#### Formal Opening Session

Jas Bedi, ITMF & ACTIF, Kenya

The Hon. Mukhisa Kituyi, Kenya

The Hon. Peter G. Munya, Kenya

His Excellency the Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, Kenya

#### 1<sup>st</sup> General Session

##### Fibre Session – Cotton

Christian Barthel, CmiA, Germany

Terry Townsend, Cotton Analytics, USA

##### Fibre Session – Man-made Fibers

Robin MacDonald, Wood Mackenzie Chemicals, Germany

Feng Xin, Sateri, Singapore

Xiaoping Duan, CCFA, China

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> General Session

##### Textile Industry in Africa

Navdeep Sodhi, Gherzi, India

Frank Matsaert, TradeMark East Africa, Kenya

Sunny Huang, New Wide Group, Chinese Taipei

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> General Session

##### Textile Value Chain

Cen Williams, PVH, Kenya

Ruizhe Sun, CNTAC, China

#### Keynote Address

Manuel Moses, International Finance Corp., Kenya

#### The Global Textile Machinery Market Situation

Christian Schindler, Director General, ITMF

#### 4<sup>th</sup> General Session

##### Technology & Digitalization in the T&A Industry

Thomas Gries, ITA Aachen, Germany

Pete Santora, SoftWear Automation, USA

Mark Jarvis, WTiN, UK

#### 5<sup>th</sup> General Session

##### Retail and Commerce

Rien Jansen, bonprix (Otto Group), Germany

N.N. Amazon

#### 6<sup>th</sup> General Session

##### ITMF's Audit Initiative

Karim Shafei, Gherzi, Switzerland

Matthijs Crietee, IAF, Netherlands

Janet Mensink, SLCP, Netherlands

Caner Soytas, Nike, USA

Nisar Palla, Yunus Textiles Mills, Pakistan

#### 7<sup>th</sup> General Session

##### Green Economy

N.N., World Bank

James Carnahan, Archroma

**F&A Committee Meeting**

Mr. Gerrit Bouwhuis  
Mr. Marc van Parys

**Welcome Evening Guest Speaker**

Laura Chaplin, Switzerland

**Gala Dinner Guest Speaker**

N.N

Mr. Jas (Jaswinder) Bedi graduated as a textile technologist in the UK in 1984 and has over 32 years of experience in the manufacturing sector in Kenya. Mr. Bedi is an industrialist and an entrepreneur who has numerous responsibilities in business and various business member organizations. Over the years, he has attended several executive business courses organized by Harvard Business School, IMD, and IIM to mention a few to his credentials. He is a member of YPO-WPO global network of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO). Jas was also nominated a finalist in the 2016 Africa CEO forum awards and subsequently awarded the 2016 Sikh CEO of the year.



Mr. Bedi was appointed a board member at The Export Promotion Council in 2003 and in 2006 transferred to serve the board of The Export Processing Zones Authority for a period of 6 years until October 2012. In December 2012, HE President Mwai Kibaki honored Jas with a medal, Moran of the Burning Spear (MBS). Further In 2016 President Kenyatta appointed Jas as the Chairman of the Export Promotion Council to help boost Kenya's exports.

Mr. Bedi is currently

- President of ITMF
- Chairman Export Promotion Council
- Chairman of the African Cotton & Textile Industries Federation (ACTIF)
- Managing Director of Bedi Investments Limited
- Executive Director of Fine Spinners Uganda Limited

He has previously also served as

- Board of the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE)
- Managing Director of Orbit Chemical Industries Limited
- Chairman of Kenya Apparel Manufacturers Exporters Association (KAMEA)
- Vice Chairman of Kenya India Business Council
- Co-Chair of the World Bank Cotton Apex Committee
- Chairman of KAM
- Director and Vice Chairman of EABC
- Chairman of the Trade and Investment committee and Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Christian Barthel, born in 1962, holds an education in Textile (Apparel) Businessman in procurement and management.



### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1987 - **Otto group in Hamburg** - buying department

1989 - **Istanbul (Turkey)** - sourcing agency of the Otto group

1990 - **Poland and England**, new joint ventures of the Otto group

1991 - **Deputy General Manager** of Otto group sourcing office in Istanbul

2003 - **Istanbul - General Manager** of Systain International consultancy company (Otto group)

2007 - **Istanbul - Supply Chain Manager** of “**Cotton made in Africa (CmiA)**” Program

2008 - **Shanghai (China)** first CmiA Hub

2015 to today – **Hamburg (Germany)** Director Business Development for CmiA

### EXPERTISE

Christian has a vast background in sourcing of textiles from the global markets. Today, he is representing the CmiA program and supports retailers and brands in the implementation of CmiA in the global ready garment production markets.

Cotton made in Africa (CmiA) is an Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF) initiative and the largest label for sustainably produced cotton from Africa. Since its creation by Dr. Michael Otto in 2005, it has set for itself the goal to protect the environment and help Sub Saharan African smallholder cotton farmers and ginnery workers<sup>1</sup> improve their living and working conditions. To put this aim into practice, the initiative's approach focuses on activating market forces instead of aid. An alliance of international textile companies and brands built up by CmiA purchase the CmiA certified sustainable cotton, integrate it into their respective textile value chains and pay a license fee to the foundation to use the seal. The license fees paid by the demand partners are directly reinvested to benefit smallholder farmers, their families, ginnery workers in the project countries and nature protection. A small red product label shows the consumer that with his purchase he has done something particularly good for the people in the producing countries and the environment.

Christian Barthel has spent 26 years of his life abroad and supported different organizations of the Otto group in sourcing textiles and implementing different sustainable raw-materials into their supply chains.

Dr. Terry Townsend is a consultant on commodity issues, especially those involving the cotton industry. He serves as the Chair of the Discover Natural Fibre Initiative (DNFI), Coordinator of the ITMF Steering Committee of the International Task Force on Cotton Testing Methods and Treasurer of the International Forum for Cotton Promotion.



He served as executive director of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) from 1999 to 2013. He worked at the United States Department of Agriculture for five years in the 1980s analyzing the U.S. cotton industry and editing a magazine devoted to a cross-section of agricultural issues. He joined the ICAC in 1987 as statistician and was promoted to executive director in 1999. He has a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Oregon State University in the United States.

Terry Townsend

[Terry@CottonAnalytics.com](mailto:Terry@CottonAnalytics.com)

[www.CottonAnalytics.com](http://www.CottonAnalytics.com)

Robin MacDonald leads the Chemicals, Polymers & Fibres practice at Wood Mackenzie. Wood Mackenzie (usually known as WoodMac) is a global energy, chemicals, renewables, metals & mining research and consultancy group with an international reputation for supplying comprehensive data, analysis and advice.

Within WoodMac, the Chemicals, Polymers & Fibres organisation offers an integrated and unique view of the markets we cover, from crude oil and other natural products to petrochemicals, intermediate chemicals, polymers, fibres, films and then further downstream into consumer products. Our view provides our clients with insight into all elements of the manufacturing chains and markets in which they operate, irrespective of where they sit.

Robin was appointed to this position in January 2016, following WoodMac's acquisition of the PCI Group in November 2015. Prior to Wood Mackenzie, Robin was the co-founder and Managing Director of PCI Nylon.

Before moving to market research and consulting in 2004, Robin held a series of management positions in both DuPont and ICI. He has over 25 years of experience in the chemicals industry and has worked in Germany, the UK and the USA.

Robin has a B.Sc (Hons) in Applied Chemistry from the University of Strathclyde and a Ph.D in Polymer Physics from Durham University.



Mr. FENG Xin is Vice President of Sateri for Downstream Business and Corporate Development, and also member of Sateri's Management Committee. Mr. Feng holds a MBA degree from Harvard Business School and BSc from SJTU. Prior to joining Sateri, Mr. Feng was a senior executive in Royal DSM N.V. Mr. Feng started his career in the Boston Consulting Group.



Mr. DUAN Xiaoping

Vice Chairman of China National Textile & Apparel Council

Chairman of China Chemical Fibers Association

Mr. Duan Xiaoping, born in August 1969 in Jiangsu Province of China, Master of Engineering of China Textile University and Master of Management of Fu Dan University.

Mr. Duan has systematic, complete and solid theory foundation and professional technical knowledge on high molecule. He has years of experience in management of chemical fiber and textile industry, industrial development planning and enterprise strategic decision. He successively hold the posts of Vice Division Director of China National Textile Council, Secretary General of China Chemical Fibers Association, Vice General Manager of China National Chemical Fiber Corp., Vice General Manager of Zhejiang Hengyi Group Co., Ltd. And General Manager of China Garments Co., Ltd.

Mr. Duan Xiaoping is now Vice Chairman of China National Textile & Apparel Council, Chairman of China Chemical Fibers Association and the Director of Textile and Chemical Fiber Products Development Center.



Mr. Navdeep Sodhi has 3 decades of international experience in the textile industry. His expertise includes strategic management, technology and international trade and investment. With experience in over 50 countries, Mr. Sodhi has a deep understanding of the global textile value chain. Having lived and worked in Africa, he has been successfully involved in several projects relating to Policy, FDI, and Capacity building for institutions, governments and the private sector in the region. Mr. Sodhi is a Partner with Gherzi Textil Organisation, Switzerland and leads management consulting practice in Asia and Africa.



Mr. Sodhi earned his MBA from Punjab School of Economics and Business, GND University, India in 1987 and had the privilege of working in exceptionally great organisations under visionary leaders. He joined Vardhman, India's largest cotton-textile company as a management trainee. His role as in-charge of exports gave him international exposure as Vardhman was a leading exporter of cotton textiles. From 1994 to 2002 he was a general manager in the textile division of Kewalram Chanrai Group in Nigeria where he gained familiarity with the African textile & clothing industry. As a Partner at Gherzi Textil Organisation, Mr. Sodhi fortified the management consulting practice across the region.

### **About Gherzi**

Gherzi is a leading industrial consulting company founded in Zürich in 1929. With its global presence the company offers integrated and independent services to the textile and garment industry in the fields of strategic management, international benchmarking, engineering, technical textiles, logistics and finance. With two regional offices in Cairo and Lagos, Gherzi is actively engaged in Africa, advising institutions and private clients on policy and strategy, planning of textile parks and factories, and capacity building.

Frank Matsaert  
Chief Executive Officer  
TradeMark East Africa

Frank has over 20 years of experience as a senior private sector development specialist with an extensive track record in strategy, programme delivery and management in fourteen countries in Africa and six in Asia. Frank has been the Chief Executive Officer of TradeMark East Africa since October 2010 and prior to this was a private sector adviser for DFID and Country Director for Care. Frank started his career in the financial sector, as an International Fund Manager and Investment Analyst in the UK. Over the years Frank has designed and overseen over 40 major innovative and successful programmes totalling over \$1 billion in the fields of trade, financial sector development, privatisation, investment climate reform, market development and skills development. Frank holds two Masters degrees in Economics and Archaeology, and is an IMRO certified Fund Manager.



2003 Join New Wide Group

2009 Executive Director of New Wide Group

Sunny Huang is the Executive Director of New Wide Group, which is a large global textile company, specializing at knitting fabrics and garment products manufacture.

Sunny graduated from Edinburgh University, Management of Training and Development, Master program UK, and also gained double masters of EMBA from the top program of National Taiwan University and Fudan University (China). With the profession and the rich experience of management practice, Sunny expertise in human resource, strategy, and management make him recognized as a new young talent in the textile industry. During 2003-2017, the Group's sales performance grew 10 times.

Sunny awarded as 2009 Most Valued Manager from the magazine -Management Today (Taiwan) and gained the honor of "2013 Top 10 Young Entrepreneur of Textile Industry." And he was appointed as the Chairman of China Young Entrepreneur Salon and China Young Entrepreneur Union. In 2016, he gained the 2016 Outstanding Awards of Taiwan Companies in the Mainland China- Succession Inheritance Award. This year Sunny wins the honor of Jiangsu Province Labor Award in China.

In addition, he is the columnist of business weekly and talk about observation of China and Taiwan fashion industry and cross culture management.



PVH Hub Leader for Africa and Middle East region.

Based in Nairobi, Kenya.



### **Education Background**

Master's Degree in Cost Accountancy –  
Aberystwyth University 1982

### **Business profile**

PVH is one of the world's largest clothing retailers, owning brands such as Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, Speedo, Van Heusen, Arrow, Warners and IZOD. PVH has an extensive growth plan for the East Africa region.

The key parameters of value and supply chain integration, speed to market, and cost appropriate solutions prevail in equal measures within our brands.

### **Professional experience**

Worked in the apparel sector for the last 30 years with extended time in the UK, Portugal, Morocco, Egypt, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and most recently based out of Kenya with operations in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Egypt and Jordan.

Built out green field manufacturing sites in Morocco, Malaysia and most recently Ethiopia. Revised existing manufacturing platforms or opened Buying /Sourcing offices in other countries.

Worked extensively on the linkage between retailers from Europe, Asia and North America and their manufacturing partners to establish the ideal manufacturing platforms to mirror those retailer's needs. Retail profiles ranged from design houses through to the high street/brick and mortar department stores, and latterly on line platforms.

Born in Beijing in 1963, Mr. Sun Ruizhe graduated from Donghua University majoring in dyeing and finishing for bachelor's degree and Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business for EMBA.

Mr. Sun is a professor-level senior engineer and enjoys special government allowances from the State Council. Major research areas of Mr. Sun include management of textile science and technology, textile product development, industrial policy, industrial statistical analysis and planning, corporate social responsibility, branding, etc.

Mr. Sun is now the President of China National Textile & Apparel Council (CNTAC), and also serving as Chairman of China Textile Engineering Society, President of China National Garment Association, Director of China Textile & Garment Brand Strategy Promotion Committee and Director-General of Office for Corporate Social Responsibility under China National Textile & Apparel Council.



Born in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 1968, Dr. Schindler studied economics at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, from where he graduated in 1994.

Between 1995 and 1998 he worked as personal assistant of two Members of Parliament in the German Bundestag, Bonn.

In 1998 he joined the Federation of German Wholesale and Foreign Trade (BGA) in Bonn/Berlin as personal assistant and speechwriter of the Association's President.

Between 2001 and 2004 he studied at the Institute for Economic Policy at the University of Cologne, Germany, where he wrote his thesis and obtained a doctorate degree in 2004.

Dr. Schindler was appointed Economist of the International Textile Manufacturers Federation on October 1, 2004 and was promoted to the position of Director in 2006. At the Federation's Annual Conference in Dubai, UAE, in September 2006 he was nominated and elected Director General as of January 1, 2007.



Thomas Gries, born in Cologne, Germany, in 1964, studied at the RWTH Aachen University, Germany. He holds a diploma degree in mechanical engineering and economics and a doctorate in mechanical engineering. From 1995 to 2001, he worked at Lurgi Zimmer AG, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, at the Department of Technologies for Fibres&Textiles in leading positions.

From April 2001 onwards, he is Director of the Institut für Textiltechnik (ITA) of RWTH Aachen University. The honoris causa Professorship of Lomonosov University is the most distinguished scientific award of Russia given for his achievement of tailored reinforcements.

The ITA was established in 1934 and is one of the world's leading research establishments. Its fields of research consist in man-made fibre technology, staple fibre processing, fabric production, technical textiles & composites, medical textiles & biomaterials as well as in smart textiles & joining technologies. With a budget of 15 million € and a staff consisting of 110 scientists, 65 technicians and administration staff and more than 200 graduate researchers ITA is leading in the digitalization of the textile sector.

#### **Thomas Gries presently is**

- Member of National Academy of Technological Science and Engineering acatech
- Member of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Science
- Member of the scientific advisory committee of the "Zukunftsinitiative Textile NRW (ZiTEx)" and other institutions
- Evaluator DFG (German Research Foundation) as well as of other national and international project funding organisations
- Member of editorial board of several highly ranked scientific journals and conferences



Pete Santora joined SoftWear Automation in 2015 during the Research and Development phase. Today he helps support customers globally in home good manufacturing and has begun the commercialization of the SEWBOT® apparel automation, starting with the Digital T-Shirt Workline. Pete brings 10 years experience in growing high tech teams and commercializing IP. He was an Entrepreneur in Residence and research faculty member at the Advanced Technology Development Center at Georgia Tech, a Forbes "Top 10 Technology Incubator", where he mentored startup CEOs including SoftWear Automation. He is a former professional soccer player and serial entrepreneur.



Mark Jarvis is managing director of World Textile Information Network (WTiN), a UK based information provider, where he has leveraged his experience in the media/technology & a degree in Materials Science to fundamentally change the company's business model. WTiN provides specialist insight and data-driven intelligence to businesses in the Textile & Apparel value chain, enabling them to make better decisions faster and gain competitive advantage. Primary focus are the high growth markets of materials innovation, industry digitalisation and technical textiles. WTiN products are subscription based, with most delivered digitally, leveraging the latest technology to maximise user discoverability. WTiN also organises the multi-stream Innovate Textile & Apparel conferences each year in Europe, the USA & Asia, delivers bespoke consulting projects and publishes a range of journals and reports.



Rien Jansen (\*1956) studied at the Amsterdam Fashion Institute (AMFI) and graduated as an engineer. Born in the Netherlands, he worked for twelve years in the management of WE Europe before joining bonprix, responsible for purchasing, merchandising and design. From 2006 to 2010, he was appointed Managing Director of Logo International B.V. In 2010, Rien Jansen joined bonprix and has been a member of the Management Board since then, responsible for purchasing, marketing and retail.



#### **Mr. Jansen is currently**

Member of the Board Buying, Merchandising, Retail,  
bonprix Handelsgesellschaft mbH

Board member H.I.S. Textil GmbH

Supervisory Board member Schwab Versand GmbH

Board Member Dupon en de Bruin

#### **He has previously served as**

1986 – 2010 Logo International

2006 – 2010 Director, Logo International

1999 – 2006 Director of Buying, Merchandising and Design, WE Europe

1995 – 1999 International Buying Director, HIJ and ZY (WE Europe)

1986 – 1994 International Buying Director, HIJ Mannenmode (WE Europe)

#### **About bonprix**

As internationally successful fashion retailer, bonprix is currently represented in 30 countries and part of the Otto Group. At bonprix customers can enjoy fashion and shopping on all channels – online, via the catalogue or at one of its German fashion stores. Approximate 80 percent e-commerce accounts for the lion's share of sales. [www.bonprix.de](http://www.bonprix.de) is one of Germany's five highest grossing online shops\*.

\*Source: Study "E-Commerce-Markt Deutschland 2017" by EHI  
Retail Institute / Statista

Educational Background

1992 – 1996 Bachelor in business administration – Cairo University

Professional Experience

1996 – 1999 Textile manufacturing and trade

2000 – 2006 Founder of Context Consulting (textile consulting company)

2006 – 2017 Partner – Gherzi Egypt and Gherzi Textil Organisation

2008 – 2017 Co-founder and Chairman Ismaelia for Real Estate Investments (private equity)

Karim Shafei is an international partner with Gherzi Textil Organisation and has been involved in the textile sector in various capacities for over 20 years.

As a partner in GTO, Mr Shafei works closely with players in the textile industry advising them on strategy development, building international alliances and penetration of new markets. He has worked with manufacturers, traders, retailers, brands and organizations in the sector. Moreover, he has launched a number of successful ventures in real estate, publishing, trade and investment banking that have given him a wider and more strategic view of the entrepreneurial environment.

Gherzi Textil Organisation

Established in 1929, GTO is a multinational consulting firm focusing on the textile sector. Gherzi services include three distinct disciplines: Management consulting, Corporate Finance and Engineers & Logistics. With over 120 professionals and 6'000 references, Gherzi is present in key textile manufacturing markets and has completed projects in over 80 countries.

Janet holds almost 20 years' experience in Sustainability and Apparel. With an academic background in environmental science, she started her career as in consultancy. After that, she moved to Solidaridad, where she held a number of different roles. As International Program Manager Sustainable Cotton&Textiles of the Solidaridad Network, she was responsible for high-level projects in the supply chain, as well as initiatives promoting sustainable market development and direct partnerships with brands and retailers. The role included strategy setting, stakeholder engagement and grant management.

Since end 2015 she is director for the Social&Labor Convergence Project (SLCP), which aims to bring together all relevant stakeholders (including brands, retailers, manufacturers, civil society, (inter)governmental organizations, standard holders, audit firms) to create a unified approach to social and labor assessments in the apparel and footwear supply chain.

Janet has served several boards and councils. This included Council member of the Better Cotton Initiative and member of the Index Development Council for SAC. Janet is passionate about apparel and understands the complexity within the supply chain and the diversity of people associated with it. She is committed to working in the area of business and social and environmental responsibility.



**Educational Background**

1996 - 2000

Environmental Engineering,  
Yildiz Technical University

2000 - 2002

Business Administration,  
Istanbul Technical University**Professional Experience**

Nov. 2003 - Present Nike Inc. Liaison Office &amp; SMS Director EMEA

May 2003 - Oct 2003 Yapi Construction, Mngmt Systems Manager

Mar 2001 - Apr. 2003 Peugeot Automotive, Plant Utilities Manager

**Expertise**

**Caner Soytas** is leading sourcing, manufacturing and sustainability efforts in Nike for EMEA region. He has more than 15 years of experience and specializes in strategy development and deployment in sustainability and manufacturing.

The variety of the industries he has been in, like consumer goods industry, automotive manufacturing, construction and Appl & Ftwr manufacturing, gave him the experience of identifying different types of needs and approaches in different business environments.

He possesses extensive international experience, having conducted work in over 50 countries related to sourcing, manufacturing, sustainability and corporate governance.

Based in Beaverton, Oregon, NIKE, Inc. includes the Nike, Converse, Hurley, and Jordan brands. Our mission is what drives us to do everything possible to expand human potential. We do that by creating groundbreaking sport innovations, by making our products more sustainably, by building a creative and diverse global team and by making a positive impact in communities where we live and work.

Based in Singapore, James Carnahan is currently responsible to further intensify the business focus on more sustainable solutions for the textile value chain.

With 38 years' experience in the textile industry James started his career working in fabric manufacture, in a textile mill, applying the principles of quality assurance in order to develop and maximize "right first time" processes in the exhaust dyeing of cotton, polyester and blends thereof.

A move to ICI, and later BASF provided James with the opportunity to use his industry experience to continue this approach in the development and the resultant sales & marketing of textile dyes and chemicals which provide many solutions aimed at process re-engineering in fabric manufacture to reduce environmental impact and resources requirements.

During his career James has travelled to and supported many markets, having been based in South Africa, Italy, Germany, China and Singapore.

James is very passionate towards improving the sustainability footprint of the value chains that Archroma serves, in particular textiles, especially having visited and seen the results of malpractice in a number of low cost labor markets - surprisingly still evident in the 21st century.



**Educational Background**

- 1978 – 1982 Bachelor Textile Management at IHBO ‘de Maere’ in Enschede, the Netherlands  
2007 – 2011 PhD at University of Twente in Enschede, NL

**Professional Experience**

- 2006 – present Saxion University of Applied Science, researcher/associate professor  
2000 – 2006 Operations management at Ten Cate Advanced Textiles  
1982 – 2000 Operations management in various textile companies

**Expertise**

Bouwhuis is a textile technologist/researcher. He teaches textile technology at Saxion University in Enschede. He has a PhD-degree in the field of sustainable pre-processing of cotton at industrial scale. He carried out several management positions within a range of industrial companies in the textile industry.

Bouwhuis is associate professor Smart Materials at Saxion and responsible for the research in the field of textile related sustainability. Here the focus is on mechanical and chemical recycling of textiles.

**Saxion University of Applied Sciences**

At Saxion 26,500 students are educated at bachelor or master level and trained in applied research by 2,000 FTE professionals. At present there are 750 students in the bachelor course Fashion and Textile Technology. Since 2017 we also offer a master course ‘Innovative Textile Development’. This recently started course counts 20 students.

The research group Smart Functional Materials is part of the Academy Creative Technologies. There are three research themes in the group; smart textiles, surface modification and sustainable textiles. In the group are more than 60 students involved in research, besides the professional staff of 20 researchers (12 FTE).

Doctor in Chemistry

Prof Dr em

Former Prof. Textile at University College Ghent and University Ghent

Former Head of the Textile Department and Textile Research Lab TO2C

President UNITEX (SME-association of Textile in Belgium and The Netherlands, [www.unitex.be](http://www.unitex.be))

Organizer of international congresses and chef-editor of UNITEX-journal (periodic Textile journal - see [www.unitex.be](http://www.unitex.be))

Owner of 8 patents

Author of 6 books

Number of lectures given in Belgium and abroad > 300 (lectures in Hong Kong, Singapore, South Africa, USA, Brazil, Canada, India, Thailand, Turkey, Spain ...)

Number of national and international publications: > 200

Member of the Centexbel board

Senior consulting at Centexbel

Owner and founder of TexZeppelin - Consultancy company dealing with emerging technologies (digital technologies, UV-LED coating/printing), plasma, laser, nanotechnology...)



Born February 1<sup>st</sup> 1987, in Vevey, Switzerland. Eugene's daughter and Charlie Chaplin's granddaughter. Obtained a Certificate of Studies in film studies, Art and Psychology in London and a degree in Fashion Design in Lausanne. Has modelled for big brands. Is a painter since 2011, date of her first exhibition. Wrote a book, "Laughter is the first step towards happiness."

**Philosophy**

"A day without laughter is a day wasted!"

**Sources of inspiration**

Charlie Chaplin, nature, animals

**Passions**

Horse riding, art, music

**Mission**

Laughter, a human right!

**Style**

Simple and smiling

**Art**

Painting - sculpture – design between love, hope and joy

**Instant**

Share and enjoy

**Ambassador**

Moi pour toi, Cotton made in Africa

Laura, granddaughter of the famous filmmaker Charlie Chaplin, is proud of her origins. She grew up at the Manor de Ban, Switzerland, the last home of her grandfather, which is today a museum named Chaplin's world. Conscious of her privileged youth, she has the desire to extend the work of Charlie and share his happiness and his joie for life.