



INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS FEDERATION
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES INDUSTRIES TEXTILES
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER TEXTILINDUSTRIE

Open Letter by the ITMF President, Mr. Kihak Sung, to all ITMF Members

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Re. Coronavirus-Pandemic

The Corona-pandemic has become a reality most of us would not have imagined only a few weeks ago. Life has changed dramatically within a very short period of time. In many regions of the world, social activities and gatherings are restricted or forbidden entirely. People are asked to avoid any sort of mingling and to keep a distance of two meters when meeting other persons in order to reduce the risk of an infection with the Coronavirus. For families, this is a real challenge and requires flexibility, creativity and tolerance from everyone.

On this occasion, I would like to extend my condolences and sympathies to all the victims and families affected by COVID-19. Our thoughts are with them.

The Corona-pandemic has of course also dramatic effect on the entire textile value chain. Both supply and demand shocks have hit our industry very hard. The disruption of the textile supply chain in many regions of the world, mainly caused by the forced extension of the Chinese New Year holidays due to the Corona-epidemic, had certainly some serious negative effects for many in our industry in China and elsewhere. But the global demand shock we are currently experiencing is dramatic. Existing orders are postponed or cancelled altogether, new orders are delayed and/or reduced. The scale and scope of this demand shock cannot be estimated in the traditional manner as the Corona-pandemic has no precedent.

As ITMF President, but especially as a colleague and friend of you, I would like to encourage all of us to work together in the supply chain as much as possible. By working together in the supply chain, we can weather this hurricane much better as an industry than by looking only at ourselves. Of course, within each country, the respective national textile and apparel associations do their utmost to convince their respective governments that quick and strong financial support is crucial if companies are to survive this demand and liquidity shock.



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The support of governments is paramount. But equally important in many cases can be the understanding and support of partners in the textile value chain. For example, companies could grant each other longer payment periods, discuss the scale and scope of cancellations of orders, renegotiate contracts, etc. As national associations and as companies, we have to be creative and we have to act swiftly within a country but also across borders.

In addition to this, ITMF will also do its part to connect the ITMF-membership. ITMF should act as a platform where creative ideas and solutions are shared. We would like to invite all members to share ideas and concepts that could help to mitigate the problems. The ITMF-Secretariat will circulate ideas and concepts in the ITMF Newsletter. Furthermore, ITMF will connect with other international organisations/associations inviting them to look for creativity and solutions that could help companies in the value chain to better overcome this crisis.

While this Corona-pandemic is for many of us the first pandemic, it is not our first big challenge. We must and will emerge stronger from this crisis, provided we also use this crisis to review and streamline our internal and external processes and supply chains.

In closing. Let me wish you and your families safety and health and the strengths and perseverance to overcome this challenge.

Yours sincerely,

Kihak Sung

ITMF-President

March 25, 2020