Proceedings
of the meeting held
in Sao Paulo/Brazil
on October 17, 2010

Participants
Macdonald, Andrew G. (Chairman) TAVEX Corporation Brazil
Ali Mohammad, Bashir H. Gul Ahmed Textile Mills Pakistan
Bonadei, Romano Filartex Italy
Chen, Steven S.C. Tah Tong Textile Co. Taiwan, China
Simeoni, Walter WS International South Africa

Guests
Almeida, Victor Buhler Quality Yarns USA
Elder, Jeff J.G. Boswell Company USA
Townsend, Terry ICAC

Apologies
Ashaboglu, Ertekin Turkish Textile Research Center Turkey
Bashir, Ziad Gul Ahmed Textile Mills Ltd. Pakistan
Bieri, Werner Buhler Quality Yarns Corp. USA
Crouse, Enrique Prilla 2000 South Africa
Kim, Jung-Soo Ilshin Spinning Korea
Nassar, Ayman Setcore Spinning S.A.E. Egypt
Patodia, B.K. GTN Textiles Ltd. India
Sukarmadji, Annas Pt Apac Inti Corpora Indonesia
Vijayshankar, M.N. Recron (Reliance Group) Malaysia

ITMF Secretariat
Schindler, Christian

Observers
Brazil Rui Altenburg Altenburg Industria Textil
Ivan José Bezerra de Menezes TBM
Daniel Borger Norfil
Haroldo Cunha ABRAPA
Les Miller Linhas Bonfio

Egypt Mohsen Abd El wahab El Gilani Cotton & Textile Industries Holding
Ahmed El Sawi Soliman Cotton & Textile Industries Holding

France Hubert Du Potet F.F.I.L.C.
Benoit Hacot HACOT et Colombier
Christophe Lambert T.D.V. Industries

India Adusumilli Ramachandra Vijayeswari Textiles Limited
1. **Opening Remarks by the Chairman**

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Andrew Macdonald (Brazil), welcomed the members of the Committee as well as the various guests and opened the meeting with a few introductory remarks.

2. **Spinners’ Committee Visit to East Africa & Mozambique**

The Chairman presented a report with photos summarizing the most important impressions and experiences of the visit of the Spinners Committee delegation to East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania) and Mozambique which took place from July 3-10, 2010.

3. **Consequences of Ban on Indian Cotton Exports for Spinners**

The Committee discussed the consequences of the surge of cotton prices in general as a result of increased cotton demand, especially from booming economies in emerging countries like China and India, and decreased cotton supply. Furthermore it discussed the role of cotton export restrictions by governments as in the case of the Indian government’s temporary ban and restriction of exports in the summer/fall of 2010.

The Committee agreed that any cotton export restriction affecting already contracted exports are violating the important principle of sanctity of contract.

It agreed that the ITMF should take action against such policy by writing letters to the government bodies and/or organizations concerned and by publishing statements (i.e. press releases).

The Chairman recommended discussing this issue also in the meeting of the Joint Cotton Committee where this item is also on the agenda.

4. **International Committee of Cotton Testing Methods (ICCTM)**

Mr. Terry Townsend, Coordinator of the Steering Committee of the ICCTM, gave a report on the meeting of the ICCTM in Bremen in March 2010.

He informed the meeting that the Steering Committee of the ICCTM consisting of 5 persons, namely Terry Townsend (ICAC), Jan Wellmann (Bremen Cotton Exchange), Darryl Earnest (USDA), Christoph Färber (Trützschler) and Andrew Macdonald (ITMF Spinners Committee), was re-elected in Bremen. At the meeting of the ICCTM the Steering Committee proposed to no longer “approve” or “recommend” instruments or methods as these words imply a commercial and scientific endorsement that the ICCTM is not in a position to provide. Instead the Steering Committee suggested “recognizing” those instruments and methods that are able to perform within allowable tolerances and that achieve results that correlate with a reference method.

For officially recognizing an instrument or test method, the inventor/instrument manufacturer has to provide information that allows the ICCTM to assess the instrument or test method.

The recognition is divided into a prototype recognition, where it is not possible to deliver data from comparisons of similar instruments, and a full instrument or method recognition, which definitely needs additional results from instrument comparisons.

5. **HVI Colour**

The meeting had a discussion on HVI colour readings and the relevance of the information derived as compared to visual classing (colour grading). The relationship between Rd and +b is calculated on an extensive chart which defines the so called “US colour grade” in an attempt to mimic the human eye, but in reality fails to do justice to the real evaluation of cotton colour. In today’s spinning world visual classing, and the attempt to class with a color grade is becoming less useful, whilst the evaluation Rd and +b sepa-
rately are very important for preparing lay downs, and therefore should be commercially relevant, rather than the “artificial” composition of a colour grade.

The meeting agreed that the International Committee on Cotton Testing Methods (ICCTM) should be asked to address this question in its next meeting, with the idea of recommending alternatives to the current system of combining RD and +b to form a colour grade.

6. Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)

The Committee discussed the Spinners’ Committee perspective on the controversy over the perception of “better” cotton. The term better cotton implies that the cotton produced under BCI is actually better in quality than cotton produced elsewhere. The cotton produced under the BCI scheme should be “better” in the sense that its production has improved as compared to the previous period in terms of economic, environmental and social aspects.

Some spinners reported that they were requested by the retailer to use BCI cotton and that ginners are asking a premium for BCI cotton.

The Committee agreed that the concept of BCI as such is excellent and should be supported. But it also agreed that “better cotton” is wrongly perceived and sometimes misused as a marketing tool and thus creating misunderstandings, confusion and frustration among the cotton industry. The Committee shared the opinion that BCI should adapt measures that prevent any sort of misunderstandings and the impression of being a marketing tool.

7. Cotton Contamination Survey 2009

The Director General informed the Committee about the Cotton Contamination Survey 2009. The results can be summarized in the following sentence: “Despite some improvements in the recent past foreign matter, stickiness and seed-coat fragments in raw cotton continue to be serious challenges to the cotton spinning industry worldwide.”

He pointed out that the main challenge of the survey was and remains to have enough cotton spinning companies participating in this survey. In 2009 the number of cotton spinning mills reached 110 as compared to 114 in 2007 and 152 in 2005. The good news is that in 2009 for the first time also Chinese cotton spinning mills have participated and should do so in increasing numbers in the future. It is also noteworthy that the online version of the questionnaire that offered for the first time in 2009 was well received. Around 50% of all questionnaires were received online while 40% were received by fax and about 10% by email with a word-document attached.

8. Next Country Visit

The Chairman proposed to visit in 2011 Syria which was accepted by the Committee. Such a visit would take place either in May or June 2011.

9. Next Annual Meeting

It was proposed that the next annual meeting of the Committee will be held in connection with ITMF Annual Conference 2011 in Barcelona/Spain (September 19-21, 2011).

November 2010