Spinners Committee

Minutes

September 10, 2015

08:30 - 10:00 hrs.
Georgian Room, Westin St. Francis Hotel
San Francisco / USA

Honorary Life Members:

Walter Simeoni (South Africa)

Members:

Andrew Macdonald (Brazil) – Chairman
Steven Chen (Chinese Taipei) – Vice Chairman
Enrique Crouse (South Africa)
Thomas Nasiou (Switzerland)
Suharjo Sastro Sumarto (Indonesia)
Yejun Zhou (China)

Guests:

Bashir Ali Mohammad (Pakistan)
Garry Bell (Canada)
Tito Burgi (Italy)
John Cheh (Hong Kong, China)
Ernst Grimmelt (Germany)
Jordan Lea (USA)
Marty Moran (USA)
Halit Narin (Turkey)
Mona Qaud (Switzerland)
Adria Serra (Spain)
Pia Terasa (Switzerland)
Terry Townsend (USA)
Joel Zou (China)
1) Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Andrew Macdonald (Brazil), opened the meeting with a few introductory remarks and welcomed all and thanked the guests for attending.

2) ICA’s Cotton Consumers Committee

The meeting was informed on the progress of this recently formed Committee that has the objective of strengthening the Spinner’s voice within the ICA. In this context the meeting was invited to comment on the current Value Differences as established by the ICA.

Spinners generally complain that these value differences as set by ICA do not reflect the real differences in quality related to the end products’ prices. Therefore, the Spinners Committee was of opinion that one option would be for value differences to be negotiated between the parties involved, as opposed to the value differences fixed by the ICA. It was pointed out that though ideal, this could become very complicated. However, the Committee agreed that this topic merited close discussion with the ICA in an attempt to reach a more equitable equilibrium between sellers and the consumers of cotton, and this is currently under discussion in the ICA’s Cotton Consumer Committee.

3) Cotton and other short-staple fibres

The Committee was invited to discuss how other non cotton short-staple fibres might be included in future discussions of the Spinners Committee.

In a lengthy discussion the meeting agreed that man-made fibres are important fibres for the spinning industry. Especially the share of blends has been increasing constantly in the past few decades. More and more spinners are spinning blends due to the increasing demand of the downstream industry.

Against this backdrop, the Committee agreed that there is the need to provide a platform within the ITMF where aspects, challenges and opportunities of man-made fibres can be discussed. Whether this should be done within the current format of the Spinners Committee or whether a separate Committee should be established needs to be seen. The Secretariat was asked to discuss this with representatives from the man-made fibre industry in the coming months at different occasions.

4) Spinners’ Committee Country Visit to China in 2014

The Chairman gave an extensive report with many photos about the Committee’s country visit to China in October 2014. He pointed out that such visits are extremely educational as they provide the possibilities to see and experience first-hand the situation and development of the cotton industry of a country. He emphasized that the hospitality extended to the Committee by the various hosts was outstanding. On this occasion, Mr. Macdonald thanked Mdme. Zhou, Director of Wuxi No. 1 Cotton Mill in China and member of the ITMF Spinners Committee for her hospitality during the Committee’s visit of Wuxi No. 1 Cotton Mill last year. The report of the visit is available on the ITMF website under “Reports.”
5) **International Committee of Cotton Testing Methods (ICCTM)**

The Vice Chairman of the ICCTM, Ms. Mona Quad (Switzerland), updated the Committee on the activities of the ICCTM. In the past few years several cotton testing instruments have received the recognition of the ICCTM (Aqualab, Fibrotest, Premier aQuara 2). Currently the ICCTM is preparing the next Plenary Meeting which will be held at the fringes of the International Bremen Cotton Conference on March 15, 2016.

On this occasion the Committee was invited to propose research areas that are of importance to the cotton spinning industry. It was of the opinion that among others emphasis should continue on stickiness and contamination, as well as the standard requests for rapid instrument measurement of short fibre content, maturity and neps.

6) **Spinners’ Committee Country Visit to the USA in 2015**

The Chairman gave a short overview of the Committee’s visit to the US cotton belt from September 13-19, 2015. The visits included stops in California, Texas, the region of Memphis and Georgia.

7) **Next Country Visit 2016**

The Committee discussed activities in 2016. The Committee received an invitation from the International Trade Centre (ITC) to visit in January/February 2016 major cotton producing countries in West Africa like Chad, Mali Burkina Faso, etc. During the meeting no decision was taken. Other countries to be considered are Brazil, Pakistan or Greece. The Secretariat was asked to discuss this among the members of the Spinners Committee after the Annual Conference.

In the meantime the invitation to West Africa was declined.

8) **Next Meeting**

The next annual meeting of the Committee will be held in connection with ITMF Annual Conference 2016 which will be held from November 17-19, 2016 in Jaipur/India.

October 2015