Attendees:

Members

Andrew Macdonald (Brazil) – Chairman
Steven Chen (Chinese Taipei) – Vice Chairman
Enrique Crouse (South Africa)
Ernst Grimmelt (Germany)
Thomas Nasiou (Switzerland)
B.K. Patodia (India)
Suharjo Sastro Sumarto (Indonesia)
Walter Simeoni (South Africa)
M.N. Vijayshankar (Malaysia)

Mr. Brian Mandt (ITMF)
Mr. Christian Schindler (ITMF)

Guests

Mr. Mahbubul Alam (Bangladesh)
Mr. Ashish Bagrodia (India)
Mr. Dhirat Banka (India)
Mr. Jas Bedi (Kenya)
Mr. Wolfram Daubek (Austria)
Mr. Peter Gnägi (Switzerland)
Mr. R. R. Kankani (India)
Mr. Prashant Mohota (India)
Ms. Lorena Ruiz (USA)
Ms. Pia Terasa (Switzerland)
Ms. Beina Zhu (China)
1) **Opening Remarks by the Chairman**

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Andrew Macdonald (Brazil), opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting of the ITMF Spinners Committee in Jaipur/India. He welcomed especially the new member of the Committee, Mr. Ernst Grimmelt, Managing Director, Velener Textil GmbH, Germany, a producer of yarns and grew fabrics.

Based on the fact that the attendance at meetings and country visits has been falling in the past ten years, especially Mr. Macdonald asked the members to reflect on the composition, activities and objectives of the ITMF Spinners Committee. While the reputation of the Committee around the world is remarkable – as perceived by the Committee when travelling around the world – the group representing the Spinners Committee on various occasions became smaller over time.

The general view of the members was that:

a) The Committee is important and needs to continue its work
b) The Committee should not only look at cotton but also at man-made fibres (mmf). Since the share of blends is increasing, more knowledge about mmf-fibers is of essence.

c) The Committee could organise trips not only focusing on cotton, but include also visits of mmf-producers, mmf-conferences, etc.
d) It was suggested that alternate membership should be possible.
e) The Committee should increase its efforts to attract younger members.

2) **International Committee of Cotton Testing Methods (ICCTM)**

The Chairman informed the Committee about the activities of the ICCTM since its last meeting in March 2016 on the fringes of the International Cotton Conference in Bremen/Germany. He stated that stickiness was and is an important issue for spinners. Though the negative consequences of stickiness can be mitigated by spraying a certain oil onto the cotton, or by mixing certain quantities of sticky cotton with no-sticky cotton, this does not solve the problem of detection prior to bale opening, and action being taken on sample based tests. According to the Chairman, the necessity to look at stickiness is more important than ever before, due to the environmental approach in the production of cotton and the reduction of use of insecticides.

3) **ICA’s Cotton Consumers Committee**

Mr. Macdonald informed the meeting on the progress of the ICA Cotton Consumer Committee, which has the objective of strengthening the spinners’ voice within the ICA. He told the meeting that ICA’s “Cotton Consumers Committee” did not make much progress, without Board support. As a result, it had decided to form a smaller working group of cotton traders and spinners plus an arbitrator that would discuss possible changes. The first noteworthy achievement of this working group was that the penalty discounts would increase slightly, for cotton delivered below the contracted quality. The meeting discussed the question of how such penalty discounts are calculated, and the Chairman advised that they were based on tradition as a disincentive to growers, rather than as compensation to spinners. It was suggested, that the Spinners Committee might like to take some recommendations.

Another point that this working group agreed upon was to change the tolerance for micronaire measurement. Until recently, the tolerance was up to 0.3, but is now been changed to 0.1.

Apart from these two points, this working group has at least another 16 items on their “wish list”.

4) **ICA Default List Expansion**

The Committee discussed the new measures taken by the ICA to enforce arbitration awards, the majority of which are against spinners. Though undoubtedly, there are spinners who default on contracts for prices reasons in their favour, they should be more involved in the arbitration process and understand the consequences.

Against this backdrop, the meeting discussed what could be done to improve this situation and agreed that in principle the ITMF should attempt to build bridges between the spinners and the trade through the ICA.

5) **Spinners’ Committee Country Visit to Uzbekistan in 2016**

The Chairman gave an extensive report about the Committee’s country visit to Uzbekistan, which took place from October 10-15, 2016. The report about the country visit is available on the ITMF-website under “Reports”.

6) **Next Meeting**

It was proposed that the next annual meeting of the Spinners Committee would be held in connection with ITMF Annual Conference in 2017 that will be held from September 14-16, 2017.

January 2017