MINUTES

September 14, 2017 (11.00 – 12.30 hrs.)
(Badung 1, Lower Level)
Grand Hyatt Bali Hotel
Bali / Indonesia

Participants:

Macdonald, Andrew G. (Brazil) – Chairman
Chen, Steven (Chinese Taipei) – Vice Chairman
Ali Mohammad, Bashir (Pakistan)
Grimmelt, Ernst (Germany)
Sumarto, Suharjo Sastro (Indonesia)
Vartparonian, Jorge (Argentina)
Vijayshankar, M. N. (Malaysia)
Zou, Joel (representing Ms. Yejun Zhou, China)

Guests:

Agarwal, Abhav (Primayudha, Indonesia)
Anand, Deepak (Argo Pantes, Indonesia)
Bedi, Jas (Bedi Investments, Kenya)
Bettendorf, Will (Cotton Council International, USA)
Chuenchoochit, Kumjorn (Thai Textile Industry Public Co., Thailand)
Gnägi, Peter (Benninger, Switzerland)
Hortmeyer, Elke (Bremen Cotton Exchange, Germany)
Hughes, Kai (ICAC)
Kawilarang, Sherlina (PT. Excellence Qualities Yarn, Indonesia)
Kotak, Vinay (Kotak Ginning & Pressing Industries, India)
Pacheco, Luiz (Sinditextil, Brazil)
Pessa, Joao (ABRAPA, Brazil)
Poon, Ben (Sateri International, Singapore)
Shankar, Ravi (Asia Pacific Fibres, Indonesia)
Sluijs, René van de (CSIRO, Australia)
Srinivasan, K.V. (Premier Mills, India)
Terasa, Pia (Saurer, Switzerland)
Wirawasta, Redma Gita (APSyFI, Indonesia)

ITMF:

Schindler, Christian
Zieschank, Olivier
1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Andrew Macdonald (Brazil), opened the meeting with a few introductory remarks.

2. Presentation: “Tracking Contamination through Textile Processing”

Mr. René van der Sluijs, CSIRO Manufacturing, Australia, made a presentation on “Tracking Contamination through Textile Processing”.

3. Presentation: “Results about a Cotton Contamination Survey“

Mr. Ernst Grimmelt, Bremen Cotton Exchange, Germany, presented the results of a survey on contamination conducted jointly by the ITA Aachen and the Bremen Cotton Exchange (see attached document no. 1).

4. ICA’s Cotton Consumers Committee

Mr. Andrew Macdonald informed the meeting about the ongoing work of this Committee. He noted that the progress of the Committee is relatively slow as it takes quite some time to arrange meetings and to discuss the different proposals. Of the 20 proposals, the Consumer Committee has made, only 4 have so far actually been discussed/resolved. These are

a) The tolerance for micronaire results had been reduced from 0.3 to 0.1.
b) On micronaire readings the contact allowed for a “claim limit” (CL), meaning the results could be up to 0.3 higher or lower as a tolerance. This was changed to “No Claim limit” (NCL) meaning from hence forward there was to be no tolerance, unless agreed by the parties to the contract.
c) Micronaire allowance would in future be determined by the Value Differences Committee (VDC) instead of fixed in the rules.
d) Additional penalties for shipments of inferior quality on a sliding scale basis.

5. BCI

The meeting was invited to discuss BCI, its current situation and to review ITMF’s position.

The meeting agreed that ITMF should encourage referring to this initiative as just BCI, as the wording “Better Cotton Initiative” is misleading. Cotton produced under BCI is not better in terms of quality or sustainability. BCI claims only that the cotton produced in a certain area is being produced under better conditions compared with previous years. Spinners are requesting BCI-cotton because more and retailers and brands are asking for BCI yarn and subsequently the apparel. Since more retailers and brands are demanding BCI cotton, the demand and consumption is expected to increase in the future.

Now, the Mass Balance System (MBS) is applied at BCI, since traceability is almost impossible economically in upland cotton, which means that when spinners buy a certain volume of BCI cotton, they can sell a corresponding volume of yarn. This does not mean that the yarn that the spinner produces is necessarily cotton produced under BCI conditions, but rather that the spinner has contributed to the initiative. The program is like palm oil credits.

The Committee agreed that in summary, BCI is an initiative that ITMF should support, though by referring only to BCI and not to “Better Cotton Initiative”.
6. Traceability

The meeting was called upon to discuss the need for traceability of cotton in upland varieties. The Committee believed that traceability is becoming more and more an issue for consumers as well as brands/retailers. Nevertheless, the Committee shared the view that for the moment the concept of full traceability is not applicable for Upland Cotton. There is an application for ELS (Extra Long Staple) due to the specific demand and relatively small production. Overall therefore, the Committee supports the Mass Balance System (MAS), being applied by BCI in order to maintain cotton as competitive as possible.

7. International Committee of Cotton Testing Methods (ICCTM)

The Chairman informed the Committee about the activities of the ICCTM about:

- **Stickiness in cotton**
  The Committee agreed that stickiness was and is a critical issue for spinners. Therefore, the ICCTM is encouraged by the Spinners Committee to continue this important work on developing testing methods and the production of testing instruments.

- **HVI classing: Do spinners understand how to fully use this tool in today’s world?**
  Often the spinners are not using the data provided by the HVI properly. Therefore, the Spinners Committee agreed that a manual is produced/prepared that helps reading the HVI-data correctly.

8. Next Activities

The members were informed that the Committee was invited to visit Lenzing AG, a producer of cellulosic fibres, in Lenzing/Austria. Initially, it was planned that the visit will take place in April 2018. In the meantime, it is suggested that it will take place on March 16/17, 2018, just before the start of the Intl. Cotton Conference in Bremen/Germany which will be held on March 20/21, 2018.

Furthermore, the members were informed that a visit to East Africa cotton areas was being considered in conjunction with the ITMF Annual Conference 2018 in Kenya (Sep 7-9, 2018). The members will be invited to take part in a survey about suitable dates.

9. Next Meeting

It was proposed that the next annual meeting of the Committee will be held in conjunction with the ITMF Annual Conference 2018 (Sep 7-9, 2018).

10. Any Other Business

Ms. Yejun Zhou, President of Wuxi 1 Cotton Mills, China and member of the ITMF Spinners Committee, could not attend the meeting in Bali/Indonesia and therefore submitted her thoughts on contamination in written format (see document no. 2).

December 2017
Bremen Aachen Survey

• This worldwide survey builds a basic collection of information to discuss trends and developments of the processing textile industry in the future.

• More than 170 participants from 28 different countries provided answers on this survey. Most of the participants are from India, China, Turkey, Pakistan, Korea, Germany and the United States.

• The report presents the results from the Bremen Aachen Survey on Cotton Quality, which was implemented worldwide in 2016.
Bremen Aachen Survey

Spinning technology used by the respondents:

- **Ring spinning**: 87%
- **Rotor spinning**: 55%
- **Compact ring spinning**: 55%
- **Airjet spinning**: 11%
- **Other**: 5%
Bremen Aachen Survey

Processed fibre materials:

- Cotton: 98%
- PES/PET: 49%
- Cellulosic fibres: 45%
- Other natural fibres: 15%
- Other man-made fibres: 40%
Yarn composition: Blending of cotton with other fibres:

- **57%** PES/PET
- **44%** Cellulosic fibres
- **44%** Natural fibres
- **43%** No blending
- **40%** Other manmade fibres
Bremen Aachen Survey

Reasons for blending cotton fibres:

- **Customer request**: 76%
- **Fabric properties**: 56%
- **Yarn properties**: 46%
- **Cost**: 35%
- **Other**: 42%
Most important properties of a yarn:
(Three answers per participant)

- Tenacity: 72%
- Neps thick/thin places: 70%
- Evenness: 61%
Bremen Aachen Survey

Defects or deficiencies of cotton fibres that affect yarn properties:

- Strength/Tenacity: 82%
- Short fibre content: 79%
- Micronaire: 78%
- UHML / Staple length: 72%
- Leaf / trash amount: 65%
- Stickiness (Sugar, Seed Oil): 64%
- Maturity: 62%
- Length uniformity / Length CV: 62%
- Yellowness (+b): 59%
- Seed coat fragments: 58%
- Bark / grass content: 55%
Bremen Aachen Survey

Top properties of man-made fibres:
(Three answers from each participant):

- High tenacity: 91%
- High elongation: 46%
- Low shrinkage at boil/steam: 35%
Man-made fibres which are seen in direct competition with cotton:

- PES/PET: 75%
- Cellulosic fibres: 64%
Cotton identity programs used by the respondents:

- 56% BCI
- 45% Organics / GOTS
- 27% None / I don't know
Bremen Aachen Survey

Benefits of cotton identity programs:

- Marketing advantage: 55%
- Final consumers' trust / demand: 55%
- Sustainability: 46%
- Price premium for your products: 24%
Bremen Aachen Survey

Deficiencies of cotton identity programs:

- **Price/cost**: 52%
- **Availability of specific quality**: 43%
- **Dependency on supplier**: 41%
- **I don't know**: 12%
Bremen Aachen Survey

Worldwide Cotton Grade Standards and Arbitration

- Cotton Grade Standards
- Instrumental arbitration
- Round trials

- Manual Arbitration
- International Training Classes
Bremen Aachen Survey

International Quality Testing and Research Center:

Laboratory testing methods:
- HVI testing
- Micronaire
- Trash testing
- AFIS
- Stickiness testing
- Manual classing
- Moisture testing
- DNA testing
THANK YOU
Statement by

Ms. Yejun Zhou
Wuxi No. 1 Cotton Mill, China
Member of the ITMF Spinners Committee
Prepared for the meeting of the ITMF Spinners Committee
on September 14th, 2017 in Bali/Indonesia

对棉花污染问题的几点看法
Opinions about Cotton Contamination

大家好，我来自无锡一棉纺织集团有限公司，我司的周晔珺董事
长这几天由于健康原因不能到会，委托我临时参加，下面针对棉花污
染问题发表几点看法:
Hello, everyone! I’m from Wuxi No. 1 Cotton Mill Textile Group Co.,
Ltd. Due to health issue, our group’s president Yejun Zhou couldn’t come
and entrusted me to attend this meeting. Now, I’ll give my opinions about
cotton contamination.
1.推广机采棉

The first is popularizing machine picked cotton

棉花污染问题是困扰纺织业多年的顽疾，应从源头解决。机采棉能有效地解决异纤问题，使用机采棉的美国、澳大利亚和巴西棉花异纤很少，近年来中国兵团棉也使用了机采棉，异纤明显下降，所以机采棉是异纤的最终解决方案，机采棉还涉及棉花品种、种植方式等是一个系统工程。

Cotton contamination has been a bothering issue to textile industry for many years and shall be solved from sources. Machine picked cotton can effectively resolve contaminations. American, Australian and Brazilian cottons apply that way, and the number of contaminations is very few. In recent years, the Xinjiang production and construction corps has put machine picking into use, which obviously reduces contaminations, so it’s the final solution to cotton contaminations. What’s more, machine picked cotton refers to a lot, including cotton varieties and plantation methods, and can be regarded as a systematic engineering.
2、加强棉花采摘到收购环节的管理

The second is strengthening management from picking to purchasing

For those that temporarily can’t apply machine picking, improving management is the only way. Strictly controlling interfusion of foreign fibers in picking, tedding, storage and purchasing, sticking to packing with raw-white cotton fabric bags, instead of polypropylene packing bags or materials with colored or chemical fiber ropes, so as to fundamentally settle and alleviate contaminations.

3、轧花厂是控制异纤重要一环

Next, I want to say that ginning plant is a part of great importance in controlling contaminations.

我们发现凡是轧花厂在籽棉时采取人工拣花或采用异纤分拣机,
We find that if ginning plants apply manual picking or contamination detector sorting machines on seed cotton, there won’t be concentrated contaminations in cotton, which means the most labor-saving and the most effective method is to pick out a mass of foreign fibers before smashing it. Therefore, we suggest considering manual picking of contaminations in seed cotton as the industrial standard, and contamination detector and sorting machines as standard configuration of ginning plants.

Then, let’s move on to regions with relatively more contaminations at present.

4、目前异纤较多的地区

印度、非洲和中国内地生产的棉花含异纤很多，最近我司顺应全球贸易一体化的趋势，准备踏出国门在埃塞俄比亚投资建厂，已经签署了投资意向协议，我们无法采用非洲当地的棉花生产高档纱线，原
因之一就是污染严重，即使是世界著名的埃及棉也有污染，影响了这些棉花的使用价值。

Cottons yielded in India, Africa and Chinese Mainland usually contain a lot of contaminations. Lately, following the trend of global trade integration, our company has been planning to invest and build a factory in Ethiopia and has signed the investment intention agreement. However, we’re unable to use African local cotton to produce top-grade yarns, and one of the reasons is serious contamination, including the world-famous Egyptian cotton, influencing use value of these cottons.

5、纺纱厂的异纤管理

The fifth is regarding contamination management in spinning mills

纺纱厂可以减轻异纤的危害但不能根除异纤，目前纺纱厂控制异纤的主要手段有：人工分拣异纤、异纤分拣机和异纤电清，我们感到异纤分拣机的效果比人工分拣好，已全面推广。希望纺机制造厂商能进一步提高异纤分拣机的检出（喷出）率，改善异纤电清的误切和漏切。

Spinning mills could reduce harm of contaminations, but fail to eradicate
it. Currently, the main means to control contaminations by spinning mills contain manual sorting, sorting machine and electrical cleaners. Because of better results, we prefer sorting machines and have comprehensively popularized. It’s hoped manufacturers of spinning machines could further enhance detection (eruption) rate of contamination sorting machines and improve inaccurate and missing cut of electrical cleaners.

6. 异纤控制应突出重点

Last but not least, key points shall be stressed in contamination control.

目前棉花异纤是用“克/吨”来考量，代表的是一个平均水平，而实际上布面异纤在正常情况下呈分散分布，可以通过布面修织解决，但有时会突然出现大面积密集性的异纤，过后又恢复正常，这种异纤是无法修织的，常造成大范围开剪、换片或者转染，这是大块的异纤打碎造成，影响最大的是有色布块，在漂白过程中会褪色污染到周围纱线，因此应重点控制偶发性的大团异纤，特别是染色布。机采棉不是没有异纤，而是密集性异纤突发极少而已。

At present, cotton contamination is examined in “gram/ton”, which
represents an average level. While actually, contaminations on fabrics are dispersedly distributed under normal circumstances, and can be removed by burling. However, sometimes, large areas of concentrated contaminations unexpectedly appear and return to normal later, and those kinds of contaminations can’t be repaired and usually result in large-scale cut, replacement or redyeing in other colors to finished fabrics. It turns out that the smashed big piece of foreign fibers generate that problem and what’s the most dangerous is a piece of colored fabrics, as they will fade and contaminate surrounding yarns during bleaching. **that’s why we shall focus on controlling accidental bid piece of foreign fibers, especially dyed fabrics.** It doesn’t mean that there is no contamination on machine picked cotton, but the unexpected concentrated contamination very seldom happens.