



This edition reflects an industry navigating both transition and continuity. We begin by honouring the legacy of Herbert Schmid, whose contributions helped shape the modern textile sector, reminding us of the strong foundations on which today's developments build.

Yet those foundations are being tested: the rapid escalation of conflict in the Middle East since late February has triggered severe disruptions to crude oil and petrochemicals with consequences that reach deep into textile fibre and yarn markets.

The convergence of geopolitical shock and structural changes defines the moment. From AI-driven innovation to evolving sourcing strategies, the sector is adapting to new challenges.



**Mr. Olivier Zieschank**  
 director, ITMF

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### Impact of the Middle East war on the synthetic fibers market



Since 28 February, a rapid escalation of the Middle East conflict has produced what market participants describe as one of the most severe disruptions to crude oil, refined products, and LNG supply observed to date. The effects are not limited to energy markets. Petrochemical intermediates and their derivatives—synthetic fibers and yarns—can be significantly impacted by a sustained disruption, especially one lasting beyond one to two weeks. Such disruptions can transmit inflationary pressure, restrict trade flows, and intensify financial stress across the textile value chain. This paper examines these impacts through two focal points: Iran, as an economy at the shock's "epicentre," and China, as the key textiles hub experiencing the "aftershocks" through cost inflation, inventory shifts, and demand uncertainty.

[> read more \(members only\)](#)

## OBITUARY

### Herbert Schmid (1946-2026)



★ 27/10/1946

† 26/02/2026

Com muito pesar comunicamos o falecimento do nosso querido

*Herbert Schmid*

O velório acontecerá no Cemitério da Paz

R. Dr Luiz Migliano, 644 – Jd. Vazani

Dia 27 das 15h às 19h

Dia 28 a partir das 9h

Sepultamento às 13h

It is with deep sadness that we have learned of the passing of Mr. Herbert Schmid.

On behalf of the Board and Secretariat of the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF), we extend our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Schmid's wife, Ms. Ladymar Schmid, their sons Raphael and Daniel, and the entire Schmid family.

Herbert Schmid was a prominent textile industry leader in Brazil for several decades and a highly respected Advisory Board Member of ABIT, the Brazilian Textile and Apparel Industry Association. A Swiss-born Brazilian, Mr. Schmid began his career in the Swiss textile machinery industry with Rüti, a global supplier of weaving machines. In this capacity, he travelled extensively around the world and eventually settled in Brazil. He later became CEO of Santista Têxtil, one of the country's largest and leading integrated textile companies.

Mr. Schmid maintained close ties with Europe and had a keen interest in the development of the international textile industry and global trade. For this reason, he strongly supported Brazil's engagement with ITMF and became a frequent participant at ITMF conferences. It was therefore only natural that in the second half of the 1990s he served as a Vice President of ITMF before being elected to the helm of the Federation.

His term as ITMF President from 2000 to 2002 fell during a period of profound transformation in the global textile industry. This was the time when the traditional quota

system was being phased out, paving the way for a new global textile value chain defined increasingly by competitiveness rather than quotas.

Under his diligent and wise leadership, ITMF took important strategic decisions to prepare the Federation for the future. In particular, the introduction of Corporate Membership in the year 2000 proved to be a decisive step that helped transform ITMF into a unique international platform for the entire textile value chain.

After his retirement, Mr. Schmid remained actively engaged in the development of the textile industry in Brazil and beyond. He continued working with Consultoria Gherzi S.A., contributing to numerous projects across Latin America. As an ITMF Past President, he remained closely connected to the Federation, regularly attending ITMF Board Meetings, Conferences, and Webinars. Only two days before his passing, he participated in the ITMF webinar "AI in the Textile Industry."

The ITMF family will deeply miss Mr. Schmid both as an industry expert with vast experience and as a personality distinguished by compassion, openness, and enthusiasm. During this time of mourning, our deepest sympathies are with his family.

In silent mourning,

Mr. Juan Pares  
President  
For the Board & Past Presidents

Mr. Christian Schindler  
Director General  
For the Secretariat

## ITMF NEWS

# Mr. K. V. Srinivasan is ITMF Honorary Life Member



Mr. Christian Schindler (Director General) and Mr. K. V. Srinivasan (ITMF President, 2023-2025)



In the history of ITMF, founded in 1904, Mr. Srinivasan became the fourth ITMF President from India.

For many years, Mr. K. V. Srinivasan, Managing Director of Premier Mills, has regularly travelled to Frankfurt, Germany, where his company exhibits at the world's largest home textiles fair, *Heimtextil*. This exhibition not only brings together the world's leading home textile companies and international buyers but also serves as an excellent meeting point for industry representatives from across the global textile value chain.

The ITMF Director General took this opportunity to finally present Mr. Srinivasan with the traditional gift that is given to outgoing ITMF Presidents. Mr. Srinivasan served as ITMF Vice President from 2018 to 2023 and subsequently as ITMF President from 2023 to 2025. His term as President concluded at the ITMF Annual Conference 2025 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. During the meeting of the ITMF Committee of Management held alongside the conference, Mr. Srinivasan was formally elected an Honorary Life Member of ITMF. Due to logistical challenges, it was agreed that the handover of the gift would take place during Heimtextil in January 2026.

Mr. Srinivasan led ITMF during a particularly challenging period for the global textile industry. This period was marked by rising energy costs in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, followed by increasing inflation rates that led to subdued demand and heightened geopolitical uncertainty. These challenges were further compounded by the introduction of the so-called "reciprocal tariffs" by the U.S. administration. Shortly after their introduction, Mr. Srinivasan stated in a press release, in his capacity as ITMF President, that "U.S. tariffs are disrupting the global textile and apparel value chains, resulting in higher prices in the United States."

Together with his colleagues on the ITMF Board, he ensured that ITMF remained a vital international platform where stakeholders from across the global textile value chain could meet, exchange views, and discuss how best to address current challenges and prepare for the future. The two highly successful ITMF Annual Conferences in Uzbekistan (2024) and Indonesia (2025) clearly illustrated the importance of such a unique international industry platform.

## 9<sup>th</sup> ITMF & ITA Webinar on AI on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026



The 9<sup>th</sup> webinar in the ITMF & ITA Webinar Series "*AI in the Textile Value Chain*" will take place on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 (12:00-13:15hrs. (CET)).

The following companies will present:

- AI powered MES and Energy Management Solutions  
**Volkan Yenisen**, CMO, [Konzek](#)
- Transform Industrial Carbon Fiber and Composite Production with AI-Powered Monitoring  
**Tim Röding**, Co-Founder & CEO, [Carboscreen](#)
- AI Powered Product Creation – Turn Data Insights into Products Automatically  
**Anna Franziska Michel**, CEO & Co-Founder, [Yonnai.ai](#)

To register please click [HERE](#).

# Intl. Textile Seminar Bremen 2026 to Focus on AI and Digitalisation



**4. International Textile Seminar Bremen**  
 24. March 2026, 14:00-17:00, Room 406  
 AI and Digitalisation - Opportunities for the Textile Industry

ITMF FIBRE IVGT  
 International Textile Manufacturers Federation BREMEN  
 Faserinstitut  
 Institut für Textilforschung  
 Textilforschungszentrum  
 Völklingen - Garmisch - Geiselberg - Technische Textilien e.V.

The International Textile Seminar Bremen (ITSB) 2026 will take place alongside the [International Cotton Conference in Bremen](#), Germany, focusing on the theme “AI and Digitalisation – Opportunities for the Textile Industry.”

Scheduled sessions will explore how artificial intelligence and digital technologies are transforming the textile value chain from fibre and yarn production to fabric manufacturing, finishing, quality control, and logistics. The seminar aims to highlight opportunities for improving efficiency, resilience, and innovation across the industry.

Held at the Bremen Cotton Exchange, the event will bring together experts and industry stakeholders to discuss practical applications of digitalisation and its role in shaping the future of textile production.

[> read more](#)

Click [HERE](#) to register to the seminar, to be held on **March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026** (14:00-16:30hrs.) in the **Bremen Cotton Exchange** (Room 406)

# ITMF & IAF Conference 2026 to take place in Brazil co-hosted by ABIT



OCTOBER 14 - 15 | FORTALEZA

Hosted by:



This year's ITMF & IAF Conference 2026 will be held in Fortaleza, Brazil in the city of Fortaleza, Brazil, from October 14-15, 2026. The conference will be co-hosted by ABIT, the Brazilian Textile & Apparel Industry Association.

The conference will be held under the theme “*Future in Motion – Transformation, Innovation and New Realities*”.

The prelim. program features a 2-day conference as well as a golf tournament, committee meetings, and factory visits, see below timeline.

	Oct. 12	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16
<b>Preliminary Conference Timeline</b>					
	Golf tournament	Internal Meetings	Conference Day 1	Conference Day 2	Factory visits

For more information and future updates, please click [HERE](#).

## PARTNER NEWS

# ATTI Türkiye Chapter meets in Istanbul



On February 18<sup>th</sup>, ATTI Türkiye Chapter welcomed industry leaders from across the supply chain for the Türkiye Transformation Plan Prototype Workshop, a key milestone in efforts to shape a more resilient, sustainable future for the Turkish apparel and textile sector.



Convened by ATTI's pioneering Türkiye Chapter and led by the Istanbul Apparel and Textile Exporters Association (IHKIB), the workshop brought together manufacturers, global brands, federations, and key stakeholders to align on a shared transformation approach for the Turkish industry and translate ambition into concrete, time-bound commitments.

Together, participants worked to define a shared vision for the Turkish industry and to establish clear next steps to translate strategy into action across three critical domains: 1) energy, 2) water consumption, and 3) wastewater treatment.

The outputs of this workshop are now being used to form the basis for individual impact area strategies, which will be shared in the next few months.

For more information click [HERE](#).

## International Cotton Conference Bremen 2026 to Convene Global Industry



The 38<sup>th</sup> International Cotton Conference Bremen will take place from 25–27 March 2026 in Bremen, Germany, bringing together experts from across the global cotton and textile value chain.

Organized by the Bremen Cotton Exchange and the Fibre Institute Bremen, the conference will cover key topics including cotton cultivation, quality assessment, textile processing, innovation, and the circular economy. It will also address market trends, regulatory developments, and sustainability challenges shaping the industry.

Held at Bremen's Parliament House as part of a broader "Cotton Week," the event will feature expert panels, association meetings, and networking opportunities, with participation available both onsite and online.

[> read more](#)

## ICAC Plenary Meeting to Precede Bremen Cotton Conference 2026



The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) will hold its 83<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting on 23–24 March 2026 in Bremen, Germany, immediately ahead of the International Cotton Conference Bremen (25–27 March 2026).

Taking place at the Bremen Parliament House, the plenary marks a first-time close collaboration between ICAC and the Bremen Cotton Exchange. Under the theme "*Uniting the Cotton and Textiles Value Chain for a Sustainable Future*," the meeting will bring together government representatives and industry stakeholders to discuss global market trends, policy developments, sustainability, and innovation across the cotton value chain.

The back-to-back scheduling with the International Cotton Conference creates a comprehensive "Cotton Week" in Bremen, offering a unique platform for dialogue between policymakers, researchers, and industry leaders to shape the future of the global cotton sector.

[> read more](#)

# DNFI Meeting in Bremen to Address EU Green Policy Impact on Natural Fibres



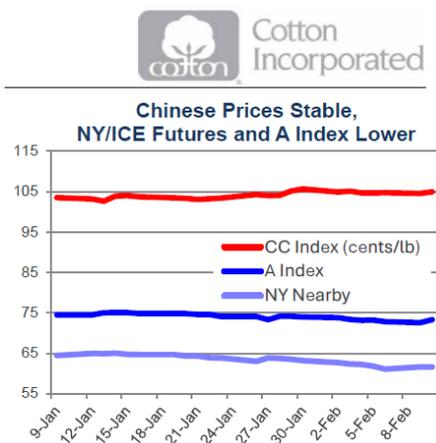
On 26 March 2026, the Discover Natural Fibres Initiative (DNFI) will host a key industry meeting in Bremen, Germany, alongside the International Cotton Conference Bremen. The session will focus on regulatory developments, particularly the European Union’s evolving Green Economy agenda and its implications for natural fibres.

A keynote by Dalena White, Co-Spokesperson of the Make the Label Count campaign, will provide insights into upcoming EU policies, while additional international experts will share global perspectives. The meeting will conclude with a discussion on coordinated industry action to support the 40 million households dependent on natural fibre production.

Participation is free and available both onsite and online.

[> register here](#)

# Cotton Inc: Cotton Prices Ease as Global Stocks Increase



Global cotton prices edged lower in early 2026, with NY/ICE futures falling to around 61 cents/lb, while the A Index softened slightly to 73 cents/lb. In contrast, Chinese cotton prices remained stable, reflecting relatively balanced domestic conditions.

According to the February 2026 *Monthly Economic Letter* (page 1), global cotton production for 2025/26 is forecast to rise to 119.9 million bales, while mill-use is slightly reduced to 118.7 million bales. This results in higher ending stocks, projected at 75.1 million bales, indicating a modestly looser market balance. Trade developments, including lower tariffs between the U.S. and key partners such as India and Bangladesh, may support demand, although U.S. apparel imports have recently declined. Overall, the market outlook remains cautious, shaped by evolving trade policies and expectations of tighter supply in the next crop cycle.

[> read more](#)

# Fashion Charter Pushes Implementation as Climate Action Enters New Phase



Picture: Simon Stiell

The UNFCCC Fashion Charter has emphasized a shift from commitments to implementation, as global climate action enters what UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell described as a new “era of implementation”. Against a backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty, the Charter continues to drive industry collaboration through targeted projects and stakeholder dialogues.

Recent discussions among signatories highlighted growing challenges around transparency and reporting, as companies face increasing and often overlapping disclosure requirements. A new survey and upcoming session on 18 March aim to align expectations and strengthen accountability frameworks across the sector. Key initiatives in 2026 include work on financial mechanisms and carbon markets, as well as a renewed focus on phasing out coal across supply chains by 2030. Regional engagement is also expanding, with an implementation dialogue on renewable energy sourcing and electrification scheduled for 26 March in Hanoi.

[> read more](#)

## Global Sourcing Summit 2026 to Address Industry Transformation



The Global Sourcing Summit 2026, taking place from 3–5 June in Bangkok alongside Asia Sourcing 2026, will convene industry leaders to address the ongoing transformation of global textile and apparel supply chains.

The summit will focus on key challenges including geopolitical uncertainty, nearshoring trends, sustainability requirements, and digital transformation. Sessions will explore how sourcing strategies are shifting from cost efficiency to resilience, with increasing emphasis on diversification, regional collaboration, and long-term partnerships. A central theme will be Asia's evolving role, with discussions highlighting the need for greater cooperation among manufacturing countries and positioning Thailand as a strategic hub for global sourcing.

[> read more](#)

## Frankfurt to host Techtexsil 2026 international textile innovation fair



Chance. The most important guest at the fair.



The international trade fair Techtexsil 2026 will take place from **21 to 24 April 2026** at Messe Frankfurt in Frankfurt, bringing together companies and professionals from the global technical textiles and nonwovens industry.

Organised by **Messe Frankfurt**, the event will showcase innovations in high-performance textiles used in sectors such as construction, mobility, medicine and protective clothing. It will run alongside **Texprocess**, a trade fair focused on textile and apparel processing technologies.

The fair is expected to attract exhibitors and visitors from around the world, offering a platform for networking, product launches and discussions on emerging trends such as sustainability, advanced materials and digitalisation in the textile sector.

[> read more](#)

## ATEXCON 2026 Re-imagines the Future of Global Textiles



The 13<sup>th</sup> Asian Textile Conference (ATEXCON 2026), organized by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), will take place on 2–3 April 2026 in Hyderabad, India. Held under the theme *"Re-imagining the Future of Global Textiles"*, the event will focus on the ongoing transformation of global supply chains driven by geopolitics, sustainability, and technological change.

The conference will bring together senior industry leaders, policymakers, and global stakeholders to discuss trade realignments, innovation, and investment opportunities. ITMF Director General, Mr. Christian Schindler, will be among the speakers.

With a strong emphasis on **cross-border collaboration**, the program will also feature structured B2B interactions and networking sessions aimed at fostering partnerships across the textile value chain.

ATEXCON 2026 highlights Asia's growing role in shaping the future of global textiles and provides a strategic platform for dialogue and industry cooperation.

[> read more](#)[> register](#)

## Asia Sourcing 2026 to Strengthen Trade Links



The 2nd Asia Sourcing Show 2026 (Textiles & Apparel) will be held from 3–5 June 2026 in Bangkok, bringing together Asian manufacturers and global buyers at a time of major supply chain shifts. Organized by CEMS-Global USA, the event will run alongside the Global Sourcing Summit 2026.

Positioned as a pan-Asian sourcing platform, the show will offer direct access to key textile and apparel producers, while addressing trends such as supply chain diversification, sustainability, and regional trade integration.

Bangkok's strategic location reinforces the event's role as a central hub for fostering partnerships and shaping the future of global sourcing.

[> read more](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2026

### [13th ATEXCON](#)

March 17-18, 2026  
Hyderabad, India

### [International Cotton Conference 2026](#)

March 25-27, 2026  
Bremen, Germany

### [Atexcon 2026](#)

April 2-3, 2026  
Hyderabad, India

### [Nastex Fair](#)

April 1-4, 2026  
Damascus, Syria

### [Indo Intertex 2026](#)

April 15-18, 2026  
Jakarta, Indonesia

### [TechTextil 2026](#)

April 21-24, 2026  
Frankfurt, Germany

### [Textiles Recycling Expo USA](#)

April 29-30, 2026  
Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

### [Proposte](#)

May 5-7, 2026  
Cernobbio (Como), Italy

### [Asia sourcing 2026](#)

June 3-5, 2026  
Bangkok, Thailand

### [Global Sourcing Summit 2026](#)

June 3-5, 2026  
Bangkok, Thailand

### [ITM 2026](#)

June 9-13, 2026  
Istanbul, Türkiye

### [Future Fabrics Expo 2026](#)

June 24-25, 2026  
Brussels, Belgium

### [Textiles Recycling Expo](#)

June 24-25, 2026  
Brussels, Belgium

### [Milano Unica](#)

July 7-9, 2026  
Milano, Italy

### [Bharat-Tex 2026](#)

July 14-17, 2026  
New Delhi, India

### [International Textile Forum](#)

September 23, 2026  
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

### [Dornbirn Global Fiber Congress 2026](#)

September 16-18, 2026  
Dornbirn, Austria

### [TITAS 2026](#)

October 6-8, 2026  
Taipei, Chinese Taipei

### [ITMF&IAF Conference 2026](#)

October 14-15, 2026  
Fortaleza, Brazil

### [Venice Sustainability Forum](#)

November 5-6, 2026  
Venice, Italy

### [ITMA Asia & CITME 2026](#)

November 20 -24, 2026  
Shanghai, China

### [INDIA ITME - 2026](#)

December 4-9, 2026  
New Delhi, India

### [US Sourcing Summit 2026](#)

November 16-18, 2026  
Phoenix, Arizona, USA

### [Destination Africa](#)

November 2026  
Cairo, Egypt