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ITMF is an international Federation for the world's textile industries founded in 1904.

ITMF is the world's leading forum for discussions of matters appropriately within the common interest and concern of textile companies.

ITMF provides a neutral meeting ground for the textile and related industries in industrialized and developing countries for the exchange of information on all matters affecting the industry.

ITMF is a central agency of the textile industries for the collection of information, statistical and otherwise, on textile manufacturing developments in all countries of the world.

ITMF acts as spokesperson for the world textile industry in matters relating to raw materials (cotton and man-made fibres).

ITMF performs the functions of a liaison agent between the textile industries and governments and intergovernmental organizations interested in the textile industry.

Through ITMF the textile industries cooperate at the international level with organizations representing other sectors allied to their industry.

ITMF is an international Federation for the world's textile industries, dedicated to keeping its world-wide members constantly informed through surveys, studies and publications and through the organization of annual conferences, participating in the evolution of the industry's value chain and publishing considered opinions on future trends and international developments.
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Web  www.cotton.org
The International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF) is one of the oldest non-governmental organizations. It was founded in 1904, at a meeting held in Zurich, Switzerland, and convened at the initiative of the British cotton spinning industry. The newly established organization adopted the name "International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association".

It was often referred to as the "International Cotton Federation". It established its headquarters in Manchester, England.

For many years, and throughout both World Wars, the Federation represented and promoted the interests of the cotton spinning and manufacturing industries of the world. The advent of man-made fibres broadened the raw material basis of the textile industry. At the same time, vertical integration in textile enterprises changed the structure of the industry and broadened its scope: it has today become a multi-fibre, multi-process industry.

In 1954, the Federation took steps to adjust to this structural evolution by changing its name to "International Federation of Cotton and Allied Textile Industries" (often referred to as IFCATI). The membership and scope of the organization were broadened accordingly.

In 1963, the Federation moved its headquarters from Manchester to Zurich for the purpose of facilitating international contacts and improving administrative services and communications.

As of 1960, the Federation's membership expanded significantly and today embraces the major part of the world's textile production. It thus reflects the process of internationalization which has taken place in textile manufacturing since the end of World War II. Not only has the location of world textile industrial capacities undergone far-reaching changes, the readjustment process has also affected the structure of associations in the industry. Their former fragmentation is gradually giving way to a more concentrated and integrated framework of representation.

In response to these developments the Federation in 1978 changed its name to "International Textile Manufacturers Federation". On the basis of its present structure and scope, the
Federation is qualified to represent the broadest possible segment of the world’s textile industries.

With the conclusion of the Uruguay Round - the 8th round of multilateral trade negotiations (MTN) in 1994 within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) - the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA; 1974-1994) was replaced by the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC). For the global textile and clothing industry this meant a fundamental change with a transitional period of 10 years (1995-2004). Until the end of 1994 bilaterally negotiated quotas regulated a large part of the global trade in textiles and clothing. Under the ATC the members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreed to remove quotas and to integrate the industry fully into the GATT rules by January 1, 2005. In addition to the removal of the quota system, also the admission of China to the WTO in 2001 intensified the scale and scope of this trade liberalization process.

The Federation introduced in the year 2000 ‘Corporate Membership’ which enabled companies along the entire textile value chain the possibility to engage and participate directly in ITMF activities.

Membership
ITMF distinguishes between member associations, associate members and corporate members. According to the statutes, full members are associations and other duly constituted organizations of manufacturers of textiles. There can only be one member association from each country. Associate members are organizations allied to the textile industry as well as textile associations in countries where there is already a member association. Corporate members are companies that are active in the area of textile manufacturing, growing and manufacturing of fibres, trading of fibres, manufacturing of textile machinery and chemical products, as well as consulting, engineering and exhibiting in the textile industry.

Levy
The income of the Federation is provided on the basis of an annual levy payable on yarn production and yarn consumption by the members of each member association. This system ensures that the member associations of the Federation contribute to funds in proportion to their size and their state of trade. Maximum and minimum limits are set for the amount of annual subscription due from members. Associate and corporate members pay an annual levy of a fixed amount.

Committee of Management
Member associations, associate members and corporate members are entitled to appoint at least one delegate/representative and one substitute delegate/representative to the Committee of Management. Only delegates from member associations have the right to vote. In addition, the Chief Officials of member associations (i.e. Executive Vice-President, Director, Secretary General, etc.) are entitled to take an active part in the meetings of the Committee of Management, without, however, the right to vote.

The Committee of Management is the supreme authority of the Federation, with the fullest possible powers, including powers to amend the statutes. No action may be taken in the name of the Federation, either by individuals or by the Federation’s subcommittees, without the formal approval of the Committee of Management. Thus, the Committee of Management exercises full control over all the Federation’s activities.

The Committee of Management reaches its decision by a qualified majority vote, as it has been in the past an unwritten law that the Federation should not, if possible, take any action or adopt any resolution unless there was unanimity among its members. It is the desire of ITMF members to continue with this practice, which has been largely responsible for the strength and cohesion of the organization.

The Committee of Management of ITMF is sometimes referred to as the world parliament of the textile industries. It normally meets once a year during the Federation’s annual conference. These conferences form the highlights of the Federation’s activities. They provide a unique neutral, international forum, at which the leaders of the world’s textile industries can meet and exchange views on matters of common interest. This function of ITMF as a clearing house of ideas and experiences is perhaps the most valuable service which the Federation can render to its members.
Structure, Scope, Activities

Sub-Committees
Whereas the Committee of Management is mainly concerned with the broader aspects and more general problems of the textile industries, including matters of policy, the more practical and technical tasks of ITMF are usually dealt with by a number of specialized sub-committees. All member associations, associate and corporate members are entitled to be represented, as appropriate, on these sub-committees and to take an active part in their work, in accordance with the statutes and within the limits of each sub-committee’s own rules.

As it is not always convenient for members to be represented at all sub-committee meetings, especially when a meeting is held far away from the individual member’s country, special procedures are provided to ensure that the views of such members on specific issues are duly taken into account.

Following is a list of ITMF’s sub-committees and a description of some of the tasks with which they are currently concerned.

a) Spinners Committee
Constituted in November 1985 with the intention of creating a strong spinners’ voice in all matters of interest to the industry the Committee identified as its main objectives to support the development of quality cotton fibre based on modern spinning requirements; to provide advice relating to the harvesting, handling, ginning and contracting of cotton; and to promote the mechanical testing of raw cotton. To achieve the objectives, the Committee convenes meetings with other interested parties and in particular with leading cotton merchants and their associations, as well as with private and public national and international organizations; visits cotton producing countries with the purpose of fostering an interchange of ideas between breeders, farmers, ginners, traders and spinners; propagates the progressive replacement of the traditional cotton classification with mechanical classing like HVI; maintains a regular dialogue with spinning machine and testing instrument manufacturers.

b) Joint Cotton Committee
This Committee serves as a joint forum for sellers and buyers of raw cotton. It is concerned with any matters pertaining to raw cotton production and marketing, including international cotton marketing policies. Examples of matters dealt with by the Committee in recent years are: guidelines for purchasing raw cotton, harmonization of rule and contract conditions, value differences in raw cotton, contamination and foreign matter, cotton bale identification and bale wrapping, universal cotton standards, cotton development and promotion.

It is through the Joint Cotton Committee and the Spinners Committee that ITMF deals with governments, international organizations and trade associations interested in raw cotton production, trading and marketing.

c) Home Textiles Producers Committee
This Committee convened for the first time during the ITMF Annual Conference in 2009 in Shanghai/China and was formally established at the ITMF Annual Conference in 2012 in Hanoi/Vietnam with the objective to provide representatives of the home textile industry from around the world a neutral platform to meet in a relaxed atmosphere among colleagues, to discuss important issues of the industry, to exchange information and experience and to develop ideas and concepts how to address current and future challenges.

In order to guarantee a constant exchange of views and information the Committee meets 2 - 3 times a year around the world on the occasion of the ITMF Annual Conference as well as during major home textile fairs/weeks.

d) International Committee on Cotton Testing Methods
The main function of the Committee is to critically examine and discuss existing and new cotton testing methods and instrumentation and to provide guidelines and recommendations to ITMF in this regard. The Committee should also recommend research priorities and tasks to be undertaken, based upon the perceived needs of the international textile community.

The work of the Committee is organized and supported by its officers. These comprise the Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Coordinators of the Task Forces, the Secretariat and a Steering Committee of no more than five people nominated by the Committee Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Secretariat and elected by the full membership of the Committee.
e) Fibres & Applications Committee
During the ITMF Annual Conference 2012 in Hanoi/Vietnam this new Committee was established in order to provide a platform for textile manufacturers that are interested in new applications for both man-made and natural fibres in and beyond the traditional applications in apparel and home textiles, namely in the field of technical textiles. The Committee's objective is to present new developments in the applications of fibres, to discuss opportunities and challenges of new applications of fibres and exchange experiences and information.

Rights and Obligations
Other than the statutes there are no special rules regarding the rights and obligations of members. It is expected, however, that the members will endeavour to further their common interests. In this connection it may be reiterated that the Federation can only issue recommendations as there are no provisions for enforcement or sanctions. It is a purely consultative body.

External Relations
ITMF represents the point of view of the industry in world affairs within the limits of the policy mutually agreed upon by all its members. It maintains official liaison with various intergovernmental organizations, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Bank. ITMF is in official "liaison status" with several of these organizations. It also enjoys consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

ITMF also maintains permanent liaison with other private and international textile and fibre associations/federations.

General Remarks
The objects of ITMF, as described in Article III of its statutes, are to "watch over, protect and promote the common interests of its Members". This is achieved by co-operation, consultation, research, information and action on a world level. The main and most useful functions of ITMF are to provide a neutral forum for the textile industry of the world, to act as a clearinghouse of ideas, information and experience, and to act as a spokesman for the industry in matters relating to raw materials (cotton and man-made fibres). ITMF provides a safeguard for the interests of the textile industry in world affairs.
Member associations, associate members and corporate members are entitled to appoint at least one delegate and one substitute delegate to the Committee of Management.

The Committee of Management is the supreme authority of the international Federation, with the fullest possible power, including powers to amend the statutes.

For additional information see page 39.

Sub-Committees

Spinners Committee
Chairman Andrew George Macdonald (Brazil)
Vice Chairman Steven S. C. Chen (Chinese Taipei)

Joint Cotton Committee
Chairman Nicholas Earlam (United Kingdom)

Home Textiles Producers Committee
Chairman Zhaohua Yang (China P.R.)

International Committee of Cotton Testing Methods
Chairman Axel Drieling (Germany)
Vice Chairman Mona Qaud (Switzerland)

Fibers & Applications Committee
Chairman Loek de Vries (Netherlands)
Vice Chairman Li Lingshen (China P.R.)

For additional information see pages 40-42.

Seminars / Workshops

The ITMF Secretariat and/or the different ITMF Sub-Committees offer a variety of activities such as workshops, seminars or company/country visits.

Such activities are often offered in connection with the ITMF Annual Conference as well as with industry exhibitions around the world.

The objective of such activities is to provide ITMF members with additional opportunities to gain a better understanding of ongoing developments in the textile value chain.
Newsletter (monthly)
Since autumn 2014, ITMF offers to its members only, a monthly Newsletter. The intention of the ITMF Newsletter is to provide exclusive data/articles related to the textile value chain – from fibre to retail – as well as information about current activities within ITMF.

State of Trade Report (quarterly)
Compiled from data supplied by national textile associations, this report shows country-by-country changes as well as regional and global developments in the spinning and weaving sectors (shortstaple) for production, stocks and orders.

International Cotton Industry Statistics (annual)
Published since 1958, this report contains data on the productive capacity (ring spindles, open-end rotors, shuttle and shuttle-less looms), machinery utilization and raw material consumption in the shortstaple sector of the textile industries in virtually all countries of the world.

International Textile Machinery Shipment Statistics (annual)
Compiled in cooperation with the world’s leading manufacturers of spinning, drawtexturing, weaving and knitting machinery since 1974, this survey shows shipments by country of destination of ring spindles, open-end rotors, drawtexturing (false twist) spindles, shuttle and shuttle-less looms, large circular and flat knitting machines as well as finishing machinery.

Country Statements (published annually until 2016)
Included are data relating to the general economic situation, textile manufacturing capacities, activity levels and trade in textiles. Both short-staple sector and pan-textile data are shown in tabular form, accompanied by a commentary for each country and a global summary.

Annual Conference Report (annual)
Contains the presentations given at the Federation's annual conference.

International Production Cost Comparison: Spinning/Texturing/Weaving/Knitting/Finishing (biennial)
This survey, first published in 1979, examines the production cost structure of yarns (spun and textured) and grey and finished fabrics (both woven and knitted) in Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Pakistan, Turkey, the USA and Vietnam.

Cotton Contamination Survey (biennial)
To shed more light on spinners' perception of the occurrence of cotton contamination, foreign matter, stickiness and seed-coat fragments, ITMF conducts since 1982 every other year a survey among spinning mills affiliated with its world-wide Member Association. The results of the survey are presented in this report.

Progress Report - International Committee on Cotton Testing Methods (biennial)
This document reports on the proceedings of the biennial meetings of the ITMF International Committee on Cotton Testing Methods.

Directory (biennial)
Describes objectives, structure, scope and activities of the Federation and lists all member associations, associate and corporate members.

ITMF 100 Years: 1904 - 2004 (2004)
In this brochure, the first 100 years of the Federation are reviewed on the basis of the main themes which have made up the substance of its activity. The review charts the progress the Federation has made in five main areas of commercial significance: Raw Material Issues, Coping with International Competition, Improving the Commercial Environment, Technical Enhancement, "Measuring the Industry - Statistics and Studies". These themes are examined by recalling the pressures, problems and challenges that brought about their intersection with the evolving mechanisms of the Federation.
A principal benefit only available to members of the Federation is taking part in a truly neutral international forum for chief executives and sector leaders, in which problems specific to the industry and its evolution can be openly discussed. The primary platform for such discussion is the ITMF Annual Conference, which is organized in different locations in one of the member countries. It attracts executives of leading textile companies and industry experts covering the whole textile value chain ranging from cotton growing and shipping, man-made fibre producing and cotton trading via textile machinery and textile chemical manufacturing up to retailing. Issues arising at the conference are followed up via the Federation’s own channels or through private networks and working relationships formed in the course of the conference meetings and events.

General themes of recent conferences were:

- Technology, Trade, Climate - Orientation in Disruptive Times (2017)
- The Global Textile Economy in the New Normal (2016)
- Shared Opportunity, Shared Responsibility (2014)
- Rebalancing the Power between Manufacturing and Retail (2013)
- Challenges for the Textile Industry - Present and Future (2012)
- Compliance, Sustainability and Profitability (2010)
- A Textile World for Big and Small (2006)
- Dawn of a New Era (2005)

Topics dealt with under these general themes were:

- Design for Automation - Bridging the Gap Between Production Requirements and Automation
- The Role of Africa in the Global Supply Chain
- From Offshoring to Reshoring - A Perspective from the Fibre Industry
- Digital Technologies of the Factory in the Future
- Textiles and Retail: A Changing Relationship
- Fabric is the Computer
- Evolving Fibres Landscape - Opportunities for Industries
- The New Rules of Retail
- Retail Supply Chain in Turbulent Market Places
- Global Sourcing "The IKEA Way"
- Moving up the Smiling Curve: The Transformation of a Vertical Textile Manufacturer into Technology & Retail
- World Textile Trade and the WTO
- The Branding Multiplier in a Digital Age
- Research-and-Creativity-based European Textile Production
- Digital Transformation of the Digital Retail Business
- How to Do Business in Times of Uncertainty and Volatility
- Development of China’s National Chemical Fiber Industry and R&D of New Products during the 12th Five-year Plan Period
- 25 Predictable Trends and Potential Implications for the Textile Industry
- Values-based Retailing
- Technical Textiles - Challenges for Growing Markets
- Technologies in Materials: New Paradigms for the Textile Industry
- Brazil’s Textile Industry: Its Role in the Americas and the World
- Neo Consumer - His Behaviour and Expectations
- Is Genetically Modified Cotton Sustainable?
- Man-made Fibres’ Role for a Sustainable Textile World
- Globalization of Retail Markets: Consequences for the Textile Industry
- Working with Retailers and Brands - the Success Factors
- Excellence in Textile Management - Strategies for Sustainable Growth
## Past Conferences

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## Past Presidents

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