

## **Report on TEXPROCIL's Participation at 6th Colombo International Yarn and Fabric Show, Sri Lanka (12th to 14th March 2015)**

Sri Lanka offers very good opportunity for increasing exports of fabrics due to increasing export of garments and non-availability of domestic fabrics. Realising this, The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) organized a group participation of its members in 6th Colombo International Yarn & Fabric Show-2015 in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 12th to 14th March 2015.

'6th Colombo International Yarn & Fabric Show 2015' was held at the Sri Lanka Exhibition & Convention Centre (SLECC), Colombo concurrent to the organiser CEMS-Global USA's other two comprehensive international exhibitions focused on the entire textile and garment sector of Sri Lanka – '6th Textech Sri Lanka 2015 International Expo,' an international exhibition on textile garment technology and machinery,' and '20th Dye+Chem Sri Lanka 2015 Int'l Expo,' an int'l exhibition on dyes & fine & specialty chemicals.

### **Introduction**

The textile and apparel industry of South Asia has the key position in the export sector. Realising the potential of this sector and to further boost the exports into Sri Lanka the organisers have been holding this exhibition since 2010 which displays the latest technology that the country can obtain to update with the quality of the competitors in the world market.

Exhibitors from over 10 countries participated in these exhibitions, which were targeted in one go to the entire business community and play an important role by assembling worldwide technology, machinery and material manufacturers at the doorsteps of the manufacturers of Sri Lanka under one roof to appraise them of the latest developments and technology available, enabling Sri Lanka to further compete in the world market.

### **Inaugural Event**

Industry and Commerce Minister Rishad Bathiudeen was present as the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony held on 12th March 2015 at the venue to formally inaugurate the exhibitions.

Also present as special guests were Sri Lanka Export Development Board Chairman Bandula Egodage, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau CEO Vipula Wanigasekera, Sri Lanka Apparel Brands Association Chairman Indradatta Dharmawardane, CEMS Lanka Country Director Ejaz Sarwar and CEMS-Global USA and Asia-Pacific Group CEO S.S. Sarwar.

Industry and Commerce Minister Rishard Bathiudeen told guests at the opening of the CEMS Global exhibition that the exhibition organised by CEMS global and the CEMS Sri Lanka arm is clearly a key step to advance the Sri Lankan global apparel status. As the loss of GSP Plus from the European Union has greatly affected Sri Lanka's apparel sector, vigorous efforts are being made to recover this facility, he said. Sri Lanka is set to achieve US \$ 5 billion in exports as it recorded \$ 4.9 billion in 2014 an increase of 9.2 percent compared to a revenue of \$ 4.4 billion in 2013. When compared to 2012 apparel earnings, this is a 24 percent increase, the Minister added.

The India pavilion was organised by the Council with the active support and guidance of The High Commission of India in Colombo. Mr. Rashid Bathiuddin, Minister of Commerce and Industry visited the stalls and also interacted with the Indian exhibitors. The Minister along with the other special guests also visited the Indian pavilion. A copy of the Home Textile catalogue was presented to Mr. Bathiuddin.

### **About 6th Colombo International Yarn & Fabric Show-2015**

CIFS is a comprehensive exhibition for overseas Yarn, Fabric & Textile Manufacturers / Exporters focusing on the Textile & Apparel Industry of Sri Lanka.

The exhibition has assembled worldwide manufactures and distributors, exhibitors from over 10 countries, namely over 20 stalls from Sri Lanka and over 100 stalls from China and also India, Taiwan and Malaysia will be present. This would give an opportunity for a B2B platform and create a unique one-stop-shop for the entire textile and apparel industry of Sri Lanka.

The textile and apparel industry of South Asia and South East Asia has been playing a vital role in the global apparel sector market. The potentiality of this sector and further expansion of exports have made the region a critical point for investors, hence the exhibition provided a platform which displays the latest technology and products to be up to date with the quality of the competitors in the world market to attract investments and business opportunities.

### **Product Profile:**

All kinds of fabrics (Woven / Knit), Denim, Knitted Fabrics, Fleece, Natural Fabrics (Woven/Knit), Yarn, Technical Textile, Fancy Finishing, Home Textiles, Accessories, CAD/CAM & E-business.

## **Visitors Profile:**

The visitors comprised mainly

- Apparel Manufacturers
- Importers of Yarn and Fabrics
- Weavers
- Designers
- Retailers
- Buying Agents
- Buying Houses

The total number of visitors was approximately 1200 over the three days of the Show. Some of the leading companies in garments had fruitful discussions with the delegation.

Besides, the event also attracted a few designers who wanted to source quality Indian fabrics. Most of the participants succeeded in developing trade contacts with the buyers. On an average each exhibitor received about 10-12 trade enquiries.

## **Exhibitor Profile**

The total no of exhibitors at the Show were 91 including dyes and chemicals and textile machinery. Of these, about 65 exhibited in the yarn and fabric category. All types of yarns were on display like cotton, acrylic, nylon, various cotton blends etc. In the fabrics section there were products of cotton, synthetic as well as cotton blended fabrics in the woven as well as knitted segment.

There were 15 Indian companies participating in the Show of which 10 companies were members of Texprocil.

## **Texprocil Stall**

The Council was participating for the second time in this Show after the 4th edition in 2013 and had taken a stall of 9 sq mt. Enquiries received at the Stall for various types of yarns, fabrics and home furnishing products. Some of the reputed companies made visits to the Texprocil pavilion and expressed interest in further sourcing their textile requirements from India.

## Feedback received from the Texprocil exhibitors

### List of the Respondents

Sr. No.	Names of the participant company	Membership status
1.	Aditya Exports	Member
2.	Amarjothi Spinning Mills Ltd.	Member
3.	Anandi Enterprises	Member
4.	Apsara Silks	Member
5.	Bannari Amman Spinning Mills Ltd.	Member
6.	Komal TexFab Pvt Ltd.	Member
7.	Mangal Textile Mills (I) Pvt. Ltd.	Member
8.	Neotex Spinning Pvt. Ltd.	Member
9.	Saranya Spinning Mills Pvt. Ltd.	Member
10	Vijay Velavan Spinning Mills Pvt. Ltd.	Member

### Suggestions / comments received from members given below:

No.	Suggestions / comments from Participants
1	Need to market the event in a better way
2	Make identical pavilion clearly demarking the categories as Yarns, Fabrics and accessories for visitors to identify
3	Housekeeping issues like dirty carpets, inadequate sanitation etc.
4	Organised well by Texprocil and received good support from Council
5	Venue could be better

## Conclusion

Sri Lanka has a well-developed garment industry; however, it relies heavily on import of raw materials for its finished goods sector and hence is constantly looking for quality raw materials like yarns and fabrics.

Indian has made its mark as the largest supplier of cotton & yarn and with its self-reliant textile industry is capable of offering textile raw materials and finished products with substantial value-addition to Sri Lanka.

Continuous efforts should be made to engage the senior leadership of various textile associations in exploring business opportunities for mutual benefit.

To be a part of the Sri Lankan textile value chain and to compete with China in fabrics, Indian exporters will need to vigorously build and establish trade in cotton textiles with Sri Lanka by intensifying trade promotional contacts at least during the next two years.

India ranks first in export of yarn to Sri Lanka and needs to strengthen its presence in the fabrics sector as there is huge potential in that segment.

**:: TEXPROCIL ::**