

Textiles & Apparels

Sector Newsletter

The International Textiles Manufacturers Federation Conference Bringing the Global Textiles Manufacturers to Nairobi

The International Textiles manufacturer's federation (ITMF) conference was held in Nairobi on the 7th to 9th September. The theme of the conference was "Supply Chains & Business Models in Times of Rapid Change". Kenya Association of Manufacturers alongside the government led by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives and the African Cotton and Textiles Industries Federation (ACTIF) were the local hosts for the event.



It was the first time that it had been held in sub-Saharan Africa. The Origin Africa Expo was held thereafter, from 10th to 11th of September. The event was officially opened by Hon. Peter Munya, the Cabinet Secretary Industry, Trade and Cooperatives. Other key guests included the UNCTAD Secretary General Mukhisa Kituyi, Industrislaistaion Principal Secretary Ms. Betty Maina and the outgoing ITMF President Mr. Jas Bedi.

Outcomes of the event include:

1. Cotton will continue to remain a strong natural fiber in the world's textiles sector. The production of cotton is expected to incorporate more technologies to enhance productivity per acreage
2. The value of cotton may rise significantly as compared to other fibers
3. Technology and innovation in synthetics have led to the creation of better performance textiles, with capacity to match and surpass the natural fibers performances. It is expected that the dominance of synthetics over natural fibers will continue.



4. There is a sharp rise in green consumption in the world market and as such, viscose is gaining attention in the world market supply chains. Additionally, environmentally friendly production is as of today an integral element of companies that are keen on their future growth
5. The use of artificial intelligence is growing in the market. However, its adoption in Africa will lag behind other parts of the world due to the readily affordable labor available
6. The lead times are expected to grow shorter with the rise of "Local for local supply chains". The idea of producing in an actual retail store is ripe and manufacturers need to reorient themselves to the expected supply chains changes
7. Work 4.0 will take lead in the Industry 4.0 revolution that is already taking place thus a need to re-skill the current workforce and also train for the future



The Outgoing chairman handed over to the incoming chair, Mr. Kyi-Hak Sung, the Chairman and Founder of Youngone Corporation from Korea.