

Issued by Asian Chemical Fiber Industries Federation (ACFIF)

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## **Joint Communiqué**

The Asian Chemical Fiber Industries Federation has come a long way since its inception in 1996. We have completed two decades of progress, collaboration and harmony. We have witnessed peaks and troughs, the first decade of our working witnessed the phase of capacity growth accompanied by the growing importance of chemical fibre industry in Asia; while the second decade was a story of global economic slowdown and an era of subdued economic growth resulting in consolidation of the industry in Asia. We faced the severest of economic recessions that impacted the largest numbers of countries ever affected in any other recession in recent history. Through all this Asia remains as a hope keeping up the fastest growth amongst all other regions across the world.

Through all this turmoil ACFIF has constantly worked on to bring together the major chemical fibre countries in Asia to a common platform to share and support the mutual growth of all members for co-prosperity.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Asian Chemical Fiber Conference was held at Trident in Mumbai, India on April 13-14, 2017. The members of the Asian Chemical Fiber Industries Federation from 9 countries and regions of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Chinese Taipei and Thailand attended the Conference along with their industry delegations.

Mr. Nikhil. R. Meswani, Executive Director, Reliance Industries Ltd and former Chairman of ACFIF set the tone for the two day conference.

The member countries presented and discussed the status of the chemical fibre industry in respective countries and also highlighted various contemporary topics pertaining to the chemical fibre industry. The conference witnessed special addresses by the Minister, and Secretary Textiles, Government of India who made impressive speeches touching all aspects of the Indian Textile Industry, which is poised for huge growth with special reference to the chemical fibres, which will play a dominant role in Indian growth story. There also were special agenda items on topical issues covering environmental, sustainability and marketing aspects of the chemical fibre industry by industry experts.

The highlights of the 11<sup>th</sup> ACFIF Conference are as follows:

1. Mr. Rajen.D.Udeshi, President of Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry (ASFI), India succeeded Mr. Duan Xiaoping, Chairman of China Chemical Fibers Association

as the new Chairman of ACFIF. Mr. Ravi Shankar, Chairman of the Indonesian Fibre and Filament Yarn Makers Association was nominated as the Vice-Chairman of the Federation. Mr. S.C.Kapur, Director General of ASFI was nominated as the Secretary General of the Federation succeeding Mrs. Wang Yuping, then Secretary General of China Chemical Fiber Industry Association and now Vice-Chairman of CCFA.

2. The member countries agreed to develop a logo for the federation, which would depict the spirit of growth and dynamism.
3. The conference revolved around the theme of “Low Crude Price Regime: Creating Sustainable Strategies for the Chemical Fibre Industry”. It is implicit that low crude oil prices are conducive for the chemical fibre industry compared to a high oil prices. However, the revival of global economy continues to be cautious and slow, in response to which the estimations of demand growth have been revised down to a slower rate of growth. In this new state of the economy and trade chemical fibre producers have to adopt new norms of operations to create a niche for themselves.
4. Chemical fibre industry continues to dominate with the largest share in the global all fibre consumption. With the global concern for food crops rising continuously availability of arable land would be limited for natural fibres and only chemical fibres can serve the ever rising need of future generations.
5. Larger impetus needs to be laid for value addition, evolving from the present commodity driven structure, in various apparel and non-apparel applications, and newer applications need to be developed.
6. Standardisations of various environmental obligations, working conditions and chemical substances need to be established. Members agreed to establish standards for various facets and share amongst each other technological and policy knowhow to facilitate homogenous adherence. The members agreed upon to establish ACFIF Standardization working committee.
7. All participants agreed that environmental compliance needs to be enhanced. Natural resources have to be conserved and recycling needs to pick up more pace. All this should work alongside the reduction in pollution of natural resources. Together chemical fibres should make the world a beautiful place to live in.
8. Members agreed that in the era of Big-Data man-made fibre producers need to establish and improve customer feedback and customer data collection mechanism which would help develop better products.
9. The 12th Asian Chemical Fiber Industries Conference will be hosted by Indonesia in 2019. The time and venue will be confirmed by hosting country in month of 2017.