

## **Joint Communiqué**

Since 1996 when the Asian Chemical Fiber Conference was born, the world's chemical fiber configuration has undergone structural adjustment – the developed countries have phased out of the fields of conventional chemical fiber production and turned to a new field of high-tech, high-performance fibers and life sciences. The world fiber production has focused gradually on the developing countries, particularly transited to Asia, which brought a good opportunity to the development of the Asian chemical fiber industry. At the same time, the last two decades of complex changes in the world economic environment, the great fluctuations in the raw material prices and the changes in the supply and demand of global textile industry chain also make the Asian chemical fiber industry face enormous difficulties and challenges.

In the situation that the Asian economy is facing many uncertainties and sustained slow recovery, the textile and chemical fiber industries still play a very important role in the Asian economic sector. In pace with the continuous expansion of the application areas of chemical fibers, the development of the technical textile and high-performance fibers as well as the sustainable innovation capability has become a common concern of the Asian chemical fiber industry. The effective use of the platform of Asian Chemical Fiber Industries Federation will benefit the promotion of the regional cooperation within the Asian chemical fiber industry in connection with information, investment, research and growth of fiber applications.

The 10th Asian Chemical Fiber Conference was held in China Sofitel Wanda Beijing on May 14-15, 2015. 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 with their industry delegations. Vietnam participated in the Conference as an observer. The attendees communicated with each other in the Conference regarding the overview of the chemical fiber industry of the member countries and regions, and discussed in depth around the industrial policy, marketing, raw materials, FTA, R&D, innovation capability and other issues.

The conclusions reached this 10<sup>th</sup> ACFIF Conference are as follows:

1. In the context of global adjustment of industrial structure, the global fiber demands will continue to grow in the future. In the new demands, chemical fibers will dominate. The Asian chemical fiber industry should actively create new demands while maintaining an appropriate production capacity, taking into consideration that the imbalance in supply and demand will lead a concern for the industry's sound development.
2. As the Chinese economy entered a "New Normal State", the chemical fibers industry in the member countries and regions of the Asian Chemical Fiber Industries Federation faces different degrees of structural adjustment pressures, and all the participant delegations agreed that they should continue to strengthen the industry data and information exchange, and enhance the research on medium & long-term supply and demand and the research on development policies, to ensure balanced and stable development of the industry.
3. The innovation in the product development and application fields is the key factor related to the future prospects of Asian chemical fiber industry, and all the delegations of the member countries and regions attended the Conference recognized the importance of strengthening the cooperation in technology, research and market development in the future.
4. In the new period of development, based on the technology and combined with the characteristics of the lifestyle changes, the focus on design of personalization

features and brand building will help to open up new market demands.

5. Production capacity of PTA, PX, MEG and other main raw materials of chemical fibers are growing rapidly. The stable oil price and balanced supply and demand of raw materials contribute to the stable development of the chemical fiber industry.
6. The Regional Free Trade Agreements, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) are conducive to further promotion of mutual benefits and win-win results of Asian chemical fiber industry. There was emphasis on strict observance of Rules of Origin.
7. The environmental protection and energy conservation is the common pressure faced by and responsibility of, the Asian chemical fiber industry, and all delegations of the members recognized the importance of strengthening the exchanges in environmental technology and policy while strive to promote the establishment of waste textile recycling system as well as the development of bio-based fibers and textiles.
8. On May 14, 2015, Mr. Duan Xiaoping, Chairman of China Chemical Fibers Association, took office as the Chairman of ACFIF, succeeding Mrs. Mayuree Didpakdeechol, Chairman of Thai Man-Made Fiber Industries Association. And Mr. Rajen Udeshi, President of Association of Synthetic Fiber Industry of India assumes the Vice-Chairman of the Federation along with Mrs. Wang Yuping, Secretary-General of China Chemical Fiber Industry Association, as Secretary-General of the Federation.
9. The 11<sup>th</sup> Asian Chemical Fiber Industries Conference will be hosted by India in 2017. The time and venue will be confirmed by hosting country in July of 2015.