

Joint Communiqué

Members of the Asian Chemical Fiber Industries Federation (ACFIF) comprising China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Chinese Taipei and Thailand met in Bangkok at Plaza Athenee Hotel from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 to discuss various issues of interest to the Asian chemical fiber industries. Of particular importance to the chemical fiber producers are the market uncertainties due to the depressed economic situations in major industrialized nations. Participants also expressed deep concern over the oversupply of the chemical fibers as well as prices of raw materials.

There was a broad consensus among the participants that the industry should adopt specialization and innovation as a strategy in order to develop applications of fibers for industrial uses, home textiles and apparel utilization to promote fiber consumption. Delegates also recognized the need for frequent consultations and exchanges of information among members.

The following conclusions were reached at this 9<sup>th</sup> ACFIF Conference.

1. The delegations recognized that the imbalance in supply and demand remains a critical factor for the industry's stability and long term development. In this connection, it was agreed that there is further need to improve the exchange of data and information.
2. The delegations recognized that expanding regional FTA networks including Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) would further liberalize the Asian region and promote coexistence and prosperity for the Asian chemical fibers industry.
3. The delegations recognized the promotion of environmental friendly products and work for energy conservation to ensure sustainable development for the Asian chemical fibers industry.
4. The delegations recognized that keeping in view the importance of changes, ie, technological changes, climate changes, international platform changes, demographical structural changes and political changes, the chemical fiber industry should invent new products in accordance with the changing lifestyle.

From the 7 theme papers presented by 7 countries/region, including Japan, China, India, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia and Thailand, there was a consensus that the chemical fiber industry would continue to grow in volume, value and new

applications. There have been earnest efforts among chemical fiber producers to advance the development of fibers in high technical applications. There has been greater awareness toward environmental protection and preservation.

Among the actions taken at the plenary meeting, Mrs. Mayuree Na Rangsilpa was elected as the Federation's Chairperson, Mr. Duan Xiaoping was elected as Vice Chairman and Mr. Tuntep Soonsinpai was elected as its Secretary General for the term 2013 – 2015.

The incoming Chairperson, Mrs. Mayuree Na Rangsilpa paid special tribute to Dr. Katsunosuke Maeda who had the vision to create active and challenging atmosphere for the chemical fibers industry. He worked hard in bringing about co-operation among member countries/region.

All the participants and the guests observed 2 - minute silence as a mark of respect and remembrance to Dr. Katsunosuke Maeda who passed away on April 7, 2013.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Kittirat Na Ranong gave the keynote address to the conference.

Ms. Suttinee Poopaka, Executive Director of Thailand Textile Institute, Ministry of Industry, spoke about the role of the Institute in supporting the Thai Textile Industry, in particular the Thai Man-made Fiber Industry. Dr. Chanchai Sirikasemlert presented his report on eco-friendly product development, citing several textile products reproduced or developed from synthetic fiber surplus materials.

Ms. Sirirat Rastapana, Director General, Department of International Trade Promotion, Ministry of Commerce, spoke of the Department's role in facilitating and supporting international trade in chemical fibers of Thailand.

The participants met in a spirit of fellowship and amity in the hope that cooperation among members will be expanded and strengthened.

The next (10th) Conference will be hosted by the China Chemical Fibers Association (CCFA) around April-May 2015. The date and other details of the Conference will be communicated to members at a later date.