

The 12th ACFIF Conference was Held in Bali-Indonesia

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The Asian Chemical Fiber Industry Federation (ACFIF) Conference has become a much anticipated event for all the Asian countries and regions. The nine member countries and regions that constitute ACFIF jointly produce around 90% of the world man-made fibers requirement and hence has become a very important body.

With this dominance in the manufacturing of man-made fibers the most important Raw Materials to fulfill all lifestyle needs, Asian nations and region will need to take over the responsibility of research & development to address all sustainable product development needs of the future. The last two years since the conference in 2017, the issues of waste generation by consumers, the problems of waste disposal and the presence of micro plastics in our environment has been a matter of deep concern Globally. We therefore selected the theme for our conference as "Sustainability of Man Made Fibers". Moreover, the business environment has faced the greatest global uncertainty making it extremely difficult to predict demand. The trade war between China & the US, tension in Middle East & South America have all contributed to this great uncertainty. Rapid capacity growth in the region that we have been experiencing, have greatly plateaued but competition is intense and supply is greater than current demand. The slowdown in global economic growth amid the environmental concerns and the current tensions provide challenges to our industry. Capacity expansions and investment in our respective countries across the respective value chains are of great interest to the entire forum. Projected future demand for all the products are also a topic of great interest. Respective country policies and its impact on trade will be important to understand for the delegates. The Industry Revolution 4.0 has become very relevant to all and the way of business in the future. The industry needs to prepare and suitably transform to adapt to these changes. The 12th ACFIF Conference was held in Bali-Indonesia at the Conrad Hotel in Nusa Dua area on 11 th and 12 th April 2019. All nine members actively participated in the conference. Over 200 delegates attended the conference and actively participated during the interactions. The conference was officiated by the Director General Chemical, Textiles and Pharmaceutical Industry on behalf Minister of Industries of Indonesia, Mr. Airlangga Hartarto extended his support to the industry who also highlighted Indonesia's focus in revitalizing its textile industry and his drive to prepare the Industry 4.0. Director General of PHPL on behalf of the Indonesian Minister of Environment of Indonesia, Mrs. Siti Nurbaya also attended the conference and appreciated the effort of the industry towards being more sustainable. The forum provided a great opportunity for all participants to interact and network with others. The highlights of the 12th ACFIF Conference: 1. Mr. RD Udeshi who served as Chairman from 2017 to 2019 passed the baton of the chairmanship of ACFIF to Mr. Ravi Shankar for the period 2019 to 2021. Mr. Ravi Shankar who served as Vice Chairman from 2017 to 2019 passed the baton to Mr. Masayuki Waga for the period 2019 to 2021. Mr. SC Kapoor who served as Secretary General from 2017 to 2019 passed the baton to Mr. Redma Gita for the period 2019 to 2021. 2. Indonesia presented a symbolic plaque to officiate the transfer of leadership of ACFIF from Mr.R.D Udeshi, Outgoing Chairman of ACFIF & President of ASFI, to Mr. Ravi Shankar, New Chairman of ACFIF and Chairman of APSyFI. Similarly, a plaque was awarded to formally nominate Mr. Masayuki Waga, President of JCFA as the Vice Chairman of ACFIF. Mr.S.C Kapur, nominated Mr. Redma Gita Wirawasta, Secretary General of APSyFI as the secretary general of ACFIF by handing over symbolic plaque. Indonesia has proposed that these plaques are kept by the respective leaders and similarly rotated among their successors during the next change of leadership. 3. The conference focused on country presentations during day one with active interaction by participants and with great interest on future growth demands of industry in respective countries and regions. 4. Indonesia's emergence as a major global producer of Rayon fiber and the country's plans to focus and revitalize its textile industry was the highlight. 5. The work on standardization of our chemical and fiber product was discussed and joint steps to establish international standards were laid out during the meeting of the working committee. 6. With significant investment in upstream capacities, presentation on supply/demand of raw materials and its midterm impact were presented through theme papers during day two of the conference. 7. The integration of refinery operations to the upstream petrochemical sectors will create a paradigm shift to business competitiveness of other nations and future industry structure. 8. The 4th industrial revolution and the power of big data, digitalization and IoT as an important evolving current trend was well presented at the conference. It was thought provoking for the level of change that we need to anticipate in the future. 9. Smart textiles and innovation of our products to meet future performance demands were presented through an interesting theme paper. Research trends and development direction were shared among the delegates of the conference. 10. The conference theme of Sustainability was presented by our leading speaker, Mr. Uday Gill, CEO of Fibers of Indorama Ventures PCL, highlighted very interesting trends, challenges and solution for the sustainability of polyester. Review of consumption, factors to ensure the circular economy in recycling products and issue of micro Fibres in our environment were discussed. 11. Our guest speaker Mr. Frédéric VAN HOUTE, Director General of CIRFS, covered the important issues of micro-plastics, recycling and regulation that have evolved and implemented in Europe towards improving the sustainability of chemical fibers. Their experience over the last decade towards improving the environment and sustainability was very useful to all the delegates. 12. The 13th Conference of Asian Chemical Fiber Industries Federation will be hosted by Japan the month of April or May 2021.