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# TITAS marks 20th milestone

By **Fiona Haran** 09 January 2017

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TITAS, Taiwan's annual textile application show, marked its 20th anniversary in 2016; an era defined by quality and cutting-edge functional fabrics. Since its launch in 1997, TITAS has helped promote Taiwan's leading global position in performance textiles by providing a platform to showcase the latest trends and for players across the supply chain to do business.



TITAS 2016's trend area featured all the latest fabric designs

Organised by Taiwan Textile Federation (TTF) and under the auspices of the Bureau of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs, TITAS returned to Taipei World Trade Centre for its special anniversary edition on 17-19 October, welcoming a record number of visitors and exhibitors. More than 800 booths were occupied by 376 exhibitors drawn mainly from the regions of Taiwan, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and the US.

The increasingly prevalent issue of sustainability once again proved a big talking point, followed by smart textiles. Thanks to greater awareness among consumers of environmental sustainability, Taiwan's textile industry has devoted a great deal of effort to the development of not only eco-friendly materials but also eco-friendly production processes. The first global agreement on climate change – the Paris Agreement – came into force shortly after TITAS, on 4 November 2016.



Sunny focused on multifunctional fabrics achieved through eco-friendly manufacturing

TTF says Taiwan will support the global initiative by developing textile products with the lowest possible environmental footprint. Jintex and Everlight, for example, are both important partners of the ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals) programme. While fellow Taiwanese companies Formosa Chemicals & Fibre and Ray-Tex are striving to develop processes that save water, and Bebe Cotton Knitting Corporation has introduced eco-dyeing processes.

Enjoying a solid foundation in telecommunication and cloud computing, Taiwan is quick to ride the wave of smart textiles and wearable technology. Relevant products showcased at TITAS 2016 included wearable soft sensors, metallic conductive fibres, cloud integration and wireless transmission technology. In particular, intelligent textiles incorporating IT into the areas of sport, healthcare and protection and security are opening up huge possibilities of innovative technology and market development for the industry.







Ho Yu discussed its room-temperature printing technology and recycled PET yarns

Exhibitors demonstrated various steps they have taken in these two key areas, including: Asiatic Fiber Corporation, a manufacturer of cleanroom fabrics, which presented iQmax, a smart textile brand which combines fibre with electronics to offer a functional innovative product for use in apparel for a variety of markets.

Far Eastern New Century (FENC) introduced DynaFeed, a smart textile solution which won the 2016/17 ISPO Award. DynaFeed integrates biosensing technology and electrically conductive carbon nanotube films to measure vital signs of the human body in order to provide intelligent healthcare and training solutions.



Ho Yu Textile discussed its room-temperature printing technology, using gravure printing or sublimation transfer printing, to make patterns look more layered than the traditional printing process. Other exhibits included a variety of synthetic resin coating compounds and 100% recycled PET yarn series certified by GRS (Global Recycle Standard).

King Whale Corporation presented its L.I.T. (Low Impact Technology) yarn that can effectively reduce the use of water, electricity, vapour and colorants in dyeing processes. The newly developed Allo fibre is a concept product of using natural fibres from sustainable resources.

Nan Ya Plastics (NPC), a subsidiary of Formosa Plastic Group, presented green textiles such as biomass fibre Biopet and solution dyed yarn Chromuch. It also displayed temperature-management materials such as heat-blocking Sunshield fibre and thermal fibre Warmplus; stretch materials such as the conjugate stretch yarn Spanfit; and mechanical elastic yarn Topfit developed especially for knits.

Sunny Special Dyeing & Finishing, a producer of fabrics mainly for outdoor, sports and industrial use, is now focusing on multifunctional fabrics achieved through an eco-friendly manufacturing process. Both products and facilities of the company are approved by ISO14064-1, ISO150001, Bluesign and Oeko-tex.

Tex-Ray Industrial presented its TCool technology which can block nearly 70% of near infrared and UV lights, and lower temperature by 2-5oC. It joins the company's other line, THot, which can increase temperature by 3-5 oC, and Eco-Ior, a sustainable water-free dyeing technology.

Tri Ocean Textile devoted its exhibit to the development of textiles incorporating performance and sustainability, with composites being the latest focus. Product examples include 3D DreamFel filament and its derivative materials Dreamheat insulation ball, wadding padding and ginning padding, and the faux suede Dreamsuede.

**Business opportunities**

Nearly 100 international brands from 21 countries visited TITAS 2016, with 25% hailing from the US – a region noted for its significantly better economic climate. One-quarter of buyers were first-timers, including brands from the fashion industry, who were invited to see how technical textiles are shaping the future of luxury garments and accessories. Newcomers included designer Michael Kors from the US, Tiger of Sweden-IC Group, Marisa Lojas and Casas Pernambucanas from Brazil, and Somsom from China.

Meanwhile, 15 seminars and presentations were staged this year, featuring topics such as textile product and technology trends, development strategy analysis for emerging brands, fashion detox and green textiles, and smart textiles trends.

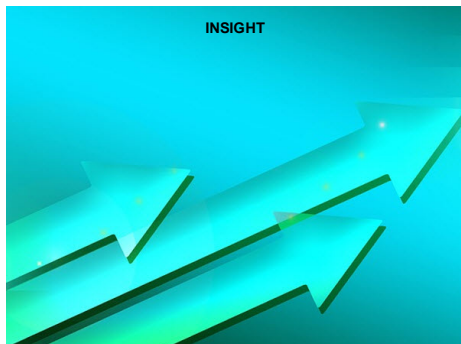
According to TTF, the scale of TITAS is growing year-on-year, with the next edition scheduled for 16-18 October 2017. The organisation says it is working to bring even more innovative products and technologies, in-line with the increasing sophistication and expectations of functional fabrics.

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