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Chinese swimwear shipments to increase 20%

12 June 2006

Market research company Research and Markets has released a new report entitled “China Sourcing Report: Swimwear”. It claims that China is the world's largest exporter of swimwear, accounting for approximately 70% of global shipments.

According to the report, suppliers are anticipating overseas shipments to increase by at least 20% in 2006, and exports have already increased by 20% in value since the beginning of the year. It states that in 2005, China shipped more than 259 million swimwear items worth around $383 million. Exports increased 26% in volume and 38% in value compared with the previous year.

The report also includes profiles of 65 major swimwear suppliers and an extensive industry overview.

Wellman’s successful PET resin line start-up

12 June 2006

Manufacturer and marketer of polyester products Wellman, Inc. has announced the successful start-up of its new PET (polyethylene terephthalate) resin line at the company’s Pearl River facility located in Hancock County, Mississippi. The new line, which has a stated annual capacity of approximately 300 million pounds, began initial shipments to customers in early June.

This expansion increases Wellman's capacity at its Pearl River facility to approximately 860 million pounds and increases its total US PET resin capacity to approximately 1.6 billion pounds, making Wellman the largest PET resin producer in the US. Wellman also has approximately 120 million pounds of PET resin capacity at its Emmen facility in the Netherlands.

SA business delegation to Ethiopia

12 June 2006

Trade and industry minister Mandisi Mpahlwa led a business delegation to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from June 8-10 in order to further strengthen bilateral economic relations between the two countries.

Despite the lack of a formal trade arrangement between them, South African exports to Ethiopia reached R162 million ($24.1 million) in 2005, while Ethiopian exports to South Africa amounted to just R9.2 million during the same period.

South African exports are characterised by high-value products such as motor vehicles, electrical apparatus and chemicals, while Ethiopian exports are mainly vegetable products.

Minister Mpahlwa’s visit aims help South African private sector institutions to explore available trade and nvestment opportunities in areas including telecommunications, agriculture and leather processing.

Kazakhstan delegation consults Indian textile minister

12 June 2006

Indian textiles minister Shri Shankersinh Vaghela has addressed a delegation from Kazakhastan regarding economic cooperation between the two countries and, in particular, the importance of strengthening the textile sector.

The minister reported that the value of India’s exports to Kazakhstan has grown from a figure of $47 million in 2002-03 to $79 million in 2004-05. Textile exports increased from $2.62 million in 2002-03 to $10.44 million in 2004-05, the majority of which were readymade garments. He stated that textile imports from Kazakhstan increased from $0.04 million in 2002-03 to $0.92 million in 2003-04. No imports took place during 2004-05. Raw cotton is currently the only textile item of import from Kazakhstan.

Shri Vaghela informed the delegation that the textile and clothing industry comprises 14% of industrial production in India, providing direct employment to about 35 million people, with an added 50 million engaged in allied activities. The current value of the Indian textile industry is $47 billion and is a major contributor to the nation’s foreign exchange earnings with exports of $17 billion, around 17% of India’s total exports.

The delegation from Kazakhstan came to India to seek help in developing their textile industry and to discuss business collaboration opportunities.

New football boots cause TSS

12 June 2006

According to doctors in this week's British Medical Journal report, two cases of toxic shock syndrome (TSS) have been discovered in children after playing football in new boots.

Both children developed friction blisters over their Achilles tendons. The blisters contained Staphylococcus aureus, which in one case was found to express the toxic shock syndrome gene (TSS1).

The syndrome is rare in children but these cases show that the syndrome may follow relatively trivial skin trauma.

European Technology Platform announces Strategic Research Agenda

12 June 2006

The European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing presented its Strategic Research Agenda at its first annual public conference in Brussels. The conference was attended by 300 representatives from the textile and clothing industry, research centres and European and national public authorities.

In his opening address, EU Research Commissioner Janez Potocnik congratulated the Technology Platform for the achievement of this important milestone and assured the European Textile and Clothing industry and its research community of the EC's continued support.

Euratex's president Filiep Libeert summarised the agenda's objectives, which are to avoid textile research fragmentation in Europe, help in setting the right research priorities and offering added value to the industry as a whole.

FGL announces Q1 profit

12 June 2006

Canadian sporting goods retailer The Forzani Group Ltd. has published financial results for the 13 weeks ended April 30.

Net earnings for the first quarter were $0.3 million compared with a loss in the prior year's first quarter of $7.4 million.

Retail system sales for the quarter were $299.1 million, an increase of $39.3 million, or 15.1% from the comparable 13-week sales of $259.8 million last year. This increase was attributed to strong contributions from franchise and corporate stores and the addition of The Fitness Source Inc. on January 31. Exclusive of the acquisition of Fitness Source, retail system sales increased $33.2 million, or 12.8%.

Creora unveils new absolute black elastane

12 June 2006

The second largest spandex producer in the world Hyosung has launched a new black elastane, which gives garments a blacker black and maintains depth of colour. Creora H-100D allows fabrics to maintain an absolute black colour even when stretched, without compromising the density of black.

Creora H-100D is created by adding a black colouring during extrusion of the elastane and as a result of it being spun into the fibre, it is said to have outstanding wash fastness.

Plastpol award for Lanxess

13 June 2006

Germany-based chemical company Lanxess has received an award at the 10th Plastpol international plastics fair which took place in Kielce, Poland, from May 30 to June 2.

The company was awarded for the presentation of its stand at the fair, which focused on dyestuffs, pigments, fire retardants and semi-crystalline polymers.

New arrivals at The North Face

13 June 2006

UK-based manufacturer of outdoor equipment, footwear and apparel The North Face has appointed Neil Davies as key account manager, reporting to country manager Kevin Charles.

Mr Davies worked for Quiksilver UK for eleven years, most recently as a major account manager for footwear.

Jason Robinson has also been appointed as regional key account manager, also reporting to Mr Charles. Prior to joining the company, Mr Robinson worked for Berghaus, most recently as a national account manager for five of the company's national accounts. He has also worked for Fila UK Ltd. and Umbro International.

Sympatex Technologies moves to Munich

13 June 2006

Textile solutions company Ploucquet Holding GmbH relocated to Unterföhring near Munich as of May 1 and its subsidiary Sympatex Technologies, manufacturer of functional waterproof breathable products, is to follow suit.

The majority of employees at the company's current location in Wuppertal, Germany, will be offered further employment at the location.

30 injured as problems continue in Bangladesh

13 June 2006

According to local media, at least 30 people were injured in a disturbance between officials and workers at the Dhaka Export Processing Zone. The clash is reported to have followed an attack on a pregnant sewing operator by an official.

As a result, a number of garment factories remained closed and several people were seriously injured.

Strikes, vandalism and wage retention are said to be the main causes of discontent between workers and officials.

Improved Q1 results and new director at Groupe Bikini Village

13 June 2006

Canadian swimwear company Groupe Bikini Village inc. has reported its financial results for the first quarter ended April 29.

Sales from continuing operations increased by 10.3%, to $8.5 million compared with $7.7 million for the same period last year. Operating margin was 1.8%, compared with a negative operating margin of 1.4% the previous year and loss from continuing operations decreased by over $1.1 million to $17,000, from a loss of $1.1 million in the previous year.
Net loss for the quarter was $17,000 compared with $2.8 million for the same period in 2005.

Groupe Bikini Village inc. has also officially announced the appointment of Sylvie Lalande as a company director who is filling the vacancy left by the departure of Normand Legault.

SeV expands technology-enabled clothing line

13 June 2006

Scottevest, Inc. (SeV) has launched the latest addition to its Technology Enabled Clothing (TEC) line, the SeV Performance T-Shirt. This t-shirt allows the wearer to transport a digital music player or mobile phone hands-free, while providing easy access to the device's headphones through a patented Personal Area Network. The t-shirt is constructed with performance fabric from 3M which is said to repel moisture.

Fashion in the Digital Age' at IFFTI Conference 2006

13 June 2006

The 2006 IFFTI Conference will be hosted by North Carolina State University's College of Textiles on June 19-22.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Fashion in the Digital Age' and representatives from Disney World, Gerber Technology, [TC]2, and Trade Card will be attending.

Indian textile industry to create employment

13 June 2006

Indian garment exports reached $8.2 billion in the fiscal year 2005-06, an increase of 32% compared with the previous year.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Apparel House Auditorium of Apparel Export Promotion Council in Gurgaon, minister for Textiles, Shri Vaghela urged exporters to enhance capacities in order to generate more employment.

He also announced that government investment of Rs750 crore ($163 million) has been provided for Integrated Textile Parks, which should provide employment for 20,000 people.

He also stated that the government has launched an Apparel Park for Export Scheme to boost garment exports and urged the industry to take advantage of the various schemes at their disposal.

Timberland launches GoLite skyrunning footwear

14 June 2006

Footwear, apparel and accessories producer The Timberland Company has introduced a new line of advanced footwear for trail running enthusiasts under the GoLite brand. Gaining in popularity amongst mountain athletes world-wide, skyrunning is a cross-pollination of ultra-running, trail running and adventure racing at high altitudes.

The new line will be unveiled at this summer's Outdoor Retailer show in Salt Lake City, USA, from August 10-13. The market launch is expected in spring 2007, with distribution targeted at specialty outdoor and running shops.

Timberland has acquired certain assets of ultra-lite equipment and clothing for outdoor adventures company GoLite LLC, including trademarks. GoLite footwear will be managed out of Timberland's Stratham, New Hampshire, headquarters.

Trade under AGOA falls short of expectations

14 June 2006

At a hearing held by the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations in the US House of Representatives on June 8, it was announced that trade between the US and African nations has not reached the levels anticipated.

Although trade between has increased 115% since the initiation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)—a US law which provides duty-free access to a wide range of more than 6,400 items, including textile products into the US market for African nations— non-oil trade under AGOA decreased by 16% in 2005, despite growth in sectors such as footwear and chemicals.

Report released on Indian textile and clothing industry

14 June 2006

Dublin-based research company Research and Markets has added a new report entitled Industry Insight - Textiles & Clothing in India to its collection.

The report covers various aspects of textile production, the clothing market and retailing format. It includes detailed discussions on the post Multi-fibre Agreement (January 2005) situation and explains various formats of apparel retailing. In addition, the report depicts retail success stories in India and profiles the retail outlets of major players in India. It makes a comparison of the branded market with the total market and discuses recent trends, growth drivers, regulatory issues, and the future outlook for the industry.

Camozzi invests in textile unit at Warangal

14 June 2006

Italian firm Camozzi Holding Spa is reportedly set to invest in a new textile unit in Warangal, India. The company is said to be planning to invest Rs600 crores ($130.7 million) in the unit having been attracted through incentives offered by the Indian government.

The proposed unit will provide facilities for spinning, weaving as well as producing cotton and polyester textiles and garments, for both domestic consumption and exports. A possible 4,000 local jobs could also be created as a result of the venture.

22nd World Apparel Congress

14 June 2006

The 22nd World Apparel Congress, organised by the International Apparel Federation (IAF) in partnership with the Hellenic Clothing & Fashion Industry Associations, will be held on June 18-20 in Thessaloniki, Greece.

This year's congress marks the 30th anniversary of the IAF, the largest federation of apparel manufacturers, associations and the supporting industry, with members from more that 60 countries. The event will provide an opportunity for executives from textile and apparel companies and representatives of the fashion industry to discuss the future of the sector.

"In an era of disruptive change in the global fashion market, I believe that it is more important than ever to bring together key players from the fashion sector to discuss its future," said Vassilis Masselos, president of the International Apparel Federation.

France-based provider of software and CAD/CAM equipment for industrial users of textiles and leather Lectra will be the official sponsor of the event.

Sporting goods to boost Indo-Kuwait bilateral trade

14 June 2006

According to media reports, trade between India and Kuwait is likely to increase threefold to $3.2 billion by 2010.

At present, India’s main exports to Kuwait include food products, textiles and readymade garments. Kuwait’s export items to India include oil and petroleum products.

Leather products and sporting goods are said to be amongst the items through which increases are most likely to be achieved.

Turkmenistan records growth in textile sector

14 June 2006

Turkmenistan's Institute of Statistics has reported that the country's GDP grew by 20% in the January to May period.

A high rate of growth was observed in industry (22.4%), agriculture (20.9%), construction (17.8%), transport and communication (19.6%) and trade (24.8%). Expansion was also observed in the textile industry, with an 11% increase in ready-made garments, 4% in washed wool, 3% in cotton fabric and 26% in leather goods.

US solvent demand set to reach over 12 billion pounds

15 June 2006

According to industry market research firm Freedonia Group, demand for solvents in the US is set to increase almost 1% each year to 12.5 billion pounds in 2010, reaching a value of $4.4 billion.

In its 'Solvents' study, the company reveals that demand for green, environmentally friendly, solvents is likely to considerably outpace that of conventional solvents, with the potential to achieve 20% of the solvent market in the future. Demand for green solvents has risen due to environmental and toxicological concerns linked to conventional solvents. Company research indicates that the propylene glycol family of chemicals comprises over half of green solvents demand and Freedonia predicts that the fastest growth in this sector will be seen in soybean oil solvents and their derivatives, which will continue to gain share in printing inks as well as starting to enter markets such as coatings, cleaning products and paint removers.

Demand for conventional solvents is predicted to advance at a minimal pace up to 2010 with higher growth expected in higher-value oxygenated solvents. Alcohol and ester solvents will continue to replace environmentally hazardous hydrocarbon and chlorinated solvents, which are expected to decline.

Boehme Group acquired by DyStar

15 June 2006

Products and services provider for the textile industry DyStar has signed an agreement to acquire the business activities of the Boehme Group. The legal change of ownership will take place in approximately six to eight weeks, as soon as contractual conditions have been fulfilled. Financial details of the transaction will not be disclosed.

Like DyStar, Boehme is a major supplier to the textile and leather industries. Its textile products cover pretreatment, dyeing, laundry, finishing and coating textile processes. For the leather industry the company offers pretreatment agents as well as products for tanning, dyeing and finishing. Boehme also manufactures additives for the plastics, paper, rubber and adhesives sectors.

'Boehme broadens our extensive product offering for the textile industry and strengthens our position in the leather business,' says DyStar's CEO Dr Clemens Willée.

Eschler unveils new fabric collection

15 June 2006

Switzerland-based sports fabric specialist Christian Eschler AG has launched a new fabric collection for winter 2007/2008, maintaining its three-layer system for underwear, insulation and weather protection.

In the functional underwear and shirts collection, two different dye-absorbing polyester yarns have been used to develop a new series of new ATMOS jacquard materials with duo-tone effects.

All newly manufactured articles for cycling clothing made from polyester or spandex have undergone an additional finishing process to reduce heat shrinkage during the transfer printing process and to prevent fabrics (including cut-out parts) from curling at the edges.

The line of knit fabrics containing Schoeller 3xDRY technology has also been expanded with the addition of a spot-woven fabric made of polyamide/spandex. The fleecy inside of the 350g/m² material offers heat insulation directly to the skin.

Husky Loop and Husky Heavy fabrics have now been produced in heavier versions to meet customer demand and incorporate the company's new range of print designs.

The softshell laminates have remained an important product group at Eschler. This group has now been expanded through the introduction of new properties for the two-layer special laminates (E-Star H2 and E-Star 2000). This development involves the use of either a structured cover or surface fabric for the laminate.

A number of interesting innovations have also been added to the Isowind product group. These include waterproof and windproof 3-layer laminates with membranes for high breathability.

Korean textile industry declines

15 June 2006

Reports indicate that there will be declines in the Korean textile, steel and petrochemical industries in the second half of this year. The textile market has been particularly weakened by cheap Chinese imports and this is likely to worsen according to the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Textile exports are predicted to fall by 0.7% and output could drop by as much as 6.3% in the next six months.

Solutia raises adipic acid price

15 June 2006

Chemical solutions company Solutia Inc. has implemented a price increase of $0.05 per pound for adipic acid, which is primarily used to produce nylon. This increase will apply to North American orders shipped on or after July 1, for all non-contract customers and where contracts allow.

"We are implementing this price increase due to the recent rapid escalation of raw material costs and sustained high energy and transportation costs that continue to affect our business, as well as the strong global demand for adipic acid," said Richard Kisiel, general manager, Nylon Intermediates, Solutia Inc.

PolyOne expands into Poland

15 June 2006

Polymer and masterbatch compounder PolyOne Corporation is to build a new manufacturing facility in Kutno, Poland. Products manufactured at this site will initially include colour masterbatches for extrusion and moulding processors.

The new plant will be PolyOne's second manufacturing facility in Central Europe, the other is situated in Gyor, Hungary. PolyOne also has sales offices in Krakow, Poland, and Prague, Czech Republic.

Italian exports fall in 2005

15 June 2006

According to media reports, Italian manufacturers are suffering as a result of competition, particularly from Asian countries.

A government report on 2005 goods exports shows textile and clothing exports were down 5.2% and leather and shoe exports fell 6.2%. Despite this, chemical products and synthetic fibre exports increased 2.1% in 2005.

The overall fall in exports is said to be due to restructuring and high prices in comparison with new markets, leading to a decrease of 5.3% for exports to industrialised countries in 2005.

WL Gore names new licensee for running shoes

16 June 2006

WL Gore has licensed running footwear brand innov-8 to produce Gore-Tex and Gore-Tex XCR running shoes.

Innov-8 launched itself in the off-road shoe market in 2003 and has since seen significant growth in the UK, currently selling in over 130 specialist shops.

For autumn/winter 2006/07 Innov-8 will incorporate Gore-Tex XCR into three new designs to offer waterproofness and climate comfort. In addition to this, innov-8—in partnership with Gore—will launch a patent pending fully integrated detachable gaiter system.

Perry Ellis International appoints new members to board of directors

16 June 2006

Designer of men's and women's apparel and accessories, Perry Ellis International Inc. has appointed Joe Arriola and Linda Platzner to the company's board of directors. These appointments bring the total number of directors to nine.

Mr Arriola was the founder and chief executive officer of Avanti Press, Inc. until February 2001. He has served on numerous Boards of Trustees including positions at the University of Miami, the Orange Bowl Committee and the Public Health Trust. He currently serves as the city manager for the city of Miami, a position he has held since 2003.

Ms Platzner formerly served as executive vice president of Primedia and president of Seventeen Magazine Group, where she oversaw the domestic and international brand marketing of the teen properties. Her experience includes developing and selling major cross-media programmes to Wal-Mart and JCPenney and creating television partnerships with the Fox network.

The company’s brands include Perry Ellis, Jantzen, Cubavera, Munsingwear, Pro Player, and Gotcha, Girl Star. The company also licenses trademarks from third parties including Dockers for outerwear, Nike for swimwear, and PING and PGA TOUR for golf apparel.

Everlast signs new footwear licensee

16 June 2006

Manufacturer, marketer and licensor of sporting goods, apparel, footwear, Everlast Worldwide Inc., has signed a new licence to manufacture and distribute athletic and casual footwear for men, women and children with E.S. Originals Inc, a footwear marketer with over $1 billion in annual retail sales. The New York City headquartered company will distribute the Everlast branded products beginning in the second quarter of 2007 to sporting goods, athletic footwear and department stores in the US and Canada.

This new licence replaces Everlast's former footwear license with the Meldisco division of Footstar, Inc. that focused on mass merchant retailers. This change allows Everlast to elevate its footwear distribution to match its apparel channels of trade.

Sub-Saharan African textile industry battles Asian competition

16 June 2006

According to a new report, faced with Asian competition following the global elimination of quotas, a number of Sub-Saharan African textile and clothing firms are trying to stay afloat by investing in new factories.

News of the investments will help to bolster confidence in an industry whose fortunes have suffered a dramatic reversal over the last 18 months. Falling exports in 2005 and in the first few months of 2006 have led to widespread factory closures and job losses and this trend shows no immediate signs of changing, according to the report by Textile Outlook International.

This decline is in stark contrast to figures for 2000-04 — which was a period of optimism and growth. Between 2000 and 2003 clothing shipments from Sub-Saharan Africa to the USA rose in volume terms by an average of 34% a year. But in 2004 growth slowed to 10%, and in 2005 exports to the USA from the region actually fell by 14%. Worse news came in January-March 2006 when shipments were down by over 22% compared with the equivalent period in 2005.

But the world market changed with the entry of China to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in late 2001, and the elimination of quotas at the end of 2004.

Sub-Saharan African clothing makers still enjoy duty-free access to the US market but this has proved insufficient to maintain their competitiveness in the face of intense competition from Asia.

Burlington WorldWide to build manufacturing complex in Vietnam

16 June 2006

International Textile Group, Inc. (ITG) has announced that its Burlington WorldWide division plans to build a state-of-the-art cotton manufacturing complex in DaNang, Vietnam. The complex will be a joint venture operation called Burlington Phong Phu Supply Chain City, 60% owned by a subsidiary of ITG (a WL Ross & Co. company) and 40% owned by Phong Phu Corporation, one of the largest textile and garment enterprises in Vietnam. The investment will exceed $80 million.

ITG began its exploration within Vietnam last February through its relationship with the Vietnam National Textile and Garment Corporation (Vinatex). Le Quoc An, chairman of Vinatex, was instrumental in facilitating the relationship and agreement with Phong Phu. Supply Chain City will offer apparel customers a total supply chain solution from fabric to finished garments. The vertical operation will focus on the production of cotton, bottom-weight fabrics and finished garments. Capabilities will include weaving, dyeing and finishing operations as well as garment sewing and wet processing.

Supply Chain City is expected to be operational within the next 18 months with a dyeing and finishing capacity of 60 million yards. The complex will employ more than 1,500 people.

Delta Galil appoints new CEO

16 June 2006

Israeli provider of private label ladies' intimate apparel, socks, men's underwear, baby-wear and leisurewear Delta Galil Industries Ltd., has named Aviram Lahav as the company's next chief executive officer, effective November 1, 2006.

Mr Lahav currently serves as CEO of Delta's US Upper Market division. He joined the company in 1997 as chief financial officer. He was appointed CEO of Delta's Innerwear division in 2004, where he oversaw the successful merger with the Textile division and the formation of Delta's Upper Market division.

Dov Lautman will continue to serve in the joint role of chairman of the Board and CEO until October 31, 2006. Effective November 1, Mr Lahav will assume the role of CEO of the company, and Mr. Lautman will revert to the position of active chairman of the board.

Delta Galil manufactures apparel sold under brands such as Calvin Klein, Hugo Boss, Nike, and Ralph Lauren.