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Textile hi-tech: new potential

By Dilshod Ashurmatov

The fourth Central Asian International "Textile Machinery and Technologies – CAITME 2008" Exhibition is being held in the Uzexpocenter. The main trend of the exhibition is: Uzbekistan enhances domestic cotton processing industry, and accordingly increases demand for the latest technical advances in textile.

This year the exhibition, organized by ITE Uzbekistan, gathered 130 companies from 17 countries. In comparison with the previous year the CAITME 2008 showcase has grown 1.6 times and the number of its participants has increased 1.4 times.

The businessmen are really interested in presentation of their products, technology and up-to-date equipment at the exhibition. Uzbekistan remains not only one of the main players on the world cotton market, being among first five producers and holding the second place by the cotton export, but also stirs up the inner processing.

At the opening of the exhibition deputy chairman of 'Uzbekengilsanoat' State Stock Company (Uzbek light industry), Shamsiddin Sultanov said that attraction of modern technology and up-to-date equipment delivery which should guarantee "effective realization of giant potential of the country as a large power, forcing textile export with high added value" remain the main priorities of the republican textile sector development.

For the years of independence, more than \$1bn of foreign direct investment has been attracted into development of the textile sector, mostly in spinning industry. The production volumes of the members of 'Uzbekengilsanoat' SSC, focused on cotton-fiber processing, have increased from 152 thousand tons in 1995 to 300 thousand tons in 2007. As predicted, the textile industry will be processing up to 750 thousand tons of cotton in the inner market by 2012.

The number of enterprises, entering with foreign capital and dealing with deep cotton processing into finished goods, grows each year. Thus, in 2003 only two out of all newly entered enterprises were producing garments and knitted goods, but in 2007 there were fifteen enterprises put into operation. Habibula Muhitdinov, director of Marketing and Advertisement Department of textile products of 'Uzbekengilsanoat' SSC, said that the state policy aimed at outstripping development of textile sector, allowed increasing the production volume of outdoor and knitted goods, extremely demanded in the market.

For the stimulation of the further intensification of cotton fiber and textile semi-finished goods processing into finished product, enhancement of export potential, satisfaction of increasing demand for consumption goods and creation of additional job places, there was developed a special target textile industry development program for 2007-2012.

The program insures implementation of 79 projects cost \$614.6mln by 2012. Moreover, it is planned to create 36.2 thousand job places. The implementation of those projects, stipulated in the modernization program, will result in increase of cotton fiber processing up to 510 thousands of tons by 2012, up to 407.1 thousand tons of cotton yarn production, 315.56mln sq meters of fabrics and 275.6mln units of cloth.

In compliance with the decision of the government, the enterprises, involved into the program are free from customs duties on import of equipment, spare parts and other products, necessary for production process, excluding payments for customs clearance procedure.

Therefore the interest in the exhibition was very high especially among foreign machinery vendors. European companies, making up the half of all the participants, are very active in CAITME 2008. This active participation of Ger-

man and Italian producers fully corresponds to their position as leading textile equipment deliverers to our domestic market.

As many of the Western European producers believe, Uzbekistan today is becoming one of the main potential markets of equipment for textile production (spinning, weaving, dyeing and fixing). The most demanded is the equipment for fixing sector, and then follow spinning and knitting ones.

Willing to intensify business contacts with domestic textile enterprises, the leading textile engineering manufacturers of China decided to organize national industrial test bench. This allowed offering Uzbekistan the most coordinated solutions. Another one novelty is that equipment for silk production, including silk-winding and silk-reeling devices, is for the first time at the exposition. Such a wide range of industrial machinery will give an opportunity to fill up domestic market with prospective new products.

The participants believe that considerable investments into the textile industry enable to focus on serious modernization of textile sector. In turn, the integral and considered state policy in domestic cotton processing sector, allows using the textile industry as a 'locomotive' for total economic growth of the country.



Uzbekistan becomes the most important outlet for textile machinery