

LEADING INDUSTRY EXPERTS TO GIVE KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS AT ITMA FORUMS ON SUSTAINABLE TEXTILE INNOVATION

6 April 2023 – Two industry forums on nonwovens, and textiles and colourants will be reprised at ITMA 2023 which will be held in Milan this June. The ITMA Nonwovens Forum and ITMA Textile Colourants and Chemicals Forum will feature renowned experts who will offer insights into current challenges and share ideas on how the textile industry can achieve sustainability by leveraging innovative technologies.

Mr Ernesto Maurer, President of CEMATEX, said: “Challenges in the industrial environment also bring with them a wealth of innovation opportunities. The ITMA forums will bring together stakeholders across the entire value chain to review the issues of the day, dialogue, collaborate and ensure that we will have a sustainable future. ITMA 2023 offers a unique platform as it attracts all the textile industry players in one convenient place. Delegates can also visit the exhibition to discover new trends and technologies in the sustainability sector.”

ITMA Nonwovens Forum

The Nonwovens Forum will feature a keynote presentation by Dr Bryan Haynes, Technical Director for Global Nonwovens at Kimberly-Clark Corporation (United Kingdom). He will speak on the topic: Ready Now Nonwoven Solutions for the Global Plastics Crisis. In his presentation, he will provide insights into solutions that are commercially available, highlighting Kimberly-Clark’s sustainability journey.

According to Dr Haynes, who has a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, the Single Use Plastics Directive was a wake-up call to the nonwoven industry. Hence, he would like to urge industry players to explore ‘Coopetition’ or cooperative competition as this will accelerate speed to market solutions.

Following the keynote, there will be two sessions with presentations by ITMA 2023 exhibitors. The forum will end with a panel discussion on the theme, Leveraging Sustainable Innovation and Digital Technology in the Nonwoven Industry.

The panel includes Dr Haynes and programme committee members: Dr. Behnam Pourdeyhimi, Executive Director & Associate Dean of The Nonwovens Institute; Dr.-Ing. Martin Dauner, Head of Competence Centre, Chemicals Fibres & Nonwovens of the Deutsche Institute für Textil (DITF); and Professor Stephen J. Russell, Professor of Textile Materials & Technology of Leeds Institute of Textiles and Colour.

ITMA Textile Colourants and Chemicals Forum

Held since 2011, the Textile Colourants and Chemicals Forum will feature a joint keynote presentation by Mr Prasad Pant, Director, South Asia, ZDHC Foundation and Ms Sophie Mather, Co-Founder and Executive Director, The Microfibre Consortium (TMC).

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The presentation, *Textile Wastewater: Addressing Microfibre Loss during Manufacture*, focuses on the impact of fibre shedding from clothing during manufacture and consumer use. Microfibres have been flagged as an environmental hazard and the presenters will share the key findings from the joint project by the two organisations on fibre fragmentation in wastewater. Through the presentation, they would like to propel various stakeholders to collaborate towards a sustainable manufacturing value chain.

Mr Pant has a degree in Textile Chemistry and 30 years of experience in textile processing, dyes and auxiliaries manufacturing, and marketing and chemical management systems implementation; while Ms Mather is a thought leader on sustainable innovation and brings innovative thinking and network to tackle the industry challenge of microfibre release within the clothing industry.

A highlight at the forum is the panel discussion, *Unlocking the Decarbonisation Opportunity* led by Fashion for Good (FFG). Moderated by Ms Jana van den Bergen, FFG Innovation Manager, the session will map the opportunities for impact reduction and dive into FFG's D(R)YE Factory of the Future Project. The project brings together key players in the industry and several innovators in pretreatment and colouration to validate their technologies.

The forum programme committee comprises Mr Andrew Filarowski, Deputy Chief Executive, Society of Dyers and Colourists (SDC); Ms Diana A. Wyman, Executive Vice President, American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), Mr Frank Michel, Executive Director, The ZHDC Foundation; Mr Janak Mehta, Chairman, Asia Dyestuff Industry Federation (ADIF); and Mr Stefano Cavestro, President, Associazione Italiana di Chimica Tessile e Coloristica (AICTC).

The Textile Colourants and Chemicals Forum will be held on 9 June 2023, while the Nonwovens Forum will be held on 10 June 2023. The delegate fee is €219. Members of supporting organisations enjoy a preferential rate of €189. Registration for the event badges can be done at www.itma.com.

Besides ITMA forums, participants can also attend other complimentary activities, such as the Innovator Xchange (9 – 13 June) and the Innovation Video Showcase which will feature selected videos from exhibitors.

To be held in Milan from 8 to 14 June, ITMA 2023 will feature over 1,600 exhibitors from 44 countries. Visitors can register online and enjoy early bird badge rates till 7 May. Each badge entitles the visitor to access ITMAconnect, the world's largest directory of textile machinery manufacturers. For enquiries, please email info@itma.com.

About CEMATEX & ITMA

The European Committee of Textile Machinery Manufacturers (CEMATEX) comprises national textile machinery associations from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. It is the owner of ITMA and ITMA ASIA. Considered the 'Olympics' of textile machinery exhibitions, ITMA has a 73-year history of displaying the latest technology for every single work process of textile and garment making. It is held every four years in Europe.

About ITMA Services

Headquartered in Brussels with a subsidiary in Singapore, ITMA Services is the appointed organiser of ITMA 2023 and future ITMA branded exhibitions. It is managed by professionals with extensive experience in organising ITMA and other major trade exhibitions around the world. It aims to maintain and expand ITMA's unique selling proposition and relevance to a global audience.

Issued by CEMATEX and ITMA Services.

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