Report - SDC EC's 13th International Conference 2018

‘Innovations In Textile Technology And Fashion Towards Circular Economy’

The SDC EC has successfully organised the 13th International Conference on “Innovations in textile technology and fashion towards Circular economy” on the 06th June, 2018, Hotel Sahara Star, Mumbai.

The aim was to bring together and share innovation in the areas of chemical compliance, certification, fashion and business in the textile supply chain. More than 200 delegates from Process Houses, Brands & Retailers and Fashion & Technical Educational Institutions participated.

SDC EC’s Hon. Trustee Mr. Naresh Bhatt was the master of ceremony (MOC) of the day. In the inaugural session Hon. Chairman, Mr. V R Sai Ganesh formally welcomed all the guests, Speakers, Panellists and the delegates to the conference. He gave an overview of the theme of circular economy and briefly explained the programme for the day. The intention of involving companies for carrying out CSR activities was communicated to the audience. A minute’s silence was observed in the memory of Prof. Ian Holme who was a true visionary for SDC in India and was instrumental in starting the SDC Mumbai Regional Chapter in 1999.

The Souvenir was released, this was followed by felicitations and presentation of Medals and Qualifications. The CCol qualification certificate was presented to Dr Ruma Chakrabarti ASDC CCOL and ASDC certificate was presented to Mr J.K. Shrivastava ASDC.

Dr. Graham Clayton, CEO, SDC UK shared his view and plan for ‘SDC –Global Vision’. The SDC has now moved onto a concept of an online virtual learning environment by conducting online courses which contain updated ASDC module material. The format of this is very much designed to meet the needs of todays’ learners with mobile and 24/7 access, containing manageable material to enable students to ‘earn and learn’. Other material is also available via the Colour. Network site will enhance the Colour Education of many around the world. For example, a free course based on Colour Communication for Design Students taking part in the Design Competition. Colour Network enables SDC Members and colour interested individuals to focus on meeting and networking at such events. Emphasising on the Conference theme, he said for an organization or company to find smart solutions, it needs to look at three areas: people, operations and technology. The latter is often seen as smart solutions alone. Technology can be exciting and ground breaking. We must remember however that technology alone achieves very little, if anything, as it is only when technology works for people in making improved operations that smart solutions work and work profitably.

Chief Guest of the event Mr. Manish Mandhana, Joint Managing Director, Mandhana Industries Ltd, addressed the audience. He talked about the harmful impact of garment manufacturing and discharge of effluents in environment. He emphasized on waste management, audits, unions, committees, safe working environment, facilities to workers in industries and our responsibilities as a citizen. He also talked about CSR aspects of business and his experiences. He shared the work culture of his company and 'Being Human Foundation' with a video on Being Human.

At the end of the inaugural session, Dr. Suman Mundkur, Hon. Secretary, SDC EC proposed vote of thanks and acknowledged the sponsors' and patrons of the conference with mementoes. The conference was supported by M/s CHT India (P) Ltd, M/s Bluesign Technologies ag, M/s X-Rite India (P) Ltd, M/s Zenitex, M/s Colourtex Industries (P) Ltd, M/s Atul Ltd, M/s ATE (P) Ltd., M/s Indian Chemical Industries and M/s Ramp Impex. Support from M/s Archroma India (P) Ltd, M/s Mirachem Industries, M/s Netflex towards CSR activities was acknowledged.

Mr. Rahul Bhajekar explained the topic saying that Materials include chemical certification which is a new concept that required site inspection for chemical factories. Legislation were needed regarding liquid waste and solid waste, as well as for fiber manufacturing units. Sustainability from production to disposal was important. Dr. Siva was of the opinion that a more systematic approach to management sustainability Certification for mills fiber manufacturing will lead to less fatigue. He emphasized on the large gaps in certification on sustainability-gap in production for domestic and export markets. Indian companies need to change mindset- rather than doing what is expected by certain countries; it should take initiative and be self-motivated for adopting legislation, certification and sustainability. Need to be proactive and not only reactive to situations. This would need change in academic courses and syllabi; training and education is the biggest challenge. Mr. Aich talked about the current scenario of effluent discharge by textile industries, REACH norms are now for both domestic and export brands in India. He emphasized on GOTS approved chemical processing for larger manufacturers for chemicals and enzymes. He talked of the challenges in reducing the number of washes thus reducing water consumption in dyeing. Water-less dyeing is already in practice for nylon and polyester but there is a need to reduce the water consumption during dyeing cotton. Effluents produced by printing paste, recycling of polyurethanes used as blend in many garments spandex/lycra also contribute in increasing the amount of effluents and how eco-friendly/Energy consumption certification can help in reducing the production of effluents. It was important to check production at every stage. Mr. Pote talked about sustainability which includes People (safety of workers and consumers), Environment (effluent and waste) and Resources (used in production). Textiles is the second largest polluting industry. The manufacturer of textiles, dyes and auxiliaries have to ensure that there is no negative impact on people, environment and resources. Testing based approach relies only on testing the end product. Input Stream Management is a proactive approach and the only efficient way to ensure safe and sustainable production. Dr. John started with current status of Maharastra's industry pollution. He told that many companies in Taloja were given show cause notice for closure. Now it's high time to upgrade this industry, CTP, ground water pollution levels are raising and by upgrading textile companies. He also told about companies which are recycling water for manufacturing. He emphasized on training people about raw material management, chemical treatment, water recycling and stringent policies can help in sustainable manufacturing. Mr. Bhajekar concluded the discussion with positive note that Indian industries certifications are at their teenage years, if pharma companies can do it why not textile companies?

This was followed by a second Panel Discussion on **Dyes & Chemicals Compliance - Way forward** was moderated by Mr Prasad Pant, Director-South Asia-Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC).The panel members were Dr Naresh Tyagi, Chief Sustainability Officer-Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd, Dr Pankaj Desai, Head R&D-Colourtex Industries (P) Ltd, Dr GVG Rao, President-Colors Division Atul Ltd; Dr. Yoram Benjamin, Technical Head-Jay Chemical Industries Ltd, Mr. Sanjay Harane Sr. Vice President (Operation) - Nagreeka Exports Ltd.

Dr. GVG Rao gave an overview of energy and process sustainability projects implemented by Atul for Vat, Sulphur black and other dyes and the on-going environmental sustainability projects. Valorisation of by-products is the key for success. He explained using the example of PFC free durable water repellent, the importance of public awareness and regulations for commercial success of environmental friendly chemistry. Finally indicated the need for unified certification system in textile industry, as different brands have different eco-textile labelling standards – the testing and compliance of which are adding cost to the manufacturer. Dr. Benjamin elaborated on the need for correct understanding of restricted substances list by both dyes and chemical manufacturers and textile processors to differentiate between complete usage ban and limits of tolerance for certain inputs. Mr Pankaj Desai suggested that we follow the best managements of inputs and processes, reduce the use of heavy metals during production which will help in reducing the quality of ground water. He quoted an example of managing liquid and solid waste. Based on requirements of the company different methods, Eco-norms and evaluation techniques should be followed to reduce the harmful impact of hazardous chemicals to environment. Mr Sanjay Harane spoke on Chemical compliance, cost, and input chemical control by CMS-i.e., Chemical Management System, and Reduction of non-productive outputs (NPO's) i.e., dyes, use of resources, chemical consumption, missing systems, low priorities, and lack of knowledge. He talked about CMS - policies and practices, chemical storage and handling and waste management, Product Stewardship Program, sustainable design of industry. Product Design Stewardship is relation with reduction in pollution. It helps in reducing power and salt, fuel and air consumption. Dr Naresh Tyagi talked about brands and retails. He told that his company has 14 brands and produces 60 million garments annually; his company is also into export. They are not using Azo dyes for dyeing processes. He emphasized on sustainable chain between manufacturers–suppliers-consumers. His company is also into waste water management, wet processing etc., for which they have audits.

An interesting question that came up from the audience was: If requirement for certification is not from consumers. Is it required for company to get certification? All panel members unanimously agreed that care certification is required for end use product. Better to have certification. Moderator Mr Prasad Pant concluded with an example that just as there are many languages, many cultures, and many religions hence it is not possible to have one certification.

A technical presentation on **Circular Economy: Innovations in Design and supply chain management** by Mr Felix A. K Pinto - Sales Director, South Asia, South East Asia & ANZ, X Rite India Pvt. Ltd. He highlighted the importance of colour and helping the brands in selecting the right color. He mentioned the challenges in the production process and total appearance capture system that consist of camera that can scan the object from every angle, helps in visualizing the product. He introduced the Pantone cloud- its tools and concept of 3-D object making that can reduce the cycle of prototype and sampling in garment industry that can help in reducing waste. He concluded saying that for sustainable production 3-D object making can help in reducing the steps of making prototypes and wastage of resources.

A Panel Discussion on Innovative fashion - towards circular economy followed. This was moderated by Dr Ela Dedhia, Associate Professor and Head - Department of Textiles and Fashion Technology, College of Home Science Nirmala Niketan. The Panel Members were Mr Viral Desai, CEO, Zenitex; Ms Krishna Mehta, Creative Director, Brand 'Krishna Mehta'; Ms Geeta Castelino– Educationist and Consulting Psychologist; Mr Puneet Dudeja, Sales Director-South Asia, WGSN.

Dr. Dedhia introduced the topic by saying traditionally Indians used sustainable practices by hand-me-downs, reuse and recycling of garments, fabrics and products - leading to circular economy. Ms Krishna Mehta showed how Innovative Fashion-Towards Circular Economy can be achieved in relation to garment development. She shared some of her creations from waste or discarded fabric swatches like curtains, dresses etc. She also explained about sustainability in relation to fast fashion. Ms. Geeta Castelino stressed the importance of training and educating the various stakeholders on sustainability. It was important to consider safety and interests of workers in mills and industries Mr. Viral talked about his experiences as entrepreneur, Health campaigns, CSR activities of his company, Green India concept that contribute to help sustain fashion. There was a stress on fashion education through improvement in curriculum. He also spoke on the importance of teaching farmers about sustainable farming, women empowerment programs, working with NGO's, training programs etc. Mr. Puneet talked about saving resources, recycling of products, working on concept of re-usability of product. He gave example of Mudd jeans of Netherlands and Korean company where they marketed used denims and home furnishings after finishing them- recycling them. The session concluded with the importance of re- materialisation of fabrics and garments.

The next Panel Discussion Session was on Sustainable Business Strategies – Way forward, which was moderated by Mr. G. V. Aras, Director, Textile Engineering Group, ATE Pvt. Ltd. The Panel Members were Dr. V. G. Habbu, Senior Vice President, Reliance Industries Ltd.; Mr. Suketu Shah, President and Business Head, Mafatlal Industries Ltd.; Mr. Sandeep Mehta, Textile Technocrat, S N M Consultants (P) Ltd.; Mr. Amir Shiekh - Gherzi Consulting Engineers (P) Ltd. Dr Parasu Veera Uppara, Vice President and Head of Technology and Business Development, Speciality Chemicals, United Phosphorous Ltd.

Mr. G. V. Aras introduced and explained the relevance of the topic and the difference between sustainability and sustainable development. Mr. Aras also introduced the new concept of 'Triple bottom line' for measuring the performance of the corporate on financial, social and environmental basis.
Dr. Habbu explained the importance of packaging in every sphere. He went on to explain the virtues of plastics packaging, but how overuse of packaging is harming the nature. He talked about polyester and its versatility. He also gave example of PET bottle as being most sustainable due to its lowest eco-footprint. Although nobody knows how long it actually takes for plastics/PET bottles to degrade alternatives like glass and metal also take many centuries to degrade. He also explained how synthetic polymers like PET/polyester would actually come to the rescue of mankind as the global population marches towards an increasing trend by relieving the stress on land and water. Mr. Shah talked about sustainability in relation to denim production. Denim production is not eco-friendly because of use of non-soluble dye, use of foam dyeing techniques, example of H&M brand for recycling of its products, chemical certification from GOTS, water consumption in producing 1 pair of jeans, changes in denim production, etc. He shared his knowledge on present technologies used in denim production for which industries have denim shredding machine which converts denims into fiber form and can re-manufactured into denims. Mr. Uppara talked about value chain, indigo denim dyes, production of indigo in India, sourcing dyes from China, need for Indian Indigo and dye companies, concept of green chemistry i.e. zero water

system, small processes and innovative use of water. Mr. Sheikh talked about sustainable business opportunity, global environment, investments, vision of individual, mass customization and ways of sustainable designing of products. Mr. Mehta talked about digital printing in India still in its growing phase at 15%, business model, selling and printing, inventory control, Surat textile market, E-commerce, Example of Arvind Mills that they have separate division for Flex and Banner printing and development, affordable machineries, etc. On innovative ideas in business, Dr. Habbu gave examples of how manufacturers of US/Europe are outsourcing manufacturing of goods, change in consumer behaviours and increase in demand for micro-runs. In relation to micro fiber issues, the industry currently is not a linear economy. Denim processes need to save water and minimum use of hazardous chemicals in production, there is a need to share and learn concept between the industries. On the question of potential disruptions to the business by moderator Mr. Aras, the panellists sighted various likely areas in which technological, ecological and regulatory disruptions would take place.

The SDC EC was exploring the idea to support the textile computation industry with their CSR activity for one year. A group of trustees including Mr. Anjani Prasad, Mr. V. R. Sai Ganesh, Ms. Raju Bhatia along with renowned expert Ms. Geeta Castelino. A keen interest by esteemed companies like M/s Archroma and M/s Mirachem has been encouraging.
The SDC India will focus on implementation of CSR as a core activity in future. Please write your interest and we will surely comeback to you. Email : marketing@sdc.org.in