

STRENGTHENING EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS OF SMES IN THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING SECTOR AND ENHANCING TRADE SUPPORT INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES IN TAJIKISTAN

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THE TAJIK TEXTILE & CLOTHING SECTOR REDISCOVERS THE SILK ROAD

A Tajik delegation composed of representatives from nine textile and clothing companies, two universities, and the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies is visiting Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics 2014, the leading international trade fair for textile industry, which started today, 3 March, and will continue until 9 March. This market exposure and sourcing visit is organised under the International Trade Centre (ITC) project funded by the Government of Switzerland within its Trade Cooperation Program (TCP) in Tajikistan.

intertextile
SHANGHAI apparel fabrics

The Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics exhibition, first launched in 1995, is considered as one of the world's largest international business platforms for industry players worldwide. The 2013 exhibition attracted more than 1,300 suppliers from countries worldwide, including internationally recognized brands and associations offered their product range to over 25,000 visitors from 71 countries. The main objective of the Tajik delegation's visit to the fair is to source fabrics and accessories, to provide the Tajik companies with exposure to market requirements, opportunities to meet potential suppliers as well as the design trends dominating and influencing the global textiles and clothing industry.

Mr. Saidmumin Kamolov, ITC National Program Manager in Tajikistan, says, *"China today is the world's largest manufacturer and exporter of textile & clothing. The international fairs in this country are a good platform for visitors from Tajikistan to speak face-to-face with fabric and accessories manufacturers from around the world. During the Shanghai fair our delegation has also had the opportunity to better understand the requirements of the market where their manufacturers are competing and playing a global role and to establish business contacts. We also plan visits to some Shanghai wholesale markets, Shanghai retailers, garment factories, and the China Textile City in Keqiao"*.

The ITC team will guide the Tajik delegation through the fair. Throughout the event, visitors will be exposed to the latest fabrics and textile related products, from luxury fabrics in cashmere, mohair, silks and wool to functional fabrics in cotton, linen, denim, as well fibers & yarns, embroidery and lace, modern accessories ranging from buttons and zips plus design and styling products etc.

The present project is component FOUR of the Trade Cooperation Program (TCP) in Tajikistan and aims to increase the export competitiveness of the textile and clothing (T&C) sector, by providing sector specific support to SMEs and relevant trade support institutions (TSIs), as well as supporting respective stakeholders in taking a strategic approach to the sector's development. It will also explore the challenges and

development potential of the tourism and handicraft sectors in Tajikistan, outlining relevant trade related technical assistance priorities.

Swiss support: Within its Cooperation Strategy for 2012-2015, Switzerland focuses on four sectors in Tajikistan; Health, Rule of Law, Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, and Private Sector Development. The overall goal of Swiss Cooperation in Tajikistan is to support the transition process in the country through contributing to economic development and by helping build institutions and systems which are responsive to the population's needs. www.swisscoop.tj, www.deza.admin.ch, www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch

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