Leather, footwear industry gets top priority
Tofail tells Bangladesh Post

Staff Correspondent

The government has given top priority to the leather and footwear industry as it considers leather manufacturing an important sector. The industry plays a significant role in the country’s economic growth, employment generation, and exports.

The 36th International Footwear Conference (IFC) 2017 of Confederation of International Footwear Associations (CIFA) is The Westin Dhaka. The conference was organised on the occasion of the 1st International Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB) in collaboration with Ministry of Commerce.

The conference was held to discuss the possibility of business collaborations, creating a platform to display footwear and leather goods to buyers globally.

The 35th IFC was hosted by Taiwan in 2016, the 34th IFC was hosted by Korean Club-The Federation of Thai Industries in 2015, the 33rd IFC was hosted by the Association of Guangdong Leather Goods Manufacturers Association in 2014.

The 36th IFC is hosted by Leather and Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB), whereas Asia’s share in world footwear consumption raised 54% in 2016 as World Footwear Yearbook 2017 reported.

Lately, the middle of the 20th century, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan and Taiwan were four main footwear exporting countries in the Asian market.

They needed to have a platform to share opinions and so started the first edition of the International Rubber Manufacturers Conference (IFM) in Taipei in May 1971.

The four founding member footwear manufacturers were Hong Kong Rubber & Footwear Manufacturers Association, Japan Rubber & Footwear Manufacturers Association, Taiwan Footwear Manufacturers Association, and Taiwan Leather Goods Manufacturers Association.

IFC builds up friendly platform for global shoe, allied industries

The inaugural session of the 36th IFC 2017 CIFA at the Westin Dhaka

Welcome Remarks

By Md. Saiful Islam

President of LFMEAB and Chairman of the 36th International Footwear Conference (CIFA), Confederation of International Footwear Association (CIFA)

The IFC of CIFA is a friendly platform for the global shoe and allied industries, for exchanging business information among members, discussing possibility of business collaborations, seeking opportunity to promote win-win technical cooperation in the shoe sector, and working together for the better tomorrow for the shoe and allied industries.

A recent survey by Technavio USA revealed that current market size of leather market is 220 billion USD, and forecasted by 2021 the industry size will be 271.21 billion USD with an exponential growth rate of 5 percent each year. Particularly, the last decade has been strong growth of footwear export worldwide with volume increasing by 25% to 35% per annum and value by 78%, to 122 billion dollars. It is worth to mention here that the export from Asia to Europe and North America, constitutes 68% of the world footwear trade.

India, China has 18% share of the world total in 2016. 80-85% according to CETCAPS (Portuguese Footwear, Components, Leather Goods Manufacturers Association) whereas Asia’s share in world footwear consumption raised 54% in 2016 as World Footwear Yearbook 2017 reported.

CIFA member countries, who are mostly Asians, are committed to cooperative engagements and competitive growth contributing through our global presence and our expertise in world footwear manufacturing and exporting market. At LFMEAB, we will do our best to lead the way, and we select that what more can and must be done.

We believe this conference will be instrumental in making impetus towards promoting our design capabilities enhancing marketability in global supply chain. Hence we all of the representatives present today in our shared focus on current market dynamics and look for additional ways to address the effective concerns.

We hope that today’s conference will generate even stronger commitments to act and LFMEAB is proud to host this privilege and precious opportunity to host the 35th International Footwear Conference in Dhaka.