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Bangladesh Leather Footwear & Leathergoods International Sourcing Show 2017

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Bangladesh Post

CIFA
Confederation of International Footwear Association

Tofail Ahmed, commerce minister (5th from left), is seen among Shubhashish Bose (2nd from left), commerce secretary, Md. Saiful Islam (6th from left), president, LFMEAB, Frank Z Kung, secretary general, CIFA, Sheikh Fazle Fahim, first vice president, FBCCI, Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman, Apex Footwear Ltd, Abdul Momen Bhuiyan, vice-president, Nasir Khan, vice-president, Md. Nazmul Hassan Sohail, director, M. Anisur Razzaque, director, Ziaur Rahman of LFMEAB, pose for photograph after inaugural session on CIFA, at The Westin Dhaka on Wednesday.

Leather, footwear industry gets top priority

Tofail tells Bangladesh Post

Staff Correspondent

Commerce minister Tofail Ahmed said, the government has given top priority to the leather industry as it considers footwear manufacturing as an important sector. The government has taken an all-out effort for fetching \$5 billion from exports of leather and footwear products from across the globe and for this, the exporters are supported with various incentives for exploring new export markets, the minister said while talking to the Bangladesh Post on Wednesday.

The minister attended the 36th International Footwear Conference (IFC) 2017 of Confederation of International Footwear Associations (CIFA) at The Westin Dhaka.

The conference was organised on the occasion of a three-day international exposition titled 'Bangladesh Leather Footwear & Leathergoods International Sourcing Show (BLISS)-2017.'

With the slogan - 'Think Ahead, Think Bangladesh,' the three-daylong international fair being held in Bangladesh for the first time for creating a platform to display footwear and leather goods to buyers globally will start today.

Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB) in collaboration with Ministry of Commerce (MoC) is organising the fair in the International Conference Centre, Bashundhara (ICCB) in the capital.

Speaking at the conference, Tofail Ahmed informed that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to inaugurate the mega exposition through video conference.

Country's renowned leading leathergoods and footwear companies will take part in the show-case which will conduct Business to Business format. Around 70 international dignitaries including business leaders of 14 footwear associations from Asian countries like China, Vietnam, India, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Myanmar, Taiwan and Cambodia will participate at the fair.

The 36th IFC of the CIFA will continue till today.

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 tomorrows for the shoe and allied industries.

People engaged in the industry opined Bangladesh economy is at a "take off" stage in the growth process. The national 7th Five Year Plan has set the export target at \$54 billion by the year 2021. Export-oriented manufacturing sectors will have an even higher contribution to economic growth and employment. Albeit impressive growth, Bangladesh's export basket as well as export markets has to be broadened to safeguard the economy from exogenous shocks and volatility from global financial downturns. Therefore, export diversification agenda, hinges on careful prioritization and fostering competitiveness of job intensive sectors which have the promise to contribute significantly towards achieving the export target.

Mentionable, 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% each year. Particularly, the last decade has been strong growth of footwear exports worldwide with volume increasing by 25% to 13.9 billion pairs 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 84% of the world footwear trades.

Asian share of the world total in 2016 is 86.7 percent, according to APICCAPS (Portuguese Footwear, Components, Leather Goods Manufacturers' Association), whereas Asia's share in world footwear consumption raised by 54 percent in 2016 as World Footwear Yearbook 2017 reported.

IFC builds up friendly platform for global shoe, allied industries

The history of IFC of CIFA

In the middle of the 1960, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan and Taiwan were four main footwear exporters in the Asian market. They needed to have a platform to share opinions and so started the first edition of the International Rubber Footwear Manufacturers Conference in Taipei, Taiwan in May, 1971. The four founding member footwear associations were Hong Kong Rubber & Footwear Manufacturers Association, Japan Rubber Footwear Manufacturers Association, Korean Footwear Industries Association, and Taiwan Footwear Manufacturers Association.

In 1982, at the 12th International Rubber Footwear Manufacturers Conference was held in Hong Kong, the Conference name was changed to "The 1st International Footwear Conference" (The 1st IFC).

Membership of the IFC increased to 14 now, namely:

Hong Kong Footwear Association, Japan Footwear Federation, Korean Footwear Industries Association, Taiwan Footwear Manufacturers Association, Indonesian Footwear Association, Thai Footwear Industry Club-The Federation of Thai Industries, The Association of Guangdong Shoes Manufacturers, Vietnam Leather & Footwear Association, Malaysian Footwear Manufacturers Association, Philippine

Footwear Federation Inc, Filipino-Chinese Footwear & Allied Industries Association, Council for Leather Exports- India (CLE), China Leather Industry Association, Leathergoods And Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB).

The 32nd IFC was hosted by Japan Footwear Federation in October 6-8, 2013 in Tokyo, Japan.

The 33rd IFC was hosted by Council for Leather Exports- India in November 14-16, 2014 in Agra, India.

The 34th IFC was hosted by Korean Footwear Industries Association in November 5-7, 2015 in Busan, Korea.

The 35th IFC was hosted by Taiwan Footwear Manufacturers Association in November 10-12, 2016 in Taipei, Taiwan.

The 36th IFC is hosted by Leathergoods And Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB) in November 14-16, 2017 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The 37th IFC in 2018 will be hosted by Thai Footwear Industry Club-The Federation of Thai Industries, the 38th in 2019 by China Leather Industry Association, the 39th IFC in 2020 by Hong Kong Footwear Association, the 40th in 2021 by Indonesian Footwear Association and the 41st IFC in 2022 by the Association of Guangdong Shoes Manufacturers.

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 (IFC) Confederation of International Footwear Association (CIFA)

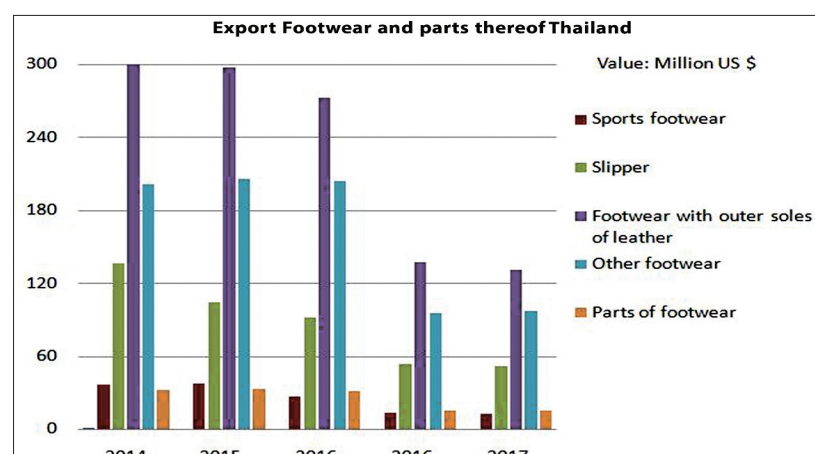
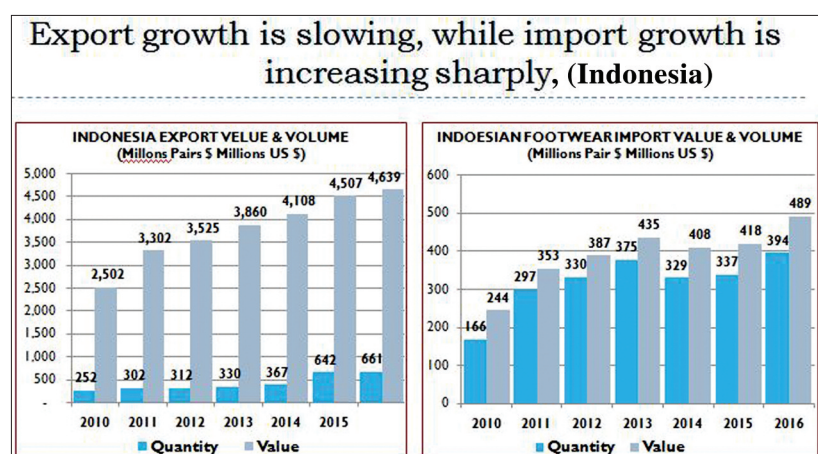
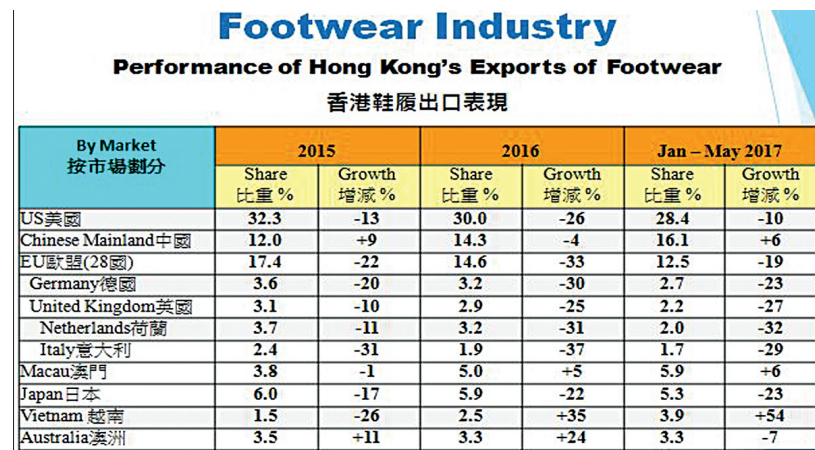
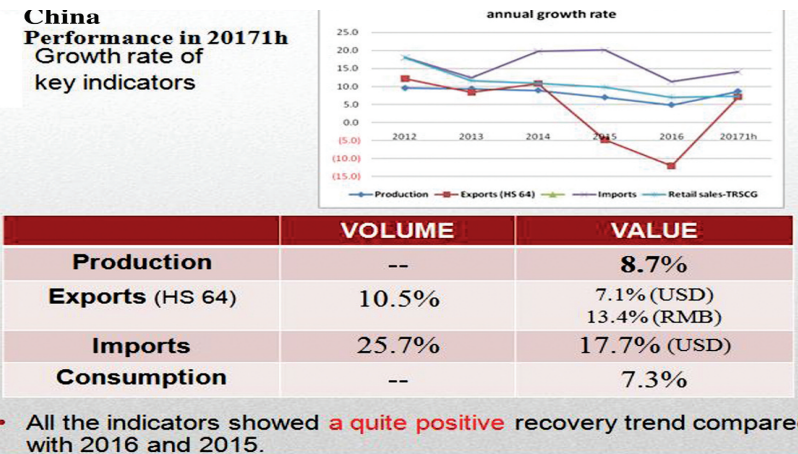
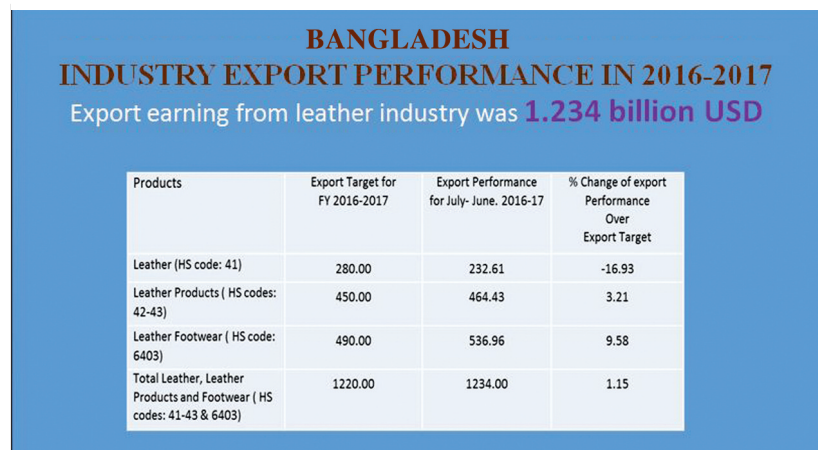
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A recent survey by Technavio USA revealed that current market size of leather market is 220 billion USD and forecasted by 2021 the industry size will be 271.21 billion USD with an exponential growth rate of 5 percent each year. Particularly, the last decade has been strong growth of footwear exports worldwide with volume increasing by 25% to 13.9 billion pairs 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 84% of the world footwear trades. Importantly, Asia share of the world total in 2016, 86.7% according to APICCAPS (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 Asian, 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 whatever we can to contribute, and we recognize that much more can and must be done.

We believe this conference will be instrumental in creating competition towards promoting our design capabilities enhancing marketability in global supply chain. Hence, I urge all of the representatives present today to put sharp focus on current market dynamics and to look for additional ways to address the collective concerns. We hope that today's conference will generate even stronger commitments to that end. LFMEAB is proud to have this privilege and precious opportunity to host the 36th International Footwear Conference in Dhaka.

Country-wise leather industry performance at a glance



Courtesy: Leathergoods & Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh