



Conference Speakers

SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES

A Dialogue about Challenges & Opportunities for Africa

Monday, November 19th, 2018

**Excelsior Ballroom, Royal Maxim Palace Kempinski Hotel
Cairo, Egypt**



Conference Speakers



Commissioner of Destination Africa.

Before pursuing business opportunities in the private sector, Mohamed Kassem had a Foreign Service career for 15 years. His last post was a commercial counselor in the Egyptian Embassy in Washington D.C. from 1985-1989.

Kassem is now Chairman & CEO of World Trading Company –Egypt and Nanotech International for Industry & Trade. And was named as the first Chairman of Baseera (The Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research).

He serves as a board member of Africa Cotton and Textile Federation ACTIF and board member of International Textile Manufacturers Federation ITMF.

He also help founded and serves as a board member in a host of other companies span different industries such as textiles, ICT, energy and industrial real estate development. He had also helped establish and still serve on the board of different NGO's and industry associations, including the board of the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI). He served as the chair for Garment Export Council from 2012 to 2017.

Mohamed Kassem



Since 1981, Mr Michael Scherpe is the president of the French representation of Messe Frankfurt. He has participated in the conception of several professional fairs of the group Messe Frankfurt, as Techtexil Frankfurt (technical textiles and nonwovens), Interstoff Asia (apparel fabrics), Texworld Paris, Texworld USA and Texworld Istanbul (apparel fabrics), Interior Lifestyle China and Interior Lifestyle Tokyo (consumer goods and home decoration). Within this function he has been able to help many French companies to develop their exports with the different fairs of the group Messe Frankfurt.

Since 2002 he is also the president / CEO from Messe Frankfurt France which has been created after the purchase of the fair Texworld Paris in December 2001. Messe Frankfurt France has the mission to develop and to create fairs in France. Until now they organize following shows in Paris: Apparel Sourcing Paris, Avantex Paris, Leatherworld Paris, Shawls&Scarves Paris, Texworld Paris and Texworld Denim Paris.

Michael Scherpe



Dr. Mohamad Midani is an experienced professional, he is currently an Assistant Professor in the Materials Engineering Department at the German University in Cairo, he also serves on the advisory board of Middle East Co. for Textiles. He has five years of synthetic fiber industry experience, in addition to an ongoing research collaboration with the industry.

His research mostly focuses on natural fibers and bio-composites, and he is the inventor of the proprietary long micro-fibrillated date palm midrib fibers. He teaches courses on Fiber Reinforced Polymer Composites as well as New Product development and Innovation Management. In 2016, Dr. Midani received a recognition for excellence in teaching from NC State University. Dr. Midani has his BSc in Mechanical Engineering from Ain Shams University, MT in Textiles Technology and Management, and Ph.D. in Fiber and Polymer Science from the College of Textiles NC State University. He is also the founder and co-chair of the 1st World Conference on By-Products of Palm Trees and their Applications (ByPalma).

Mohamad Midani

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**Mike
Edwards**

Mike Edwards is a graduate of the University of Liverpool and has spent virtually his entire career working for Cotlook, which publishes the weekly magazine Cotton Outlook, as well as a range of daily information services.

The organisation also compiles the Cotlook A Index, which since its first publication in 1966 has become the recognised barometer of world raw cotton prices.

Mike is closely involved in all aspects of producing and editing the news and analysis that go into the Outlook Group's services, with a particular emphasis on cotton in South America and Africa. In January 2013, Mike succeeded Ray Butler as the Editor of Cotton Outlook.



**Giovanni
Conti**

Ph.D, Associate Professor, he is currently the Coordinator of Knitwear design Lab – Knitlab at the Politecnico di Milano. His fields of interest are focused on contemporary design with a specialization on Knitwear and Fashion Design. He began teaching History of Fashion Design and Knitwear design. Especially in that new area of fashion design, he researched at the same time, from the point of view of the materials, the typical techniques and technologies of this sector. The research into Knitwear design industries has been carried from the point of view of materials, specifically, on yarns; according to this, he was curator of the exhibition "Textile Vivant. Percorsi, esperienze e ricerche nel textile design" at Triennale di Milano, where have been presented the most contemporary innovative researchs on fabrics, yarns and textile materials finishing.

Founder and Scientific Coordinator of the website/blog www.knitlab.org, he is executive secretary of Fashion Design Degree at the School of Design. Member of Faculty of the Master promoted by MFI – Milano Fashion Institute, he was involved as Visiting Researcher to Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology of Bangalore (India), as Lecturing in some University (China, Brazil, Perù, Australia), as consultant for SENAI Design program in Brazil.



**Ahmed
Elbosaty**

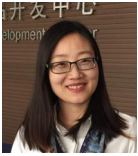
Ahmed Elbosaty is the Chairman and Managing Director of Modern Nile Cotton Co., one of the largest cotton trading companies out of Egypt. Ahmed first joined the cotton business in 1997 while studying Economics & Political Science at the American University in Cairo. After graduating, Ahmed joined Modern Nile Cotton on full time basis assuming several roles within the group of companies until becoming its Managing Director in 2006 and its Chairman & Managing since 2007.

Ahmed is currently a non Executive Board Member of the Alexandria Cotton Exporters Association (ALCOTEXA). Prior to that, he was the President of ALCOTEXA and twice its 1st Vice President.

On the International Scene, Ahmed is a past President of The International Cotton Association (ICA) in Liverpool and a past Chairman of the Private Sector Advisory Panel of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) in Washington D.C. Ahmed is an active member of the cotton value chain and a board member of several Companies within the chain with ranging activities from ginning to ready-made garments.

He is a board member of several Egyptian/Foreign business councils, investment companies and NGOs.

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Zheng Jian

Zheng Jian, International Project Director, Office for Social Responsibility, China National Textile and Apparel Council. Ms. Zheng Jian graduated and gained the M. A. degree from Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology in 2005, and then she joined the newly established Office for Social Responsibility of CNTAC.

She participated in the formulation of China Social Compliance Management System for Textile and Apparel Industry (CSC9000T), the first industry self-discipline sustainable standard of social responsibility in China, and therefore the project won the 2007 first prize of Science and Technology Progress of CNTAC.

In recent years, she is mainly responsible for the international cooperation projects of the office, engages in promoting social responsibility on the textile supply chain, jointly with the stakeholders.

The projects include SCORE Project with ILO, Sino- Dutch "Asia Facility-Improving the Environmental and Social performance of Chinese Textile Supply Chain" Project (2007-2008), CNTAC/BSCI Cooperation Project (since 2008), the MAC (Multi-stakeholders Advisory Committee) System of Cooperation Project (since 2010), China-Sweden Project "Regional Transition of China's Manufacturing Industries and Its Impact on Social Responsibility" (2011-2013), UN Women Gender equality and women's empowerment project "Workplace Sexual Harassment Prevention Mechanism in Textile Industry " (2013-2014), and "Women's Equal Employment in textile industry" (since 2015). Since 2016, she mainly focuses on the projects of "Responsible Overseas Investment of Chinese Textile Industry", etc.



**Marina
Spadafora**

Marina Spadafora gained a reputation worldwide for her own collection that featured sophisticated knits .

Since then she has collaborated with label such as Prada, Miu Miu and Ferragamo.

Marina's work has always included a strong social and environmental focus, believing that ethics and aesthetics can coincide.

Her motto is " Fashion with a mission".

She has been Creative Director of "Auteurs du Monde", an ethical fashion brand entirely made by producers who belong to the World Fair Trade Organization.

Marina has worked closely with italian Vogue director Franca Sozzani for Fashion for Development, an initiative that works directly with the United Nations to bring development to the emerging economies through fashion.

Marina is the Italian Country Coordinator of Fashion Revolution.

Marina has received the United Nations Women Together Award in 2015 and has done a TEDx Talk on sustainable Fashion in 2014.

Currently Marina collaborates with Luxury Fashion Brands to implement responsible strategies in their companies.

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**Mohamed
Anass
Tahiri**

Mr. Mohamed Anass has been working at Moroccan Investment and Exports Development Agency since September 2010. He was in charge of quality service for 3 years and he is now Head of department of Business Development in charge of developing Textile Ecosystems.

During the last 5 years, He led his team to convince more than forty Textile's industrials to set up factories in Morocco and realize new investment's projects. He is working now with the Moroccan team to attract more investors especially in the upstream of the textile sector to substitute Moroccan Importations. Before joining Moroccan Investment development Agency, he worked 4 years in the industry and consulting for Industry and occupied several positions of responsibility. Mohamed Anass TAHIRI is married and has two children. He is a state industrial engineer since 2005, certificated PMP®, and also had a diploma of specialized engineering in management of innovative projects from 'National Polytechnic Institute of Lorraine in France'.



Hany Salam

Hany Salam is the Managing Director of Salamtex, a limited partnership textiles company and family business, first established in 1936. At the age of 16, Mr. Salam enrolled in Business School and simultaneously began to train in Germany's prestigious Karl Mayer Institute for Textiles, one of the world's leading institutes in textile technology development. At the time, Mr. Salam was the youngest person in the history of the institute to be trained. In 1986, at just 19 years old, Mr. Salam opened a small manufacturing site for lace production in El Salam City.

In 2005 Mr Salam opened a new site in El Obour City for the dyeing and knitting of functional fabrics. In 2009 Mr. Salam took over the management of the family business and integrated the Zaitoon site into the business. Under Mr. Salam's management the company introduced state of the art, cutting edge production methods for textile development, allowing Salamtex to diversify its brand offering to customers. Following his vision, he moved the company from manufacturing orders to achieving core competency as a fabric technologist, specializing in innovative solutions. Today Salamtex holds the leadership position in its market with over 460 employees.

Mr. Salam holds a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration which he received from the University of Helwan. He is also an expert in the textiles field having achieved numerous certifications in the sector from training institutes in Belgium, France and Germany.



**Matthias
Knappe**

Matthias Knappe has over 25 years of progressive and diversified professional experience in international trade and development.

He has worked at the enterprise, institutional and government level. Matthias is presently leading the fibres, textiles and clothing programme of the International Trade Centre, a joint technical assistance agency of the United Nations and the WTO.

Over the last 15 years he has been working with the textiles and clothing sector around the world to prepare for the quota phase-out and to increase its export competitiveness. Understanding the needs of the market, he created the ITC African Cotton Development Initiative that supports African cotton producers and ginners to build sustainable capacity to meet market requirements.

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Jason Kra

Jason Kra is the President of FRC, a sourcing arm of Li & Fung Limited, which is the world's largest apparel & hard goods sourcing organization. LF is a multinational supply chain management group that creates value to brands and retailers from product design all the way to logistics.

The group's focus is to build the supply chain of the future integrating speed, digitalization and innovation to what has been a fairly analog industry for decades. Jason has over 26 years of experience in global sourcing, with vast experience sourcing in the middle east and Africa regions since 1994.

Prior to joining LF, Jason was the owner of FRC which LF acquired in 2012, and also ran a consultancy business in the investment banking community, specializing in the retail segment. Jason holds a BS/BA degree in Business Management & International Business from American University.



Heinz Zeller

Heinz initially worked in chemical research, first on anti-malaria and later on biodegradable polymers. Moved on to project management and completed a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems.

He joined HUGO BOSS Ticino, South Switzerland, in 1998 with the responsibility to insource all existing textile and leather licensees, taking over the responsibility of logistics and participated at various corporate business-reengineering projects. After the completion of the Cert. Adv. Study (CAS) in CSR, he established the HUGO BOSS sustainability road map and the sustainability strategy.

Based on this, the required structures and programs were implemented and he led the various involved departments to publish the first sustainability report in 2013. The results of this work are many recognitions like CDP DACH sector leader, robecosam industry mover or the listing in the DJSI world index 2017 and again in 2018.

Moreover, he created important public documents like the three whitepapers on Natural Capital Valuation or the environmental and the cotton commitment with the help of some well-known cotton experts and thanks to many other field experts



Navdeep Sodhi

Mr. Navdeep Sodhi has 3 decades of international experience in the textile industry. His expertise includes strategic management, technology and international trade and investment. With experience in over 50 countries, Mr. Sodhi has a deep understanding of the global textile value chain. Having lived and worked in Africa, he has been successfully involved in several projects relating to Policy, FDI, and Capacity building for institutions, governments and the private sector in the region. Mr. Sodhi is a Partner with Gherzi Textil Organisation, Switzerland and leads management consulting practice in Asia and Africa.

Mr. Sodhi earned his MBA from Punjab School of Economics and Business, GND University, India in 1987 and had the privilege of working in large vertically integrated textile companies. As a Partner at Gherzi, Mr. Sodhi fortified the management consulting practice across the region.

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**Josep
Bertran**

Josep Bertran is an Industrial Engineer from the University of Barcelona, UPC, Master in International Trade and Market Analyst. Director of industrial products and investments in New York, within the Commercial Office of the Embassy of Spain; later carried out the work as Director of European Investments in the Consorcio de la Zona Franca of Barcelona.

During the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, he was the project manager for the marketing of the technology used during the event. Promotor of export consortiums within the International Division of Fomento del Trabajo Nacional.

Consultant for the European Union for the reconstruction of former Soviet Union industries.

Professor of International Marketing in the University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona. Independent consultant for industries in international strategies



Ali Nakai

Mr. Ali NAKAI holds a university degree in management and international trade from the University of Tunis. He has an extensive work experience at the Tunisian Management, the Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade and Handicraft (UTICA), where he spent more than thirty years.

Mr. NAKAI has been the Central Director of International Cooperation and Development, and to this effect, he managed to develop a broad network of relations worldwide thanks to the cooperation agreements he negotiated on behalf of the UTICA.

Mr. NAKAI has also been respectively the General Director of the Tunisian Federation of Exports and the Tunisian Federation of Textile and Clothing for more than ten years. This period gave him the opportunity to closely mentor the Tunisian textile and clothing export companies, and to assess the challenges of the Euro-Mediterranean market of this industry. In this capacity, he was the representative of the Tunisian textile and clothing sector at the regional and international forums dedicated to the textile and clothing sector. Therefore, he took part in most of the events, conferences and seminars organized by the European Union, the WCO, the Technical Unit of Agadir Agreement, the Arab Maghreb Union and the Arab League. He is also the author of many publications and articles published in the Tunisian professional press.

Mr. Ali NAKAI has been finally in charge of the communication of Madam the President of the UTICA& during that period the organization received the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize. Since 2017, he is institutional expert and advisor in foreign trade.

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**Helene
Melnitzky**

Helene Melnitzky, is textile chemist and the head of the department Ecology of OETI. OETI - Institute for Ecology, Technology and Innovation Ltd, is based in Vienna, Austria. The OETI is an accredited testing house for textiles and floorcovering as well as certification body for OEKO-TEX® products and CE-marking for Floorcovering and Protective Equipment.

As head of the ecology department Mrs.Melnitzky is responsible for the testing and certification of textiles and related products according OEKO-TEX® (STANDARD 100, STeP, MADE IN GREEN, ECO PASSPORT, DETOX TO ZERO and LEATHER STANDARD). The department supports also textile companies to fulfil legal requirements or brand/retailers MRSL's in terms of harmful substances.

Furthermore she is lead auditor for STeP by OEKO-TEX® (production certification) and trains new auditors on regular base. Mrs.Melnitzky is participating in several working groups within the OEKO-TEX® Association to develop and improve the products. In her function she supports the offices of OETI in Egypt, Czech Republic, Turkey, Morocco and 7 other countries.

She has more than 25 years of experience in the testing and certification of textiles and textile production.



**Samir Ben
Abdallah**

- Graduated from ENSAIT (National School of Arts and Textile Industries) in Roubaix-France
- Owner of a textile group in Tunisia including sewing, distribution and agency
- President of the National Chamber of Lingerie Manufacturers from 2006 to 2014
- President of the Professional Group of Confection and Apparel in CONECT from 2015 to date
- Board member of the Tunisian-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CTFCI) from 2008 to date
- Founder of the Mediterranean lingerie show "LINGERIE-MED" in 2010
- Founder of the "Festival de la Mode" in 2013
- Founder of the "Festival of Young Fashion Designers" in 2016



**Christian
P. Schindler**

Born in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 1968, Dr. Schindler studied economics at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, from where he graduated in 1994. Between 1995 and 1998 he worked as personal assistant of two Members of Parliament in the German Bundestag, Bonn. In 1998 he joined the Federation of German Wholesale and Foreign Trade (BGA) in Bonn/Berlin as personal assistant and speechwriter of Association's President.

Between 2001 and 2004 he studied at the Institute of Economic Policy at the University of Cologne, Germany, where he wrote his thesis and obtained a doctorate degree in 2004.

Dr. Schnidler was appointed Economist of the International Textile Manufacturers Federation on October 1, 2004 and was promoted to the position of Director in 2006. At the Federation's Annual Conference in Dubai, UA, in September 2006 he was nominated and elected Director General as of January 1, 2007.

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Jas Bedi

Jas graduated as a textile technologist in the UK in 1984 and has over 32 years experience in the manufacturing sector in Kenya. Jas is an industrialist and an entrepreneur who has numerous responsibilities in business and various business member organizations. Over the years, he has attended several executive business courses organized by Harvard Business School, IMD, and IIM to mention a few to his credentials. He is a member of YPO-WPO global network of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO). Jas was also nominated a finalist in the 2016 Africa CEO forum awards and subsequently awarded the 2016 Sikh CEO of the year.

His business acumen has been recognized by Government of Kenya whereby he was appointed a board member at The Export Promotion Council in 2003 and thereafter in 2006 transferred to serve the board of The Export Processing Zones Authority for a period of 6 years until October 2012. Additionally in December 2012, HE President Mwai Kibaki honored Jas with a medal, Moran of the Burning Spear (MBS).

Further In 2016 President Kenyatta appointed Jas as the Chairman of the Export Promotion Council to help boost Kenya's exports.

Jas is currently the

- Chairman Export Promotion Council (EPC).
- President of International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF).
- Chairman of the African Cotton & Textile Industries Federation (ACTIF).
- Managing Director of Bedi Investments Limited.
- Executive Director of Fine Spinners Uganda Limited.
- Director of Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA).

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