



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Celebrating 100 Years

**Manchester, UK – 6 May 2010** 1910 was the year of Halley's comet (visible from earth April 20); the year Tolstoy died; Stravinsky's ballet "The Firebird" opened in Paris; in England, King Edward VII died and in Germany one of the first commercial Zeppelin passenger flights took place; in textiles, Courtaulds Ltd, of the UK were in the process of building the American Viscose Company plant in Pennsylvania with the aim of being the first successful US producer, and in New York Women's Wear Daily began publication; and maybe most importantly in 1910 the first international textile membership organisation was inaugurated on April 22 in Manchester in the centre of the UK - **The Textile Institute** became a reality.

Looking back into the archives of the Institute a quote from 1913 resonates and could have been written yesterday, speaking at the Ghent Congress, Mr Frank Warner stated, "The Textile Institute is not of Manchester: it is not even of England: it is *THE* Textile Institute. It exists for advancing the interests of the textile industry in every aspect, in the scientific, the technical, the artistic and the economic". To this day the Institute covers all aspects of textiles and provides a worldwide professional network for people associated with fibres and fabrics; clothing and footwear; and interior and technical textiles.

The formal inauguration of The Textile Institute took place in Manchester, UK on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1910 with Sir Henry Holland Bt MP (later becoming Lord Rotherham) becoming the first President of the Institute. From the beginning the membership of the Institute has been organised in and by Sections. By 1953 there were 10 Sections and in that year the first overseas Section was set up in Calcutta, India. To meet the growing need of an international industry Sections followed in Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Switzerland. To this day all of these Sections as well as the Special Interest Groups are as crucial and relevant to the functioning of the Institute today as they were at the beginning.

Celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010 The Textile Institute, its Sections and Special Interest Groups worldwide will be organising special events, culminating in the Institute's World Conference taking place in Manchester in November, immediately followed by the Parliamentary Lunch at the Houses of Parliament in London. Manchester is not only the historic birthplace of the Institute but also continues to be the home of its international headquarters. The Institute is also a

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registered charity and gained Royal Chartered status in 1925, allowing members to gain chartered qualifications (becoming an Associate, or a Fellow, as well as a non Chartered Qualification of Licentiate).

On the day before the Institute's Annual General Meeting (AGM) the Institute will hold a special Lord Major's Civic Reception and Dinner Dance on May 9 at Manchester Town Hall. Organised by the Manchester and Cheshire Section the event will be a celebration of everything that the Institute has achieved in 100 years and is yet to achieve as it moves forward into a new period of growth and development of the services offered.

The Institute may be celebrating one hundred years but is today a vital, enlivened and important organisation providing a truly global network for the fast moving, international textile industry.

**Notes to editors:**

With International Headquarters in Manchester, UK, The Textile Institute is a unique organisation in textiles, clothing and footwear. Founded in 1910 the Institute was incorporated in England by a Royal Charter granted in 1925 and is a registered charity. The Institute has individual and corporate members in over 80 countries; membership covers all sectors and all disciplines in textiles, clothing and footwear. Individual members can also gain internationally recognised qualifications including, LTI (Licentiates); CText ATI (Associates) and CText FTI (Fellows).

The Textile Institute has members in all sectors of fibre-based industries worldwide. Special Interest Groups provide a focus for members in different sectors, with many of them organising conferences, study tours and other events in their subject area.

World President Professor Xiaoming Tao, is the Head of the Institute of Textiles and Clothing at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

World President Elect Mr Andreas Weber CText FTI, is the Director Sales, Marketing and Parts, Senior Vice President, SwissTex Winterthur AG.

Chairman of Council Professor Subhash Anand MBE CText FTI MSc PhD AMCST, is Professor of Technical Textiles, Centre of Material Research and Innovation at University of Bolton.

Chairman Elect of Council Mr John Wilson OBE CompTI.

More information about The Textile Institute is available on the website:  
[www.textileinstitute.org](http://www.textileinstitute.org)

More information regarding the World Conference is available on the website:  
[www.tiworldconference.org](http://www.tiworldconference.org)

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