



Chairman's Report



I took over the Chairmanship from Professor Mervyn Davies in May 2008. He has been extremely generous and helpful during my first year and has held the fort at many important events. I am deeply grateful to him for his constant support and advice. I would also like to express my thanks to the Board and the staff of The Textile Institute for their

hard work and dedication during the year.

I was fortunate to have close association with our current World President Professor Xiaoming Tao at two major international conferences in Hong Kong and New Delhi. I am extremely impressed with her professionalism and enthusiasm for promoting the aims and objectives of The Textile Institute. She has an international standing and stature both as a scientist and academic and is world renowned for her various achievements. I am also proud to report that she has kindly agreed to extend her tenure as

the World President of The Textile Institute until May 2010, the Centenary Year.

Due to the continuing decline in the membership and consequently the financial sustainability of The Textile Institute from the year 2000 onwards, we have had discussions with a number of other organisations with the aim of safeguarding and expanding the main objectives and activities of our Institute for the foreseeable future. The Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) have resources that could be utilised to improve and grow The Textile Institute, particularly to the benefit of the members, worldwide. The SCI views The Textile Institute as the leading brand in textiles, clothing and footwear, and want to invest in The Textile Institute to the mutual benefit of both organisations. All members of The Textile Institute will be requested to vote for the proposal of the merger of the TI with the SCI. I sincerely request all members think carefully and act in the best interests of The Textile Institute, particularly for the long-term sustainability of the Institute.

World President's Message



This is my second year in office as World President of The Textile Institute. The highlight of the year was no doubt the 86th Textile Institute World Conference, which was held in Hong Kong from 18 to 21 November at the Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Centre. With the theme

"Fashion and Textiles: Heading towards New Horizons", the four-day conference was jointly organised by The Textile Institute and Institute of Textile and Clothing of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. This important annual event provided an ideal platform for all those involved in fashion and textiles to exchange ideas and share information on ground breaking new developments in the industry.

The Conference was officially kicked off by Dr Kenneth Fang, an eminent industrialist, Honorable Chairman of Textile Council in Hong Kong; myself in the capacity of the World President of The Textile Institute, Head and Chair Professor of ITC; and Mr John Smith, Chair of International Events of The Textile Institute, at an opening ceremony on 19 November. The opening ceremony was followed by plenary sessions where prominent industry practitioners and academics delivered keynote speeches. They shared their

views and experience in the specialisms of fashion and textiles design, technology, retailing, marketing and merchandising. In particular, they discussed how cutting edge technologies can be applied to textile and fashion design successfully.

Many leading scholars and overseas experts were invited as the keynote and plenary speakers of the conference. They included Prof Robert Young, Head of School of Materials, The University of Manchester, UK; Mr Alan K. Prichard, Associate Technical Fellow, The Boeing Company, USA; Dr Junichi Arai, Japanese Textile Designer, Japan; Dr Kenneth Wang, Managing Director of Sterling Group, Chairman of Alvanon Inc., Hong Kong; and Prof Subhash Anand, Professor of Technical Textiles, The University of Bolton, UK.

The Conference held six categories of competitions: Outstanding Paper Award, Outstanding Poster Paper Award, Outstanding Young Scientist Paper Awards, Outstanding Student Paper Award, Outstanding Product Innovation and Commercialization Award, and Outstanding Fashion Illustration Award. The submitted works were all of high quality thus competition was very keen. I am very proud of my fellow colleagues and students who won these prestigious awards and wish them continuous success in the future.

Operations and Membership

2008 has been an interesting year at The Textile Institute (TI) one of improved communication to members utilising the Constant Contact emailing systems, successful flagship events including The Textile Institute World Conference, Parliamentary Lunch, Graduate Design Exhibition and discussions of a proposed merger with the SCI (Society of Chemical Industry) which will lead to an EGM and member vote in April this year. 2009 will be a significant year in the history of the TI and the input and advice regarding the proposed merger from members and Committee representatives has been appreciated by all.

During 2008, a full programme of events was held throughout the regions. In Hong Kong the 86th Textile Institute World Conference presented an excellent range of papers and exchange of information between delegates and friends. I was delighted to be part of The Textile Institute delegation. The local Hong Kong Section Chair Mr Arkin Ng Ping-kin and Committee members were host to a visit and Section Meeting at Corporate member the Clothing Industry Training Authority in Hong Kong.

The UK Government Treasury building in Westminster, London was once again the venue for graduate and post-graduate design work. The exhibition was jointly opened by The Lord Haskel and Wendy Dagworthy, the internationally renowned designer. Held on the 2nd July 2008, the exhibition was organised by the Design Special Interest (SIG) under the chairmanship of Professor Clare Johnston of the Royal College of Art, and with the support of The Lord Haskel, a past World President of The Textile Institute.

The London Office managed by Bill Bohm continues to support and develop membership, events and networking opportunities in this region. Many of The TI's Special Interest Groups are also administrated through this office.

Seminars for School Teachers in Textiles took place in London and in Manchester supported by Northumbria University and Manchester Metropolitan University. The Textile Institute recognizes that it is difficult for teachers to keep up to date with the many technological developments currently taking place in the world of fashion and textiles. The Textile Institute has designed a series of seminars to

Personally, I have attended four major conferences this year, including the World Conference in Hong Kong. It was by far one of the best conferences that I have had the pleasure of attending over many years. The conference was extremely well organised and attracted delegates from all over the globe. Both the technical and social sessions were extremely well organised and everything went without a hitch. Our sincere thanks go to Professor Xiaoming Tao and her entire team for organising such a high profile event and an excellent conference. The Textile Institute's net income from the World Conference was about GBP£8000.

We are just about to commence working on the Centenary Celebrations of The Textile Institute in 2010, including the World Conference to be held in Manchester as part of these celebrations.

The Parliamentary Lunch was once again a thundering success. It was extremely well attended and provided a platform where the academics, professionals, industrialists as well as politicians could interact and be informed of the

As the Chair of the Conference, I am deeply grateful to the 400 plus delegates from all over the world who attended the Conference and the Organizing Committee who made the operation of the event a success.

In the last year I was honoured to be invited to speak at eight international conferences. Intelligent textiles has been my major research focus therefore I talked about my research work to academic colleagues at the 1st International Conference on Three Dimensional Fabrics, organised by Prof J Hearle and Dr XG Chen in Manchester, UK; Third International Conference on Smart materials, Structures and Systems in Acireale, Italy; Smart Textile Conference at MIT, Boston, USA; 5th International Symposium for Materials and Kansei in Textiles-Fashion at Daegu, Korea; International Conference on Experimental Mechanics 2008 held in Nanjing, China; 1st joint Textile Research Symposium in Taiwan. To continue our research endeavour, we secured funding and commenced a large multi-disciplinary research programme on Intelligent and Multifunctional Textiles and Apparel at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

The past year has also seen the rapid change of the world with the financial crisis and impact on the industry. I was invited to two industrial conferences to discuss the issue of sustainability of the fashion and textile industry in

help teachers reach a better understanding of what is happening in the world of the fashion business and fashion technology, which will support their work in the classroom.

Demand for Schools Seminars has led to the introduction of a School Special Interest Group chaired by Rose Sinclair which will be launched in 2009 with a website providing a valuable source of information and resources for schools. Schools Seminars will be available throughout this year with varying themes. The Textile Institute has created a schools database for the UK and is hoping to look to the international Sections to make this database global.

Sections help the TI to function and provide vital local information that would be otherwise unobtainable. The Institute has had visits from many Section representatives including India, Pakistan, USA, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Romania, Switzerland and many more. Sections like Special Interest Groups have thrived in 2008 with networking and events taking place internationally. The Egypt Section is enjoying a flourish in activity whilst other key Sections continue to prosper.

various activities and functions of The Textile Institute. It also provided an opportunity to present members with their professional qualifications and awards for their excellence and contribution to textile education, research and industry. This year three recipients of the chartered qualifications were presented with their certificates by the World President, Professor Tao and five people received the prestigious Honorary Fellowship.

I must also thank sincerely Professors David Buchanan and Xiaoming Tao for editing the professional journals, The Journal of The Textile Institute and Textile Progress respectively. These two journals are considered amongst the best professional publications in textile education, research and industry.

Professor Subhash Anand MBE CText FTI
Chairman of Council

the most rapidly developing regions, namely, New Delhi, India and Gaoming, China. I had ample opportunities to mingle with industrialists and see the challenges from first-hand experience. Also I had the most impressive experience to be invited into a circle of prominent artists in a Swiss-China Joint Fibre Arts Exhibition and Competition in Beijing China.

It was my privilege to visit several campuses of academic institutions during my overseas trips, Central St Martin School of Arts and Design, Royal College of Art, Manchester University, Tsinghua University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dangshui University and received numerous visitors in Hong Kong too. This has given me a valuable exposure of today's fashion and technology world.

I enjoyed very much my trip to London for the Council Meeting and Parliamentary Lunch, where I met many prominent colleagues whose rich experience enlightened me. Also I accepted the Board's request to extend my office as the World President of Textile Institute to 2010 when the Institute will have its centennial celebration.

I wish colleagues a happy and successful new year! Looking forward to working with colleagues around the globe for a bright future.

Professor Xiaoming Tao CText FTI
World President

These groups feedback to TIHQ both positive and negative information which helps to improve services and both provide and support local services.

It is necessary that the TI should continue to provide a full range of services and all staff and Committees are working hard to achieve this objective for 2009 and beyond.

Developments are still taking place for the Student Showcase to be fully functional. Its aim will be to illustrate a students design, research, project work and more importantly themselves through this showcase.

The Member get Member campaign and the GBP£10 membership introductory joining fee for students and graduates schemes will continue throughout 2009 and beyond.

Thanks to Dr Joe Cunning, Chair of Membership and TI Webmaster who hosts and administrates the TI website, in conjunction and on behalf of TIHQ in his free time.

Web activity is still at an all time high with the Institute benefiting from having an established site. The all time high hit rate for the site in 2008 was at just below 350,000. The average time spent viewing per page has also increased per





visit as well as the number of members visiting the members-only part of the website. The Corporate Member pages continue to be in the top three (aside from the TI homepage and staff contact details) and the publications, recruitment, events and links pages always prove popular, featuring prominently in the top 10.

The Textile Institute, Benevolent Society was established nearly 50 years ago to help eligible Textile Institute members or their dependants who find themselves in need. Members are encouraged to contact TIHQ if they know of any deserving TI members who need support.

The Textile Institute Benevolent Committee is delighted to congratulate Rachel Philpott TI student member on winning the Bursary Award at the Designers' Exhibition in July 2008 organised by the Institute's Design Special

Interest Group and Chaired by Prof C Johnston of the Royal College of Art (TI Corporate members).

The Benevolent Committee in addition to the above award supported six local Hong Kong Students to attend the 86th Textile Institute World Conference in November 2008.

At the Parliamentary Lunch held at the House of Lords a number of Honorary Awards were awarded to Textile Institute individual members. The award of Honorary Fellowship was presented to Mr Andreas Weber CText ATI, Chair of the Swiss Section on Dr Haller's behalf and also to Prof K Gutzwiller CText ATI, Professor Lubos Hes Professor Ryszard Kozłowski and Professor RM Laing CText FTI.

Stephanie Dick

Director of Operations and Membership

Professional Qualifications - International Recognition

The Textile Institute Qualifications continue to be the international bench mark for the highest standard of textile professional. As usual, applicants came from a wide spread of disciplines, sectors and countries, reflecting both the diverse nature of the Institute and its broad appeal.

A number of new courses have been accredited by The Textile Institute in 2008, many of which are diverse in their relation to traditional textile teaching. Accreditation acknowledges the standard of teaching and breadth of knowledge gained within textiles. Students graduating from an accredited course benefit from the prestige of having studied on an accredited course and those wanting to further their professional development within the field of textiles will benefit when they apply for The Textile Institute qualifications.

The new Chair of the Diplomas Committee Mrs Helen Rowe CText FTI has continued the outstanding work left by Mr Raymond Marks CText FTI who sadly passed away in 2008. Also, a special thank you as always to all the members of that Committee for their hard work and dedication in assessing applications and providing help and guidance to applicants to enable them to reach their full potential.

Publications

The Journal of The Textile Institute is once again a leader in the field of textile research. The publication is attracting new authors wishing to have their papers published in this prestigious title and the decision has been made to increase the number of issues published annually. The tireless work of Professor David Buchanan CText FTI and his editorial board have made this possible.

Thanks also to Prof Xiaoming Tao CText FTI, Editor of *Textile Progress*, and to her respective board for their hard work in maintaining the high standard of papers published.

2008 was another successful year for Woodhead Publishing, with a number of new titles coming out in 2008. Thanks are due to Prof Buchanan, Prof Dick Horrocks and Mr Bob Franck for their active participation on the Woodhead Editorial Board.

textiles has continued to grow in reputation with a marked increase in subscribers year on year. We should like to encourage all members to express their views and comments on the magazine and the subjects/areas it covers and would also welcome relevant contributions to the TI News Section.

Much of the success of *textiles* is due to its managing editor, Vanessa Knowles, who has created a title that is both reflective of the industry as a whole and an enjoyable read.

Business Information Services

The department has continued to build its collection, and the Institute now has a vast selection of directories, databases and new journal titles added to the collection.

The department welcomed a dedicated administrator, Emma Scott, who joined us in July 2008.

The Lord Barnby Foundation Trust has again supported the Lord Barnby Foundation Library and the donation, as always, was gratefully received.

The Recruitment Register has continued to attract new members and has proved to be as popular with graduates as it is with professionals seeking new employment opportunities. The service will be extended to offer links with both employers and other agencies, thus widening the opportunities on offer.

This is also a reminder to all corporate members, that they can now place job vacancies on The Textile Institute website free of charge.

Rebecca Unsworth

Director of Professional Affairs

Events

2008 has been another hugely successful year for The Textile Institute Events. We have seen many events managed by Special Interest Groups, Sections and Corporate Members, as well as a number of events run by other related professional bodies through our co-badging scheme.

The 86th World Conference took place in November in Hong Kong with around 400 delegates attending from some 29 countries with a variety of interests and roles within the world of textiles, clothing and footwear. We would like to thank our colleagues from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, chaired by Professor Xiaoming Tao for their hard work and dedication in making this conference such a success.

Thanks to all of you who have organised, sponsored or attended events during 2008 for the benefit of your fellow members.

We always welcome feedback and suggestions on how we can improve our events calendar and would be delighted to hear from you. Equally, if you are planning or organising an event over the coming months that you would like our members to know about please do get in contact.

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