



5 - 8 February 2017
CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute
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www.iultcs2017.org

From the Desk of: Dr NK Chandrababu, XXXIV IULTCS Congress Convener

The XXXIV International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists (IULTCS) Congress is coming to India in February 2017. Regarded as the world's most important technical leather event, this meeting is being held in India only for the second time, the first one being in 1999.

The XXXIV Congress would bring together in CSIR-CLRI all the major players in the leather and leather product industries and also serve as an opportunity for the professional updating. The Congress at Chennai would be special in that it will also provide an opportunity for the upcoming graduates and undergraduates of leather education to meet the peers in the field.

Organized between 5th and 8th of February, this Congress would have the Sustainability of Leather as its focal theme. The sessions would exclusively discuss Fundamentals in leather science, strategies for sustainability, innovation and value addition for leather, advances in chemicals for smart and intelligent leathers, design innovation for lifestyle leather products, and emission control strategies.

We all recognize that for the growth of the sector skilled manpower, with skill sets ideal for various activities is required. The congress would therefore also take up discussions on enriching human capacity and global research alliances and partnerships.

The dates for the XXXIV congress have been aptly planned. It would be immediately after the India International Leather Fair and the Chinese New Year. We therefore look forward to about 200 research papers from the entire leather world to be presented either in the oral or poster format. For the information of my research colleagues, we have started accepting abstracts for the congress. The congress website www.iultcs2017.org would serve as the platform for abstract submission.

We hope, thanks to a vibrant leather industry in India and the partnership that we have with the Council of Leather Exports and Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers and Exporters Association (IFLMEA), more than 600 professionals would participate in this Congress.

The partnership with IFLMEA and CLE would provide for the Congress the much needed energy and push. We are thankful to both Mr Aqeel Ahmed and Mr Shaffeeq Ahmed for the interest that they have shown in taking this congress to a success. Sirs, we look forward to your continued guidance and support in making this congress a benchmark for future congresses. We are also thankful to the Chairman, Council of Leather Exports, Mr Rafeeqe Ahmed who in the very first meeting that I had with him readily agreed to be the Chief Patron and offered the full support of CLE for the congress. We would remain indebted to the Council and their staff for their support. I must also thank Mr Aqeel Ahmed and the Regional CLE



An event of the

Congress Committee: IULTCS President – Dr Dietrich Tegtmeier, Congress President – Dr T Ramasami, Congress Partner Representatives – Dr B Chandrasekaran, Director CSIR-CLRI, Shri Arnab Jha, President ILTA, Congress Convener – Dr NK Chandrababu, Congress working president – Dr S Rajamani

India Partners: Council of Leather Exports & Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers & Exporters Association

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(Chennai) for the soft launch of the Congress flyer at the hands of Chairman CLE and Shri Md. Hashim alongside Mr Aqeel Ahmed, Mr Shafeeq Ahmed, ED CLE and others on 7 April 2016.

The XXXIV IULTCS Congress would see a conglomeration of the best minds in Leather Science. We would have Dr T Ramasami, Former Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, GOI as the Congress President, and the top scientists in the field delivering way forward lectures.

We have put together a formidable team of Scientists from CSIR-CLRI to run this congress. This team would receive guidance and support of Dr S Rajamani, former Director Grade Scientist of CLRI and Shri NR Jagannathan, former President of the AC Tech Leather & Footwear Alumni Association (ALFA).

Founded in 1897, in London, UK, the IULTCS has 20 full time members and 6 associate members. In addition to promoting the congress aiming to improving the sector, the IULTCS also has commissions for Liason, Environment, Research, Training and Education and Test Methods. These commissions bring out strategic documents, test protocols etc. from time to time depending on the needs of the industry. The President IULTCS Dr Dietrich Tegtmeier has requested the entire leather world to come down to Chennai for the congress. In his appeal to all member societies, Dr Tegtmeier has said and I quote "although information is easily shared electronically today, nothing can replace the direct interaction that occurs at an event like this. This helps with the sharing of ideas and creates opportunities for networking that helps stimulate those creative ideas critical for industry progress".

A congress of this magnitude can only be successful when it has the financial support of all the stakeholders. I earnestly appeal to all my industry colleagues to come forward and sponsor the congress. We have drawn up various levels of support mechanisms for the same.

In bringing this congress to India, the member society representing India at the IULTCS, viz., the Indian Leather Technologists Association has played a formidable part. The President ILTA Shri Arnab Jha had placed enormous confidence in team CSIR-CLRI when he appealed to executive committee of IULTCS to support India for organizing this congress at CSIR-CLRI. We thank him for the support.

On behalf of CSIR-CLRI, ILTA, IFLMEA, CLE and the entire leather fraternity, we welcome you all to the XXXIV IULTCS Congress at Chennai between 5 - 8 February 2017.



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