



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD

ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

NEWS

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WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF GOTS NEWS

Dear reader,

Ten years have passed since the launch of the initiative to harmonize various organic textile standards into one truly global application. The Global Standard was ready for usage in 2006, and the first companies and products were certified in that year. The GOTS logo was introduced in 2008. Today, with about three thousand textile production facilities around the world, GOTS has become what leading publications have called the “Gold Standard” in sustainable textile production. The members of the International Working Group, the GOTS Technical Committee, the GOTS Certifier Council and the GOTS Regional Representatives will celebrate this fabulous success with a small dinner event at Biofach 2012 in Germany. The first issue of GOTS News which you are now reading is directed in particular to GOTS-certified companies – that were previously connected to GOTS only through their respective GOTS certifiers - as well as to industry, organizations, NGOs, media and individuals interested in the further development of GOTS. The GOTS website www.global-standard.org will remain the central information platform, featuring ongoing reports on activities related to GOTS and of course the electronic database with information on all certified companies. GOTS News will from time to time draw your attention to matters of particular interest, often related to specific regions. Continuous improvement is one of GOTS’ key principles – please let us know if and how you think we can improve GOTS News. On behalf of the International Working Group, I wish you a successful, happy and sustainable 2012.

Herbert Ladwig, Coordinator, International Working Group on Global Organic Textile Standard



GOTS MANAGEMENT VISITS INDIA

In October 2011, Herbert Ladwig, GOTS Coordinator, and Marcus Bruegel, GOTS Technical Director, visited India, the top GOTS processing country with more than 785 GOTS-certified facilities. On the agenda were interviews with suitable candidates for a GOTS Representative in India, meetings with representatives from all GOTS-accredited certifiers with an office in India and a visit to Texanlab, a laboratory with the experience and equipment necessary to perform all technical and residue tests for garments and chemical inputs in line with GOTS.

Mr. Ladwig met with the head and responsible officer of the Indian organic authority APEDA, which operates under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Ladwig urged Apeda and the Indian Ministry of Textiles to avoid any additional financial and administrative burden on GOTS-certified Indian textile producers via the envisaged mandatory governmental organic textile processing standard. He also met with responsible officers from the newly established Indian Centre for Responsible Business in order to discuss training Indian textile workers in regard to the GOTS standard. Initial contact was also made with the Indian Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC), where Mr. Ladwig discussed matters of mutual interest including the Council's recently launched Common Compliance Code system. Presentations on GOTS were given at the Control Union Certification's textile seminar in Mumbai regarding updates in GOTS version 3.0 and at TAG 2011, the Sustainable Textile Conference of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), which was also held in Mumbai.



NEWLY APPOINTED GOTS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN INDIA

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Sumit Gupta as our Regional Representative in India. Mr Gupta is stationed in Mumbai. He completed his M.Tech in Textile Processing at ICT (UDCT), Mumbai, and B.Tech in Textile Engineering at GZSCET, Bathinda, and earned the gold medal as the University Topper in his graduating class. He has also been actively involved in the field of quality certifications, awareness events for the textile industry, branding and promotions. In the past, he has worked with Hohenstein India Pvt. Ltd, The official testing body for Oeko-Tex Certification in India.

Mr Gupta is the seventh GOTS Representative worldwide. The International Working Group had previously appointed [representatives](#) in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, the UK, the United States and Canada, Japan, the Scandinavian countries, and Australia and New Zealand. A Representative in China will be appointed this year.



US GOVERNMENT ENDORSES GOTS

As widely reported in the U.S. media, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a [policy memorandum](#) in May 2011 on 'Labelling of textiles that contain organic ingredients'. The memo clarifies that labelling of textile products as 'organic' requires both the use of textile fibres produced and certified under the National Organic Program (NOP) as well as full third-party certification of the final product. Because the NOP criteria are difficult to apply to processing of textiles, the USDA explicitly recognises the GOTS certification labelling grade 'organic' as meeting this new requirement. In regard to 'made with organic', NOP Deputy Administrator Miles McEvoy later clarified that 'made with organic' is also a codified labelling category under NOP (as it is under GOTS).. Accordingly, it may only be used for textile products that are made with at least 70% NOP-certified organic fibres and fully certified NOP or GOTS

This formal government recognition of GOTS confirms that our approach in defining and safeguarding 'organic textiles' is well suited to provide responsible and reliable clarity for the textile industry, trade and consumers. By refraining from inventing its own national rules for organic textiles but relying instead on GOTS as the worldwide established organic textile standard, the U.S. government is avoiding creating new trade barriers to this globalized sector while at the same time ensuring that – once the memorandum is fully enforced – organic textile claims are backed by a reliable and transparent international certification programme based on comprehensive rules for socially and environmentally responsible textile production. Other governments could ensure worldwide equality in defining and safeguarding organic textiles by taking the U.S. approach as a blueprint for any regulatory activities in the sector.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GOTS information film available: The 17-minute GOTS information film on DVD, covering all aspects of the GOTS standard, is available for companies, organizations, institutions and media. [Please order here](#). The film can be used for training purposes as well as education and general information on sustainable textile processing. It is available in different languages and technical formats for all countries and regions.

GOTS Version 3.0, GOTS Manual, GOTS Licensing and Labelling Guide, GOTS flyer in different languages and the GOTS Annual Report 2011 (will be released on March 1, 2011) can be downloaded from the Information Center on the [GOTS website](#).

