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SAFSA Forum Yields 16 MOU for Partnership and Opportunity



Happy SAFSA customers at the Global Forum Bangkok

The 2011 SAFSA Global Forum, which took place September 29-30 in Bangkok, produced 16 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between Customers and Suppliers to work together and pursue business opportunities. Nearly 70 business-to-business meetings took place over the two days.

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General of ASEAN, hailed SAFSA as “an innovative approach to ASEAN economic integration” during his keynote address delivered at the event networking dinner. Dr. Surin thanked USAID and the VALUE project for their work and suggested that other ASEAN priority sectors might follow the SAFSA model.

SAFSA’s flagship event was attended by more than 60 people, including representatives from nine SAFSA Customers, 17 SAFSA Suppliers, Chief Delegates of AFTEX, as well as the organizers: The Thai Department of Export Promotion, AFTEX Thailand, and the VALUE Project. The Forum was opened by the Chairman of AFTEX, Mr. Ade Sudrajat; the Chairman of AFTEX Thailand, Mr. Pilan Dhammongkol; and the Director General of the Thai Department of Export Promotion, Ms. Nuntawan Sakuntanaga.

A new SAFSA Executive Committee was elected. It includes two representatives of factories (one garment factory and a fabric mill), two Customer members (one each from the U.S. and Europe) and the AFTEX Chairman. The next Global Forum is scheduled to take place in the last week of June 2012.



Malaysia



Philippines



Singapore



Thailand



Vietnam



SAFSA Welcomes Five New Customers in September

In September, five new customer members joined SAFSA to strengthen their apparel sourcing in Southeast Asia.

Spanish retailer El Corte Ingles is the dominant hypermarket in Spain and has a presence in other European markets. With sourcing operations in Bangkok, El Corte Ingles is already well placed in ASEAN and sees SAFSA membership as a perfect way to strengthen that position.

Also from Europe comes Kariban, a French manufacturer of high-tech sportswear.

Three major U.S. brands also joined SAFSA: Columbia Sportswear, a manufacturer of outerwear and sportswear; Jordache, a manufacturer working in sportswear and denim; and Komar, a major manufacturer of sleepwear and intimates.

SAFSA Welcomes Three New VVF Members

In early September, three ASEAN factories and mills passed SAFSA Quality Service Standard and Code of Conduct audits and were accepted as new VVF members in time to participate in the SAFSA Global Forum.

Indonesia-based garment factory Jaba Garmino is a manufacturer of cotton and synthetic sweater, polo shirt, and vest mainly for export to Europe, USA, and Japan. Thailand-based fabric mill People's Garment produces circular knitted fabrics both for domestic market and export to USA, Europe, and Asia. The third member Recron in Malaysia is the largest manufacturer of polyester fabrics in ASEAN.

ACCP to Standardize Five New Competencies

An AFTEX Skills Taskforce meeting on the sidelines of the 2011 SAFSA Global Forum confirmed that five new competencies will be adopted for ASEAN Common Competencies Program (ACCP) assessment during the 2011-2012 cycle: Sewing Machine Operator Level 2, Sewing Machine Mechanic Level 2, Merchandiser Level 3, and two Pattern Maker Level 3 competencies (tops/bottoms).

VALUE project director Mike Blakeley described the support VALUE will provide ACCP in 2011-2012, including moving the Workforce Development Manager position to Bangkok, supporting Laos' integration into the Program, and pursuing outside donors to offset training costs for workers desiring ACCP certification.

A complementary program to SAFSA, ACCP represents an important milestone in the integration of Southeast Asia's textile and apparel sector. ACCP certification offers a win-win scenario; inspiring confidence in employers and empowering workers to seek out the best opportunities.

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SAFSA on the Web

VALUE has incorporate password protection at www.SourceASEAN.com/safsa-members that allows member companies to access SAFSA VVF profiles and customer contacts. SAFSA members please contact safsa@sourceasean.com for details.

Did you know that the VALUE Project scours the web almost daily for interesting textile and apparel related stories? We link to them from www.SourceASEAN.com/asean.

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