

Despite tariff tremors rattling the world, the textile industry does not rest: Indonesia is getting ready to host the ITMF-IAF Conference in September (registration now open), our joint ITMF-ITA webinar has showcased AI breakthroughs for textiles, and the ITMF Awards seek innovation and cooperation (deadline for application extended). Add exclusive member pricing for ITMA ASIA, a machinery deep-dive with VDMA, and the first international textile forum in Tajikistan, and you have a panorama of bold initiatives worth looking at.



**Mr. Olivier Zieschank**  
director, ITMF

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## ITMF COMMENTARY

# US tariff turbulence keeps supply chains on edge

by Mr. Olivier Zieschank, director, ITMF



### A widening macro-economic shock

The International Monetary Fund has trimmed its 2025 global-growth forecast to 2.8 %, 0.5 percentage points lower than its pre-tariff baseline.<sup>i</sup> The OECD echoes this assessment, warning that the U.S. tariff wave “acts as a drag, particularly on business investment and trade” and will “feed through gradually to final goods prices.”<sup>ii</sup> Financial markets are rattled: the IMF Global Financial Stability Report links April's tariff rounds to a spike in equity-market volatility and cautions that “authorities should prepare to deal with financial instability.”<sup>iii</sup>

Trade flows are retrenching just as sharply. The WTO now expects world merchandise trade to contract by 0.2 % in 2025 instead of growing 2.7 %.<sup>iv</sup> Inside the United States, the Federal Reserve's Beige Book reports that most districts are already adding “tariff surcharges” and that “businesses expect to pass through additional costs to customers.”<sup>v</sup>

### Why textiles and apparel feel the pain first

Textiles and apparel sit at the epicenter of the new tariff regime:

Figure 1: **Commodity Price Effects from 2025 Tariffs Through April 15**

Percent change to price level [in the US] | truncated graph, see below source to view full image

name	Short Run	Long-Run
Leather products	87.1	29.2
Wearing apparel	64.9	24.8
Electrical equipment	46.4	17.3
Textiles	45.0	15.6
Mineral products nec	27.0	10.8

Source: Yale Budget Lab, "[State of U.S. Tariffs: April 15 2025](#)"

- Customs data analysed by FASH455 show that in February 2025 71.5 % of U.S. apparel imports still originated in Asia; the top five suppliers—China, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Cambodia and India—accounted for 63.7 %, with China alone supplying 18.4 % by value.<sup>vi</sup> Diversifying away from those origins is therefore neither quick nor cheap.
- Modelling by Yale University's Budget Lab finds that the 2025 tariff package lifts U.S. retail shoe prices 87% and apparel prices 65% in the short run; even after supply chains adjust, apparel remains 25% dearer and U.S. real-GDP growth is 1.1 percentage points lower.<sup>vii</sup>
- In the same article, the Budget Lab shows the adverse effects of tariffs on commodity prices in the US and presents textile and apparel products at the top of the list (see Figure 1).

The Fed's Beige Book confirms that many firms intend to pass these cost increases on to consumers. In short, the tariff shock lands on a sector already grappling with tight margins, complex global value chains and highly price-sensitive demand.

#### A call for cooperative solutions

The message is unequivocal across multiple independent sources: unilateral tariffs are inflating prices, suppressing growth and magnifying uncertainty. For textiles and apparel, a rules-based trading system is not a luxury but a necessity.

ITMF therefore urges all governments to re-engage in constructive, rules-based negotiations before further damage is done to a sector that sustains millions of jobs—particularly in developing economies.

## ITMF NEWS

# ITMF & ITA latest webinar on AI applications in the textile value chain available now



Access all previous webinars:  
[Virtual Forum](#) / "Webinar Series".



On 2 April 2025, the 5<sup>th</sup> webinar in ITMF's Series on "AI in the Textile Value Chain" pulled in a global audience keen to learn more about AI applications in the industry.

Belgium-based Maximilian Bock (**Eekual**) opened the program with a live demo of Eekual's cloud design engine that shrinks product-development lead times from weeks to minutes. Linking real-time body scans with generative design, the platform points to a world of "instant personal clothing" that virtually eliminates dead stock.

Next, Jonas Falkner and Friedrich Weninger (**MIR Insight**, Norway) unveiled a multimodal AI suite that blends macro-economic data, social-media sentiment and historical sales to forecast market risk factors.

Rounding up the line-up, Dr Jelle Demeulemeester (**MYND**, Belgium) placed the above use-cases in an academic context, mapping where machine-learning interventions align most closely with emerging research priorities—from fibre sourcing to post-consumer recycling.

AI is no longer a futuristic add-on; it is fast merging with operating systems in modern textile manufacturing.

# ITMF & IAF Conference 2025 in Indonesia – Registration is open



In 2025, ITMF and IAF will jointly organise their conferences on **October 24-25, 2025**, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This year the general theme will be:

## Navigating Uncertainty & Adopting Technology - Pathways to Sustainable Strength in the Textile & Apparel Industry

These dates will allow both textile machinery exhibitors and exhibition visitors to travel to **ITMA Asia+CITME 2025 Singapore** which will be held from **October 28-31, 2025**.

To register go to [ITMF & IAF Conference 2025](#).

### Preliminary Conference Agenda



October 2025

**Oct. 22**

Factory visits are offered, Golf

**Oct. 23**

Board, Committee, and other Meetings

**Oct. 24**

Conference Day 1

**Oct. 25**

Conference Day 2

**Oct. 26**

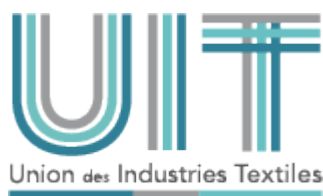
Excursion to Borobudur Temple is offered

**Oct. 27**

Factory visits are offered

## ITMF's newest member

ITMF has welcome one new member association in the last few months. This illustrates how important our unique platform is for companies and organisations in different regions and segments of the global textile value chain.



The Union des Industries Textiles (UIT) represents more than 2,200 French textile firms—from spinners and weavers to knitters and finishers—offering the sector a unified voice and practical support. It negotiates national labor agreements and oversees the industry's collective agreement, develops easy-to-use guides and tools tailored to SMEs, and backs regional and sector-specific federations on workplace and social matters. Internationally, UIT represents France within EURATEX, ensuring French interests are heard at the European level.

[> read more](#)

## ITMF Awards & Start-up Awards 2025 – Application deadline approaches fast



Deadline: **May 15, 2025**

**Apply here**

[ITMF Awards 2025](#)

[ITMF Start-up Awards 2025](#)

Following the success of previous years, ITMF will once again present the **ITMF Awards 2025 (Sustainability & Innovation and Intl Cooperation)** and the **ITMF Start-up Awards 2025** at the ITMF & IAF Conference 2025, taking place on October 24–25, 2025 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The awards will recognize excellence in the categories of [Sustainability & Innovation](#), [International Cooperation](#), and outstanding contributions from [start-ups](#). A high-level international jury of industry experts will evaluate all applications and select the winners. Interested candidates can find detailed information and application forms on the **ITMF website** under "Awards." The **deadline for applications is extended to May 15, 2025**. Associations are encouraged to nominate candidates or invite them to apply directly.



# ITMF & Swiss Textile Machinery Workshop 2025



This year ITMF's traditional **Textile Machinery Workshop & Dinner** will be held in Zurich, Switzerland on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and will be co-hosted by [Swiss Textile Machinery](#). Textile machinery representatives as well as Members of the ITMF Board and the ITMF Committee of Management gather to discuss the state of and outlook for the global textile & textile machinery industry. During the event, ITMF will present the prelim. results of ITMF's **International Textile Machinery Shipment Statistics** (ITMSS) for 2024.

**Mr. Ruizhe Sun**, Chairman of China National Textile & Apparel Council (CNTAC) will deliver a presentation with focus on China's textile value chain.

**Mr. Martin Kemmler**, CSCO & CPO / Global Board Member, Triumph Intl., Switzerland, will give a talk on the topic *"Regulation – Curse or Blessing?"*.

Prior to the Workshop participants have the opportunity to visit the textile machinery company **Rieter** in Winterthur.

## ITMF's April 2<sup>nd</sup> press release on US-tariffs



In our April 2<sup>nd</sup> press release, ITMF warned that the sharp US tariff hikes on imported goods—raising tariffs on most textile and apparel imports from 11-12 percent to as high as 38-65 percent—will upend global textile and apparel supply chains and drive retail prices higher in the United States.

ITMF President K. V. Srinivasan noted that 95 percent of clothing sold in the U.S. is imported, mainly from China, Vietnam, India, Bangladesh, and Indonesia, and that shifting orders to lower-tariff countries or reshoring production is questionable because of higher costs, limited capacities, and shortages of skilled labor.

[> read more](#)

## PARTNER NEWS

### Tajikistan will host first international textile forum and machinery expo on 8–10 July 2025



Tajikistan will host its first International Textile Forum and Machinery Exhibition on 8–10 July 2025. The event will convene suppliers, brands, manufacturers, and associations from around the world and offer targeted B2B/G2B meetings where current challenges in the global textile industry will be discussed.

The event aligns with Tajikistan's 2024-2030 plan to turn its 400,000 tons of annual cotton production into higher-value exports through 10 new integrated clusters. With incentives on offer and the government's support, the forum aims at providing a fast track to partnerships in a market committed to growth.

[> read more](#) | [contact](#)

## ITMA ASIA offers discounts to ITMF members



ITMA ASIA + CITME  
SINGAPORE 2025

ITMA ASIA + CITME will stage its Singapore edition at Singapore Expo from 28 to 31 October 2025. ITMF members can lock in the reduced Supporting-Organisation fee—SGD 40 for a four-day badge or SGD 20 for a one-day pass—by emailing [secretariat@itmf.org](mailto:secretariat@itmf.org). All visitors can secure further savings by booking early-bird tickets at [www.badge.itmaasiasingapore.com](http://www.badge.itmaasiasingapore.com) before 28 September 2025. Singapore Airlines also offers special fares for travel to the show between 10 October and 18 November 2025 with promo code **ITMA25**.

[> read more about the event](#)

## Invitation to VDMA's Textile Machinery Webtalk on May 21<sup>st</sup>



Join ANDRITZ Nonwoven & Textile (Andritz Laroche) and EKOLUTION for a live session on **"Creating high-added-value nonwovens with bast-fiber processing"** on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, in this VDMA webtalk. Speakers Francis Elias Junker and Rémi Loren will explain how vertically integrated bast-fiber lines can cut carbon footprints, help control fiber quality and consistency, improve production efficiency, and optimize logistic and supply chain independence.

[> register](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2025

### Proposte

May 6-8, 2025  
Cernobbio (Como), Italy

### TextileExpo Uzbekistan 2025

May 14-16, 2025  
Uzexpocentre NEC, Uzbekistan

### IGDS World Department Store Summit

June 11-12, 2025  
Seoul, Korea, Rep.

### Premier Vision

July 1 -3, 2025  
Paris, France

### Milano-UNICA

July 8-10, 2025  
Fiera Milano, Italy

### CAITME 2025

September 9-11, 2025  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

### 64<sup>th</sup> Dornbirn-GFC

September 10-12, 2025  
Dornbirn, Austria

### Texworld and Apparel Sourcing

September 15-17, 2025  
Paris, France

### Market Week

September 15-18, 2025  
New-York, USA

### ICA Trade Events and Dinner

October 8-9, 2025  
Dubai, UAE

### ITMF-IAF Annual Conference 2025

October 24-25, 2025  
Yogyakarta, Indonesia

### ITMA Asia + CITME Singapore 2025

October 28-31, 2025  
Singapore

### ICAC 83rd Plenary Meeting

November 17-20, 2025  
Mwanza, Tanzania

### Aachen-Dresden-Denkendorf International Textile Conference

November 27-28, 2025  
Aachen, Germany

<sup>i</sup> [IMF, World Economic Outlook, April 22 2025](#)

<sup>ii</sup> [OECD, Interim Economic Outlook: Steering through Uncertainty, March 18 2025](#)

<sup>iii</sup> [IMF, Global Financial Stability Report, April 2025 \(Chapter 1\)](#)

<sup>iv</sup> [WTO, Global Trade Outlook and Statistics, April 16 2025](#)

<sup>v</sup> [Federal Reserve, Beige Book, April 23 2025](#)

<sup>vi</sup> [FASH455, "Patterns of U.S. Apparel Sourcing and Imports \(updated April 2025\)"](#)

<sup>vii</sup> [Yale Budget Lab, "State of U.S. Tariffs: April 15 2025"](#)