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For more information, please contact secretariat@itmf.org

Andrew Macdonald passed away earlier in this year. He was respected by all for his knowledge, his wisdom, his humbleness, and his humour. We have dedicated an article to his life achievement to remember how important he was to us and the cotton and textile industry.

He would have probably told us that life goes on and one should look ahead for the opportunities that it brings along. A couple of selected news articles aim to inform you on current developments in the textile world, as well as a thoughtful interview from Christian Schindler, ITMF's general director.



Dr. Olivier Zieschank
director, ITMF

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Dr. Schindler, ITMF, on automatization & digitalization, fast fashion, sustainability, and transparency



Christian Schindler talks about ITMF as an international platform, as well as about automation, fast fashion, sustainability, and the state of and outlook for the global textile industry in an interview with The Apparel Digest (Bangladesh). > [read more \(members only\)](#)

ITMF NEWS

Obituary: Andrew G. Macdonald, OBE (October 1st, 1941 – January 26th, 2022)

by Dr. Christian Schindler, director general, ITMF and Dr. Terry Townsend, former executive director, ICAC

Andrew George Macdonald was born on October 1st, 1941, in Falmouth, Cornwall in England. Andrew had nearly been born in France where his father had been working on behalf of the British Government, but his father and his mother, pregnant with Andrew, had evacuated to Britain to avoid Nazi occupation. This was Andrew's first international trip of which many, many more were to follow over the next 80 years. No one would have thought at the time that Andrew would develop such a passion for cotton and textiles.

Upon graduating from school, Andrew did not go to university but started working in the London office of Bunge as an "office boy." He would take messages to counterparts and customers around the city of London, would make tea, or would help wherever necessary. And whatever he did, he did it with dedication and a positive, innovative spirit. For example, he bought himself a bicycle to deliver messages faster across the city of London. It was no surprise therefore, that at the Bunge office he was referred to as the "very nice, young man." He was nice and kind to everyone he interacted with and kept his young spirit for the rest of his life. Then, as now, there were few people that were able to keep up with all the changes in communication technology as well as Andrew could. Throughout his career, wherever he was, Andrew was connected to everyone by cable, telegram, phone, or email.

His kindness, innovative spirit, openness to the world, industriousness and curiosity were characteristics that qualified him in the eyes of Bunge management for in-house training. This was the start of a unique and very successful international journey. His first overseas assignment for Bunge was as a jute buyer in what was then East Pakistan and is now Bangladesh.

Andrew could describe how buyers needed to grade jute at just the right time of day for proper sunlight. A buyer would place a bundle of long fibres, 2 meters and more, over one shoulder. Holding the fibre bundle at the base, the buyer then pulls the bundle forward over his shoulder in a "swooshing motion" and watches as sun glints off the fibres just so, producing a range of golden hues to determine the fibre grade. He apparently was good at this. Ironically, he was never very good at pulling cotton staple.

Over the following four decades, he worked for the Bunge Group in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Argentina, the United States, and finally in Brazil, where he settled down in 1973. In Brazil he worked for Sanbra and Santista Textil – both part of the Bunge Group – where his unique international cotton career took off.

At Santista, Andrew was responsible for sourcing cotton from around the world for factories in Brazil, Argentina and Chile. At its peak, the Santista group processed about 120,000 tonnes of cotton per year, this at a time when world cotton mill use was about 60% of its current level.

Even as a cotton buyer, Andrew was different. When Andrew began his career, a "cotton buyer" was someone who took pride in being able to pull staple to submit claims for minute variations in color and haggle with merchants over 30 points on the basis. In a precursor to widespread use of HVI, Andrew developed algorithms to optimize laydowns based on the quality description and origin of growths and relative prices. During much of his career, Brazil was wracked by high inflation and gyrating currency exchange rates, making cotton buying and inventory management crucial components of mill survival. Andrew became one of the most important cotton buyers in the Western Hemisphere, and in this role, he supported efforts in Brazil to grow more cotton to meet the demand of the Brazilian textile industry. His tireless efforts to support and promote cotton growing in Brazil helped encourage growers from the eastern states of Sao Paulo and Parana to migrate to the Cerrado region and develop what has become the modern Brazilian cotton industry.

When domestic cotton production surpassed domestic cotton consumption, Andrew was promoting Brazilian cotton abroad during countless trips to Asia. Therefore, it was no wonder that in Brazil and around the world he was considered the "Ambassador of Brazilian Cotton". Today, Brazil is the 4th largest producer and the 2nd largest exporter of cotton in the world. The people at the helm of Santista – led by Mr. Herbert Schmid, who was to become ITMF President in 2000 – realised that Andrew's personality traits of being very open, interactive, social, and knowledgeable, while also being diplomatic in considering the interests of all, could serve the company well. Accordingly, in the late 1980s Andrew started representing Santista at international cotton and textile events, including the Liverpool Cotton Association (then the LCA, now the ICA), annual meetings of the Committee for International Cooperation among Cotton Associations (CICCA), plenary meetings of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), annual ITMF conventions, annual conventions of the American Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA), annual gatherings of the Beltwide Cotton Conferences and quadrennial meetings of the World Cotton Research Conferences (WCRC), annual meetings of the African Cotton Association (ACA), bi-annual International Cotton Conferences Bremen and meetings of the ITMF International Committee on Cotton

[continued] Testing Methods (ICCTM), and occasional "Cotton Summits" organized by Meister Media, publishers of Cotton International.

At all of these events, Andrew was not one who came for a few sessions and then ducked out to go sightseeing or shopping or to hang around the bar. Andrew, actually attended sessions, listened to speakers, read papers, considered implications and contributed meaningfully to discussions. Andrew absorbed information and returned to Brazil to ensure that colleagues at Santista and throughout Brazil were aware of international cotton and textile industry developments.

In 1993, Andrew attended for the first time an ITMF Annual Conference in Porto, Portugal. As it turned out, the ITMF Annual Conference 2019 in Porto was also the last ITMF conference he attended physically. The Hybrid ITMF Annual Conference 2020 took place in Seoul, Korea due to the pandemic. All persons outside Korea participated virtually. As many times before, Andrew moderated the traditional "Fibre Session". The ITMF Annual Conference 2021 in Davos, Switzerland was postponed to 2022. Despite his health issues, Andrew was determined to attend it. Ever since 1993 Andrew attended every single ITMF Annual Conference, whenever possible accompanied by his wife Felicity. While he certainly listened well to all that was said and reported it back home, it didn't take long for others to listen to him as well.

Also in the early 1990s, Andrew began attending ICAC meetings. ICAC is recognized within the United Nations system as the intergovernmental body for cotton and cotton textiles representing countries that produce, consume and trade cotton.

The boll weevil arrived in Brazil in 1984, devastating small holder production in the traditional producing areas in the Southern, Eastern and Northern states. By the early 1990s, cotton production in Brazil had fallen to the lowest level in decades, threatening the viability of the textile industry. Andrew worked to find resources, gather information, and develop solutions, and the 1994 ICAC Plenary Meeting in Recife was one component of those efforts. Andrew was the primary organizer of the meeting, serving as Chair of the Brazilian Host Committee. The meeting had a cathartic impact by introducing Brazilian cotton growers and government officials to growers and scientists from around the world who understood commercial agriculture.

From 1993 through 2019, Andrew attended every meeting of the ICAC, often serving as Head of the Brazilian Delegation. He was always an advocate for cotton and contributed extensively to discussions on making cotton a more competitive fiber. Andrew was a founding member of the ICAC Private Sector Advisory Panel in 2000 and served as Chair of the Panel in the mid-2000s.

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Andrew was instrumental in the creation of the ICAC Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) and served as Chair of the CSITC from its inception in 2003 until his passing. The CSITC was created on the conviction of many spinners and merchants that an international agreement on the use of instrument testing was needed to standardize quality test results.

Following the retirement of Dr. Eugene Brock of South Africa, Andrew was elected Chair of the ICAC Drafting Group in 2005. The Drafting Group is composed of delegates to each plenary meeting who hash out, line-by-agonizing-line, the official statement of governments at the end of each meeting. In a testament to his expansive knowledge of cotton, appreciation of the concerns of all governments, diplomatic skills and mastery of English grammar, Andrew was re-elected Chair of the Drafting Group every succeeding year through 2019.

In October 1995, Andrew took over the Chairmanship of the ITMF Spinners Committee from Mr. Sebastian Otto from Germany, who had chaired this Committee since its inception in 1986. Andrew continued the excellent work of his predecessor and led a committee that was recognised around the world as the preeminent group worldwide representing the interests of cotton spinners. The ITMF Spinners Committee visited many cotton producing countries to learn about cotton growing, harvesting, and ginning practices and to communicate with producers and ginners the importance of contamination-free, good quality cotton for the textile industry value chain. Under Andrew's leadership, the ITMF Spinners Committee were welcomed as friends, experts, and advocates for cotton in cotton growing countries on all continents.

It was only logical that Andrew also became a member of the newly introduced ITMF Advisory Board in 2008 and then a Board Member in 2012. His expertise, experience and personality were highly appreciated by all his colleagues in the Board. He was an independent mind with a soul that contributed actively whenever one or several of his many qualities were needed. His voice carried weight and his opinion always helped find solutions. Andrew was re-elected several times and remained an esteemed Board Member of the ITMF until his death.

Andrew's interest and enthusiasm for the cotton textile industry motivated him to engage in several other cotton related organisations. He became a member of the Liverpool Cotton Association in 1994 and became its President in 2003. Andrew was the first spinner to serve as LCA President, and he was the first president to serve

[continued] while residing outside the UK. It was during his tenure that after 120 years, the LCA changed its name for the second time in its long history to the International Cotton Association (ICA), reflecting the global role it played and plays.

While Andrew was a cotton buyer for spinning mills, he also understood very well how the cotton trade worked. He was fascinated by the fact that the cotton trade had an internationally accepted and functional arbitral body that would protect the principle of sanctity of contract and would resolve disputes between parties. In the textile industry, such a system was and is missing. It motivated Andrew to become an arbitrator himself in the 1990s.

Andrew played also important roles in Brazil's cotton and textile industry associations, including the Association of Brazilian Producers of Cotton (ABRAPA), and the Association of Brazilian Textile and Clothing Industry (Abit).

While Andrew never had a formal position at Abit, he was nevertheless playing a very active and important role. For many years he was the coordinator between the Brazilian textile companies actively supporting and engaging with ITMF. Furthermore, he was instrumental in strengthening the relationship between the Brazilian textile industry and the Brazilian cotton industry, especially during the period when cotton production could not keep up with cotton

demand.

Likewise, Andrew was never a member of ABRAPA, since he was not a cotton producer. However, he served as an advisor to the President and Board of ABRAPA, helping to guide the organization on policy matters and serving as a liaison with spinners and merchants. Andrew also served as a member of numerous ABRAPA delegations visiting buyers in cotton importing countries around the world.

Following his retirement from Santista, Andrew was named a Member of the Order of British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty the Queen for his services to the British Community in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Andrew left his marks at many associations and – more importantly – with so many more people that he met during his countless meetings and events around the world. Andrew was active and welcome in so many organisations, not because he was representing a country, an association, or a company, but because he was Andrew G. Macdonald, OBE, a person that his colleagues respected for his knowledge, his wisdom, his humbleness, and his humour. While he will be missed dearly by his family, friends and by so many more people in the cotton and textile industry, it is certain that all those persons will remember Andrew, will honour his achievements, and will continue his work in their respective areas of life.

PARTNER NEWS

SLCP: Exclusive virtual meeting with H&M and 1888 Mills on how to reduce the number of audits



Registration open – interactive virtual meeting with and about SLCP (March 24th, 2022)

During the upcoming interactive virtual meeting (**March 24th, 2022, at 10 am (CET) and 5 pm (CET)**), members of ITMF will have the opportunity to learn first-hand why and how the home textile producer 188 Mills and the brand H&M make use of SLCP. Participants will learn in more detail why more than 6'000 facilities have adopted SLCP already thus helping to eliminate "audit fatigue". Furthermore, textile and apparel companies will learn how they can also reduce the number of their social audits with the help of SLCP.

If you are interested to learn more about SLCP and how the number of audits can be reduced drastically, please register for one of the two interactive online sessions:

For March 24th, 2022, at 10 am (CET) click [here](#)

For March 24th, 2022, at 05 pm (CET) click [here](#).

ILO: Uzbek cotton production is free of systemic forced and child labor



GENEVA (ILO News) – Almost two million people are recruited every year for the annual cotton harvest in Uzbekistan. The country has succeeded in eradicating systemic forced labour and systemic child labour during the 2021 cotton production cycle, according to new ILO findings.

[> read more](#)

Cotton Campaign: The organization ends its call for a global boycott of Uzbek cotton



TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (March 10, 2022) – The Cotton Campaign today announced it ends its call for a global boycott of Uzbek cotton. The announcement comes as Uzbek Forum for Human Rights, a frontline partner of the Cotton Campaign, releases its report finding no central government-imposed forced labor in the 2021 harvest.

[> read more](#)

Maroc in Mode: Welcome to Casablanca for an in-person international trade show in March 2022



Intl. Textile & Garment Trade Show “Maroc in Mode” (MIM) – March 30/31, 2022

Since 2003, MIM is connecting textile and garment professionals from all over the world. AMITH, the Moroccan Association of Textile and Garment Industries, strengthened this international exhibition by covering the whole textile value chain – fabrics, garments, home textiles, accessories, and machinery.

Morocco is the most politically and socially stable country in the region, located geographically in close proximity to Europe is offering access to a variety of markets thanks to its FTAs with the EU, the USA and Africa.

Social and environmental responsibility is at the heart of all industries' concerns and is considered the most important and pressing challenge of our time. Therefore, MIM is designed with sustainability in mind, focusing on responsible exhibitors.

For more information watch the [video](#) and/or visit [MIM's home page](#).

WIPO: Creation of an intellectual property management clinic on sustainable fashion



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and IP for Business Division organize an **IP Management Clinic on Sustainable Fashion**.

This IP Management clinic will allow **several selected companies to benefit from free IP coaching for 4 months**. During this four-months program the selected companies will benefit from the knowledge of experts, networking opportunities and business collaborations.

The companies will also have the opportunity to showcase their solutions at a public event in July. By bringing together innovators, entrepreneurs and industry leaders, the aim is to discuss how enterprises **can better utilize IP as part of their business strategies**.

More information about the program and selection criteria is available on the [website](#).

Applications should reach by March 27th.