



الفريق الدولي لدراسة مسائل الجوت
国际黄麻研究组
GROUPE D'ÉTUDE INTERNATIONALE DU JUTE
INTERNATIONAL JUTE STUDY GROUP

RESTRICTED
CB/(XIII)/3
13 December 2012

International Jute Study Group (IJSG)

Report of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) of the International Jute Study Group (IJSG)

**Brussels, Belgium
17 November 2012**

A. Opening of the meeting

The Twelfth Meeting of the Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) of the International Jute Study Group (IJSJ) was held in Bangladesh Embassy in Brussels, Belgium on **17 November, 2012** under the Chairmanship of Major General Humayun Khaled, (Chairman - BJMC). In the absence of Chairperson Mr. Rezaul Karim and any of the vice Chairman, the participants unanimously elected Major General Humayun Khaled as the Chairman of PSCB for the year 2012-13. The participants present in the meeting were Mr. Bhupendra Singh, Secretary General of IJSJ; Mr. Tapan Ghosh, Counselor Commerce of Bangladesh Embassy in Brussels, Mr. Shameem Reza Khan, DGM-BJMC. A complete list of the participants is placed at **Annex-A**.

Secretary General's remarks

The Secretary General of IJSJ, Mr. Bhupendra Singh thanked and congratulated the new PSCB Chairman Major General Humayun Khaled. He stated that, under the leadership of Major General Khaled the PSCB would be more effective and useful and serve better purpose in future for IJSJ and the overall jute industry. The Secretary General sought the assistance of Major General Khaled in increasing the number of associate members of IJSJ. There are many industries and entrepreneurs which can be included in the PSCB as associate members. The Secretary General thanked the participants for attending the meeting. He requested the industries to follow the sentiment of the international buyers and go for providing the kind of products they are demanding for. He mentioned that being the oldest industry, the jute industry has not been able keep pace with the modern industrial development. The modernization is very slow in comparison with cotton industries. He suggested the industries to be progressive and reinvest in the sector especially for modernization.

Chairman's remarks

The Chairman of PSCB, Major General Humayun Khaled thanked the Secretary General and assured to continue his support to PSCB of IJSJ for the development of jute sector. He appreciated the initiatives taken by IJSJ. He noted that the Government of Bangladesh is very sincerely looking into the marketing part of jute geo-textiles. He also mentioned that the Government of Bangladesh is working for the improvement of jute machinery. He noted that the interaction between buyers and sellers are very crucial and more events should be organized to increase the interaction among the buyers and sellers. He also took a note of the importance of training of jute mill personnel. In conclusion Major General Khaled thanked all the participants for their participation and valuable inputs in the meeting.

A.1. Adoption of Agenda

The meeting adopted the provisional agenda of the Twelfth Meeting as contained in **Document CB/(XIII)/1**.

A.4. Report on Associate Membership of IJSJ

The IJSJ Secretariat presented a report on the status of Associate Membership of IJSJ as on 29 October 2012 and informed the meeting that 168 Associate Members have, so far, been approved by the Fourteenth Council of IJSJ. Afterwards 7 (seven) associate members are provisionally accepted by the Secretary General.

The Secretary of PSCB, Mr. Rajib Jones Mitra informed the meeting that the IJSG Secretariat has sent invitation letters to different Associations, Organisations and entities of various countries to join IJSG as Associate Members. He requested all the participants to take initiative to increase the number of Associate Members.

The Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) reviewed the status of the Associate Members of IJSG and suggested that the PSCB should have more Associate Members to include exporters, importers, traders, market experts, manufacturers together to make the Board more effective. The Board observed that letters of request may be sent from the Chairman of the PSCB to all prospective Associate Members. The Board requested the Chairman to make a request to the industries to join IJSG as associate members. The Secretary General updated the Board about the membership fee of the associate members and the kinds of benefits and services being offered to them on a regular basis. The Board expected to have a total 200 associate members before the Fourteenth PSCB meeting under the leadership of the newly elected Chairman Major General Humayun Khaled.

The PSCB noted the comments of the delegates and requested the Chairman of PSCB to continue efforts to get more Associate Members

A.5. Financial Status of Associate Members' Contribution

The PSCB noted the financial statement of Associate Members' contribution as given at **Annex-III** of Document **CB/(XIII)/1**.

The Chairman took note of the financial status of contribution from Associate Members. He remarked that a lot of associate membership's fee is due for several years. The Board noted the position of renewal of Associate Membership. The PSCB decided to send letters of request to the Associate Members to renew their membership at the earliest. The Secretary General informed the Board that the IJSG Secretariat has already send reminder to the associate members and will conduct subsequent follow up on the matter.

The Board noted the financial statement of the PSCB.

B. Review and discussions on new ideas and recommendations made in the Eleventh meeting of the PSCB

2. a) Sharing of information generated including technologies developed by R&D Institutions on jute and jute goods and related matters.

The IJSG Secretariat informed the Board that the IJSG Secretariat has successfully held the Conference on "Application and Commercialization of the Natural Fibers Composites in Automobiles and Infrastructure Sectors" in New Delhi, India on August 7, 2012. There were three technical sessions and five presentations in the conference on applications and commercialization of NF bio-composites in automobile and construction sectors. The speakers were from Bangladesh, India, Finland and Japan. The presentations showed the remarkable history of the NF composites in the infrastructure and automobile sectors, present scenarios of the bio-composite markets and the

future scopes and commercialization of the bio-composites. The conference also identified the potentiality of jute and other allied natural fibres in these sectors.

The Secretary General informed the Board about the prospects of jute composite in various prospective countries like South Korea, Japan, Germany etc. especially in automobile sector. The Secretary General mentioned that the size of the market is very large. He mentioned that it is important to bring the key players on one platform to tap the large market. He also noted the importance to ensure environmental and social compliances in the manufacturing process of jute sector.

The Board also requested the Associate Members countries to send the reports of any study undertaken by their respective R&D Institutions/Organisations/Associations to the IJSG Secretariat so that the Secretariat could inform all the Associate Members of these reports/ studies.

2. b) Tariffs on Jute and Jute products and non-tariff barriers relating to these products.

The Secretary General requested the participants to inform the Board regarding any tariff or non-tariff barriers which they face for exporting jute and jute products in order to take the matter to appropriate authority subsequently.

Mr. Ghosh remarked that, the European carpet federation 'Fedustria' has raised the concern regarding the volatile organic compound (VoC) in the jute yarn resulting mainly from jute batching oil (JBO) which is used during the spinning process. The Board noted the issue regarding the presence of VoC and discuss the options of using other oils e.g. vegetable for jute spinning process. The Board suggested circulating the complete details and raise the concern to the all the associate members of IJSG.

Chairman remarked that this is an important issue and compilation of database of tariffs and non-tariff barriers is necessary for trading of jute and jute products. The exporters could provide relevant and correct information on tariffs and type of barriers they face in exporting their goods.

The IJSG Secretariat requested all the associate members to provide necessary information so that the Secretariat could take up the matter with relevant International Bodies.

2. c) Strategy for promotion of marketing of technical textiles including jute geo-textiles

The Secretariat informed the Board that the IJSG is implementing a project on jute geo-textiles funded by the Common Fund for Commodity (CFC). The project aims to develop standards and specifications suitable for various applications like soil erosion control, agro-plant mulching and rural road pavement construction. The project is being implemented in Bangladesh and India.

The Board took note on the progress of project.

2. d) Improvement of processing machinery

The Board expressed the necessity to appropriately address the issue of improvement of jute processing machinery for increasing productivity and producing quality products.

The IJSG Secretariat informed the Board that it took initiative to explore funding opportunity on the project titled "Development of Rapid Test Method for Determination of Unsaponifiables in Food Grade Jute Products". As per the 13th Committee on Projects (COP) decision, the IJSG Secretariat forwarded the similar proposal for funding consideration of the mentioned project to the Government of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Jute Mill Association (BJMA) and Indian Jute Mill Association (IJMA) along with the Government of India. IJMA has agreed for funding of the project and sent their contribution 15% of the total project budget amounting USD 12,000 to the IJSG. However, the Bangladesh has expressed its unwillingness to participate in the project.

2. e) Cooperation among buyers'/consumers' organisations (buyer-seller meet)

The participants expressed their views on the buyer-seller meeting which took place after the Forum on 16 November 2012. They informed the Board that the meeting has been successful and interactions with the buyers were productive. They are hopeful to make future business from the contacts which they made during the buyer-seller meeting. The Secretary of PSCB remarked that the existing cooperation among the sellers and consumers may be strengthened for smooth trading of jute and jute products.

The Board noted the comments of the delegates and stressed on the necessity of increasing cooperation among the buyers' and consumers' organisations.

2. f) Promotional activities including Disposal Protocol for Jute Products

The IJSG Secretariat informed the Board that it has modified the promotional video named "Jute-Its promises" in order to make it more useful in present context. The IJSG Secretariat also celebrated the Europe Day on May 09, 2012 jointly with Delegation of the European Union in Bangladesh in hotel Lake Shore, Dhaka. IJSG Secretariat organized an exhibit on jute products in the event to promote jute and diversified jute products to the European Community. The IJSG associate members participated in the exhibit with their products and made a good deal of business.

The Board appreciated the initiative taken by the IJSG Secretariat on this issue.

2. g) Training of workers and other personnel of jute mills

The Secretary General informed the Board regarding training programmes for Jute Mill personnel of various countries in Dhaka. Also a 10 day training programme was organized for Jute Entrepreneurs/ Exporters/ Artisans/ Designers on Design and Product Development of Jute Diversified Product (JDP) during October 24, 2011 to November 2, 2011 at the IJSG Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh, The training was conducted by the faculties of National Centre for Design and Product Development (NCDPD), India. Similar trainings were organized in Kolkata and Chennai by IJSG during 16-23 December 2011 in collaboration with National Jute Board (NJB) & NCDPD, India.

The Chairman of BJMC remarked that training of jute mill personnel is very important and suggested holding of more such training programmes.

The Board noted the comments of the delegates and decided that similar training program may be organised in future.

2. h) Improvement of the Fibre Quality and Fibre Yield

The Board requested suggestions from the participants, especially the industrialist to express their views for improvement of the fibre quality and fibre yield.

Mr. Kawsaw Ali Mollah noted that the quality of fibre is mostly dependent on the processing of raw jute fibres. The farmers of Bangladesh are dependent on rainfall for availability of water. Because of water scarcity the farmers cannot do the retting of fibres in time and thus the fibres lose quality. The Secretary General added that, the quality of jute seed is also very important in determining the quality. Mr. Ghosh noted that, the Department of Agricultural Extension (DoAE), Bangladesh might play a strong role in providing the farmer the right quality of seeds.

The Secretary General noted that more collaboration is needed between Bangladesh and India in order to identify the seed issue and adopt a timely approach to solve the problems. He also informed that the IJSG Secretariat has developed a project proposal in this regard and is exploring funding opportunities.

The PSCB Chairman noted that discussion and informed that the Government of Bangladesh is working on developing seeds with higher yield.

C. Other Business

There was no discussion on any other issue.

D. Consideration of Recommendations of the Thirteenth meeting of the PSCB to be submitted to the Council of the IJSG.

The Board decided to place the Recommendations of the Thirteenth meeting of the PSCB to the Fifteenth Council Session of IJSG for its approval.

E. Date(s) of the next (Fourteenth) Meeting of the Private Sector Consultative Board

The Board suggested to fix a suitable date for the next (Fourteenth) PSCB meeting preferably in Sri Lanka, Malaysia or Vietnam in consultation with the Secretary General and the Chairman of PSCB.

F. Adoption of the Record of Recommendations/Decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the PSCB

The Board authorised the Secretary - PSCB to finalise the record of Recommendations/Decisions of the Thirteenth meeting of the PSCB with the consultation with the Chairperson to be circulated during the Fifteenth Session of the Council of IJSG. The record of Recommendations/Decisions is placed in **Annex-B**.