



International Cotton Advisory Committee

Industry Standardisation: the Key to Trade Growth

64th Plenary Meeting
Liverpool, United Kingdom
25-29th September 2005

International Cotton Association Annual Dinner
30th September 2005



The cotton world in one city



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Invitation



The UK in general and Liverpool in particular has a very long historic association with cotton trading. Liverpool is the home to the internationally renowned International Cotton Association and the UK is still involved in a range of cotton-related research projects.

It is with great pleasure, therefore, that on behalf of Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom, I invite you to the 64th Plenary Session of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) which will take place in Liverpool between 25th and 29th September 2005 at the city's St George's Hall.

Liverpool is a city on the move. UNESCO recently designated the city's waterfront and downtown area as a World Heritage site based on its unique significance as a pioneering port, clearly associated with cotton. Liverpool has also been selected as the European Capital of Culture for 2008.

I am sure you will enjoy visiting Liverpool and I have no doubt that the ICAC Plenary will be a success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Patricia Hewitt'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping tail.

Patricia Hewitt
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry



Welcome

Liverpool European Capital of Culture 2008, warmly welcomes back the ICAC for its 64th Plenary Meeting in September 2005.

The theme of the plenary, 'Industry Standardisation: the Key to Trade Growth', reflects the historic role of Liverpool as a centre for cotton trading. Cotton has had a huge impact on Liverpool since 1709 and continues to do so to the present day, with the International Cotton Association acting as the governing body of the Liverpool Cotton Exchange and as an Arbitration Authority. The theme also emphasises the underlying purpose of the ICAC to enhance opportunities for expanded trade in cotton as a component of a healthy cotton economy.

In the build up to 2008, each year will have a special theme to highlight different aspects of the city's

unique culture. 2005 celebrates Liverpool's maritime legacy.

The vibrant city of Liverpool is not only an integral part of the international cotton world but also offers a cosmopolitan mix of history and modern culture, which guests can experience throughout the plenary. There is also the option of exploring the country further through day trips and short tours which will be available both before and after the main plenary event.

Please note that this plenary meeting will have a maximum number of attendees, due to logistical restrictions. Early booking of hotels and activities is, therefore, strongly recommended.

Industry Standardisation: the Key to Trade Growth

Sunday 25 September, 2005

9:30 am
Meeting of the Private Sector Advisory Panel

10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Registration at St. George's Hall

1:30 pm
Meeting of the Expert Panel on Commercial Standardisation of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC)

7:00 pm
Welcome Reception at the historic Liverpool Town Hall

Monday 26 September, 2005

8:00 am
Registration

9:00 am
Inaugural Session

11:00 am
First Open Session: Trading Cotton on an Instrument Based Testing System

Report of the Expert Panel on CSITC

1:45 pm
Second Open Session: Demand Enhancement

3:45 pm
First Breakout Session

3:45 pm
First Plenary Session: Statements

7:00 pm
Conference Dinner at the Crowne Plaza

Tuesday 27 September, 2005

8:00 am
Registration

9:00 am
Third Open Session: Outlook for Cotton Supply and Use

11:00 am
Second Plenary Session: Government Measures

1:45 pm
Fourth Open Session: The Benefits of Standardised International Trading Rules for Cotton

3:45 pm
Second Breakout Session

3:45 pm
First Plenary Session (continued)

6:30 pm
Departure for Mersey Ferry Trip and Dinner

Wednesday 28 September, 2005

7:00 am
Breakfast meeting of host committees

9:00 am
Fifth Open Session

Technical Seminar: Rapid Instrument Testing and the Need for Uniform Definitions

Meeting of the Committee on Cotton Production Research

Topic for the 2006 Technical Seminar

11:00 am
Sixth Open Session: African Cotton and the International Community

1:30 pm
Free time and organised activities

7:00 pm
Departure for the Maritime Museum and Cotton Exhibition

Thursday, 29 September, 2005

9:00 am
Seventh Open Session: The Impacts of Cotton on Health and the Environment

11:00 am
Closing Plenary Session

1:45 pm
Meeting of the Drafting Group (member country delegates only)

1:45 pm
Third Breakout Joint Session / ICA - ICAC Seminar: The Role of China (Mainland) in a Standardised International Cotton Industry

4:00 pm
Fourth Breakout Joint Session / ICA - ICAC Seminar

4:00 pm
Meeting of the Steering Committee (member country delegates only)

Friday, 30 September, 2005

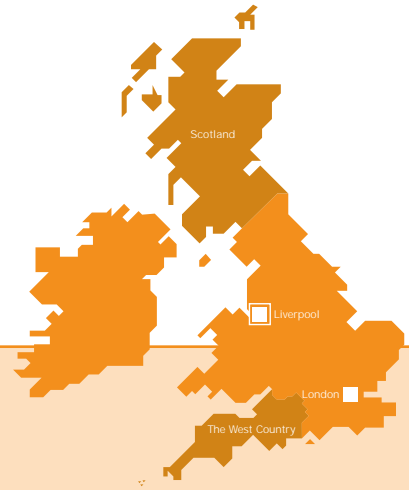
* Four ICA presentations. Global Cotton Theme. Open to all throughout the day at the Crowne Plaza

* ICA, European Cotton Confederation, CICC and ACME committee and board meetings throughout the day at the Crowne Plaza.

* ICA Dinner in the evening at St. Georges Hall

* For more information on all ICA events, please call +44 (0)151 236 6041.

Selected hotels



1

Holiday Inn

The Holiday Inn City Centre is situated in the heart of the city and is the closest hotel to the main plenary venue, St George's Hall. Every one of the 139 bedrooms has air-conditioning. The brasserie boasts panoramic views of some of the city's greatest architectural wonders including St George's Hall. The hotel has won various awards including Best Newcomer 2001 and The Quality Excellence Award 2002.

Metro Travel Inn

The Metro Travel Inn guarantees excellent value with a set price per room. Located in the heart of the city, this purpose-built, modern hotel is ideally situated for business, tourist attractions, nightlife and shops. With 165 spacious, en-suite bedrooms it offers everything needed for a good night's sleep.



2



3

Crowne Plaza

With a stunning location adjacent to the Royal Liver Building and overlooking the River Mersey, the four star de luxe Crowne Plaza Liverpool is one of the city's premier hotels. It offers 159 beautiful, air-conditioned bedrooms. There is a health and leisure complex called the Harbour Club, with full size pool, gym and a beauty therapy suite. The Crowne Plaza also offers secure on-site parking, award-winning cuisine and friendly, helpful staff.

Radisson SAS

The Radisson is situated in the heart of Liverpool's business district with breathtaking views over the River Mersey. Liverpool's premier four star de luxe hotel offers 194 stylishly-designed bedrooms, Filini, place to relax and enjoy creative cocktails. A stunning design-led health club and spa with swimming pool, sauna, steam room, whirlpool, dance and spinning studio and full gymnasium is also available.



4



5

Express By Holiday Inn, Albert Dock

Winner of the Award for Excellent Customer Service in a Large Hotel, England's Northwest Tourism Awards 2004, this hotel is ideally located within the Albert Dock complex and rates are per room including a continental buffet breakfast.

Thistle Hotel

The Thistle has some of the best views across Liverpool and the River Mersey. Located at the Pier Head, by the famous Liver Buildings, and close to the Albert Dock, museums and theatres, it is the perfect location to stay, with 225 comfortable air-conditioned rooms, including Executive and Standard rooms.



6

Please go online (www.conferences@merseyside.org.uk) or fill in the enclosed booking form and return as early as possible to avoid disappointment. The last date to accept bookings is 12th August 2005. (The numbers of the hotels correspond to the numbers on the map opposite.)



Tours and events – near and far

Cultural afternoon activities

On the agenda, Wednesday afternoon, 28 September, has been allocated as free time for all delegates to enjoy as they please.

Liverpool has a number of varied and interesting museums which all offer free entrance and are centrally-located. Liverpool also offers a large, diverse shopping area featuring something for everyone.

In addition there are a number of other options open to guests who wish to join an activity during the afternoon.

Quarry Bank Mill and Styal Estate

This National Trust property showcases the importance of waterpower and cotton to the area in the 18th century. Today, guests can see the fully functional, award-winning galleries devoted to water and steam power. There is also a fascinating insight into the lives of the mill workers. After the tour guests can enjoy a classic English afternoon tea.

Round of golf

There is the opportunity for those who play golf to spend an afternoon at Formby Hall Golf Club, one of the leading championship golf courses in Europe. The course has been designed to championship standards and measures an awesome 7,002 yards.

City tour

For guests who would like to learn a little more about the history of Liverpool, there is a city tour. Some of the buildings that can be seen include the Palm House, a Grade Two Listed Victorian glasshouse and two magnificent cathedrals, the Anglican and the Roman Catholic Metropolitan.

Liverpool and the US Civil War

This historic tour highlights the links between Liverpool and the Confederacy in the US Civil War. The tour will take in numerous points of interest around the city, including the Laird's shipyard where the CSS Alabama was constructed.

Please note that places on these trips are limited, so do return the enclosed booking form as soon as possible.

Evening events

Drinks reception in Liverpool Town Hall

Sunday Evening – 25 September

Liverpool Town Hall is a magnificent 18th century Grade One Listed building with sumptuous architectural features. There will be a relaxed drinks reception in the early evening, giving guests the opportunity to explore this remarkable building. Please note, this reception is only open to official delegates.

Welcome dinner at the Crowne Plaza

Monday Evening – 26 September

The Crowne Plaza is the venue for the formal welcome dinner. With various entertainments throughout the night, this event gives guests the opportunity to enjoy an excellent meal in an award-winning hotel.

Mersey Ferry cruise

Tuesday Evening – 27 September

This unique, cultural evening combines a cruise on a famous Mersey Ferry taking in excellent views of the Liverpool waterfront, and entertainment provided by 'Mersey-sound' bands.

Reception at the Maritime Museum

Wednesday Evening – 28 September

Guests are invited to the Maritime Museum to have an exclusive viewing of the new exhibition "100% Cotton". This features all aspects of the cotton trade, from growing, harvesting and trading to production and manufacture, particularly in Liverpool. The rest of the museum, also open to guests, specialises in the story of Liverpool's seafaring heritage and the Merchant Navy.



Pre and post conference tours

Day Trips

Lake District

Visit one of the most scenically beautiful areas of the country. Options include Lake Windermere, which is the longest lake in England, its shores bounded by wonderful scenery and beautiful towns and villages. Alternatively, there are National Trust properties to see such as Levens Hall, built in the thirteenth century and featuring world-famous topiary gardens.

Chester Zoo

Chester has the UK's largest zoo, with 5,000 animals living in spacious, near-natural surroundings set in 80 acres of award-winning gardens. It is regarded as one of Europe's top zoos.

The Historic City of Bath

This city's modern, bustling centre contains numerous historic buildings, including the famous Roman Baths.

Birmingham Cadbury World

For all chocolate lovers, this factory and visitor centre is a fun, educational, multi-media attraction dedicated to the story of Cadbury and chocolate.

2/3 Day Tours

London

A visit to the capital can be as relaxing or as activity-packed as desired. There is something for everyone, from the famous Houses of Parliament to the Tate Modern art gallery and, of course, the unmissable London Eye observation wheel.

Scotland

Edinburgh is the beautiful, historic capital of Scotland. Amongst its most famous landmarks are Edinburgh Castle, The Royal Mile – described by Daniel Defoe as the “largest, longest and finest street in the world” – and the renowned shopping area of Princes Street. For those with more time, a trip to the Highlands will be an unforgettable experience.

Please note that all these tours must be arranged individually by each guest. To read more about the type of tours being offered, please visit the travel agent's website directly:
<http://www.hardingstours.co.uk>

Spouses' programme

Monday

Port Sunlight and Chester

The village of Port Sunlight was built in the late 19th century. The several hundred houses, church, shops, library, art gallery and museum make this model industrial village a beautifully-preserved memorial to the foresight of its founder.

Following a short visit to Port Sunlight, the rest of the day will be spent in the beautiful, historic city of Chester. There is the opportunity simply to shop, sample traditional English tea-rooms and take in the city at your own pace. Alternatively guests can join our guide on a tour of the city, taking in Chester's excellently-preserved city walls and traditional half-timbered buildings

Tuesday

Blue Planet and Ness Gardens














The morning will be spent at the UK's largest aquarium, Blue Planet. In this incredible underwater world, you are guaranteed to see a vast array of marine life, including more types of shark than anywhere else in Britain.

In the afternoon, there is the opportunity to visit the internationally-renowned Ness Gardens. Visitors can admire a breathtaking collection of rhododendrons and azaleas along with a heather and rock terrace and beautiful water, rose and herb gardens.

Please note that attendance on the Spouses' Tours must be confirmed before 16th September 2005.

Locations



- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
|  FERRIES |  TAXI RANK |  PARKING |  ICAC SELECTED HOTELS |
|  MERSEY FERRIES |  MERSEYTRAVEL BUS STATION INCLUDING AIRPORT SERVICE |  PARKING - 24 HOURS |  MARRIOTT HOTEL |
|  MERSEYRAIL STATION |  NATIONAL EXPRESS BUS STATION |  PARKING - DISABLED |  PEDESTRIAN AND MAIN SHOPPING AREA |
| | | |  TOURIST INFORMATION |





Be part of it – sponsorship and trade booth opportunities available

A limited number of sponsorship and trade booth opportunities are available to companies and organisations involved in the world of cotton. For full details email lisa@evensis.com or telephone +44 (0)151 726 2112.

Delegate registration details can be found at www.icac.org. See what Liverpool has to offer at www.visitliverpool.com

Organisers

The International Cotton Association, Ltd.



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