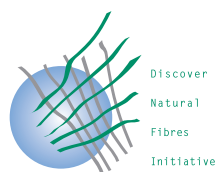




71st Plenary Meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee

Interlaken, Switzerland
7-12 October 2012

Shaping Sustainability in the
Cotton Value Chain



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

WELCOME TO ICAC 2012

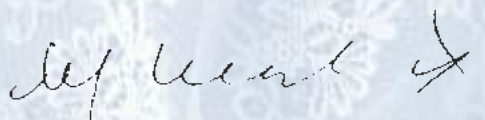
Did you know that without cotton Switzerland's industrial development history might easily have taken another turn? Cotton was woven in Basel as early as 1380. In the 18th century, cottage-based textile manufacturing was taken to industrial levels thanks to Switzerland's ample supply of hydropower. This industrialisation then gave rise to other branches of industry, such as machinery and machine tools, chemicals and paper. Believe it or not, during its golden age at the end of the 18th century, the Swiss textile industry directly or indirectly employed a quarter of the population! Even today, most people in the cotton sector recognise Switzerland as a reliable supplier of modern, high quality spinning, knitting and weaving technology as well as precise textile testing instruments. Another aspect of this historical development is Switzerland's tradition in the area of commodity trading in general and in the cotton trade in particular.

It is therefore with great pleasure that, on behalf of the Swiss Confederation, I invite you to the 71st Plenary Session of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), which will take place in Interlaken from 7-12 October 2012 at the Congress Centre Kursaal. Hosting this year's Plenary Meeting, we propose to look at sustainability in the cotton value chain from different perspectives and therefore to follow up on previous discussions that have taken place over the past years. Moreover, twenty years after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio in 1992, we see a lot of room to turn sustainability issues into business opportunities. This idea, often referred to as "green growth", finds several successful pioneering examples in the cotton value chains in Switzerland – have a look at how sustainable textile products have even conquered ordinary retail shops in Switzerland!

With its history of direct democracy, Switzerland also has a wealth of experience of multi-stakeholder dialogues, transparency and intensive discussions that allow different opinions to be included and creative solutions to emerge. We believe that Interlaken will be the perfect place to discuss and try out new forms of dialogue: small and scenic, situated between mountains and lakes, this venue will help us to focus and have a frank exchange of views. We also hope that new stakeholders will take the opportunity to join in and enrich our discussions.

I trust that you will enjoy visiting Interlaken and that you will have a rewarding experience in this inspiring environment, giving you new ideas that will ensure the sustainable growth of the cotton industry.

Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch
State Secretary
State Secretariat for
Economic Affairs SECO



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DRAFT PROGRAMME 2012

Shaping Sustainability in the Cotton Value Chain

Sunday 7 October

- 09:00 Registration
 - 10:00 Meeting of the Expert Panel on Social, Environment and Economic Performance of Cotton Production (SEEP)
 - 13:30 Meeting of the Private Sector Advisory Panel (PSAP)
 - 14:30 Meeting of the Round Table for Biotechnology in Cotton (Tentative)
 - 19:00 Reception at the Congress Centre Kursaal Interlaken
-

Monday 8 October

- 09:00 Inaugural Session
 - 11:00 First Open Session: Sustainability in the Cotton Value Chain: Its meaning relative to cotton; how does it apply in developed and developing countries, producing and consuming countries?
 - 13:45 First Plenary Session: Statements
 - 14:00 First Breakout Session: The Contribution of Textile Machinery to Resource Conservation and Cost Reduction in the Cotton Value Chain
 - 16:15 Second Open Session: Preparing the Cotton Industry for the Challenges of this Century
 - 17:30 Adjourn
 - 19:00 Dinner for all Participants, hosted by Ambassador Beatrice Maser Mallor, Head of Economic Cooperation and Development, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO
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Tuesday 9 October

- 09:00 Third Open Session: Responsibility in the Cotton Value Chain: the roles of merchants, input manufacturers, textile mills and retailers
- 11:00 Fourth Open Session: (World Café) Sustainability in the Cotton Value Chain: Its meaning relative to cotton; how does it apply in developed and developing countries, producing and consuming countries?
- 12:30 Business Meeting of the International Forum for Cotton Promotion (IFCP)
- 13:45 Fifth Open Session: Cotton Supply, Use and Prices
- 15:45 First Plenary Session: Statements (Continued)
- 16:00 Second Breakout Session: Contracts and Sustainability: Can we have sustainability without contract sanctity?
- 16:00 Meeting of the Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC)
- 17:30 Adjourn

Wednesday 10 October

- 09:00 Sixth Open Session (Meeting of the Committee on Cotton Production Research)
Technical Seminar: “Intellectual Property Rights and the Role of Private Breeders”
- 11:00 Sixth Open Session (Technical Seminar) continued Topic for the 2013 Technical Seminar
- 11:15 Third Breakout Session: Cotton Statistics in the 21st Century
- 13:45 Open afternoon
-

Thursday 11 October

- 07:30 Breakfast meeting of Plenary Meeting host committees (by invitation)
- 09:00 Meeting of the Drafting Group
- 09:15 Fourth Breakout Session: Action Steps to a Green Cotton Economy
- 11:00 Fifth Breakout Session: Ensuring Sustainability for Natural Fibres through Demand Enhancement
- 13:45 Meeting of the Steering Committee
- 14:00 Sixth Breakout Session: The Role of Governments in Facilitating and/or Promoting Organic Cotton, Fair Trade Cotton, CmiA and BCI
- 16:00 Closing Plenary Session
-

Friday 12 October

Technical Tour organized by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation



GENERAL INFORMATION

Conference Website

The information in this document is also available on the Conference website http://icac.org/plenary-meetings/71_interlaken. The website will be updated regularly.

Registration

Participants are kindly invited to register on the Conference website as of early May.

Venue

The conference will take place in Interlaken at the **Congress Centre Kursaal Interlaken** (Strandbadstrasse 44, 3800 Interlaken, Switzerland).

Visa

Participants are requested to make their own arrangements with regard to valid travel documents such as valid passports, visas, etc. Participants requiring a letter of invitation to obtain a visa for the conference should indicate this (under 'NOTES') when submitting their online registration form.

To find out whether you require a visa (**even if** you possess a diplomatic passport) please consult the following webpage: <http://bit.ly/wDbTKe>.

For more information and to apply for a visa, please contact the Swiss Embassy in your country. In order to find out its address, please visit the following webpage: <http://bit.ly/w5ytVe>.

How to Get There

Interlaken is located in the heart of Switzerland, situated between the Lakes of Thun and Brienz. International points of entry for the conference are the airports of Zurich, Basel, Bern and Geneva, with Zurich providing the most frequent flight connections to the rest of the world.



By public transport

From Zurich International Airport: The airport has its own train station. Travelling by train in Switzerland is very easy. Please visit the website of the Swiss Federal Railways (www.sbb.ch/en/index.htm) for timetables and prices (one way approx. CHF 69.- in 2nd class, CHF 118.- in 1st class). Travelling time by train is approximately 2h15min.

From Bern-Belp Airport: An airport bus (Bus no. 334, price CHF 5.80) or taxi (price between CHF 45.- to CHF 55.- or approx. € 38 to € 46, Taxi Nova: +41 (0)31 331 33 13; Taxi Bären: +41 (0)31 371 11 11) connects Bern Airport to Bern City, from where you can take a direct train to Interlaken. Please visit the website of the Swiss Federal Railways for timetables and prices (one way approx. CHF 26.- in 2nd class, CHF 52.- in 1st class). Travelling time by train from Bern City to Interlaken is approximately 1h. For further information on the airport bus from Bern airport please consult the following website: <http://bit.ly/HBE7xi>.

Swiss Transfer Ticket. Participants may want to consider the purchase of a Swiss Transfer Ticket. This is a return ticket from the Swiss border or one of Switzerland's airports to your destination. The ticket is valid for one month, but each journey must be completed in one day and on the most direct route. For more information and to purchase the ticket, go here: <http://bit.ly/GK8suA>.

Hotels in Interlaken (see page 8). Both train stations, Interlaken West and Interlaken Ost, are recommended stops depending on where your hotel is located.

- Choose **Interlaken West** for the following hotels: VICTORIA-JUNGFRAU Grand Hotel & Spa, Hotel Krebs, Hotel Metropole, Hotel Bellevue, Hotel Stella, Hotel Chalet Swiss, Best Western Hotel Bernerhof, Hotel Goldey, City Hotel Oberland, Hotel Lötschberg, Hotel de la Paix, Hotel Derby, Hotel Savoy, Neuhaus Golf- und Strandhotel, Hotel Harder Minerva, Hotel Alphorn, Hotel Bahnhof, Hotel Post Hardermannli, Backpackerhotel Falken, Hotel Rössli, Hotel Blume and Waldhotel Unspunnen.
- Choose **Interlaken Ost** for the following hotels: Lindner Grand Hotel Beau Rivage, Hotel Du Lac, Hotel Interlaken, Hotel Royal St. Georges, Hotel Artos and Carlton Europe Hotel.

The conference venue is within 10 minutes walking distance of both train stations.



Accommodation

Interlaken Congress & Events AG will handle all bookings for accommodation. A sufficient number of rooms at favourable conditions has been set aside for the attendees of the 71st Plenary Meeting of ICAC at various hotels in Interlaken, listed below. For more information about these hotels, please consult the information available on the hotel booking website <http://bit.ly/ydLCLd>. We recommend that you book your accommodation as soon as possible, but no later than 6 August 2012 to ensure your preferred room at the conference rate. You can do this either online or by contacting Interlaken Congress & Events AG (+41 33 827 6200, email schneider@interlaken-congress.ch). You need a credit card to make a hotel reservation. Payment for all hotel costs has to be made at the hotel upon departure. All but two hotels are within walking distance (max. 15 min.) of the conference venue (the Congress Centre Kursaal Interlaken).

Category *****

VICTORIA-JUNGFRAU Grand Hotel & Spa

Price per room starting from CHF 360.00
Congress Centre on foot: 4 minutes

Lindner Grand Hotel Beau Rivage

Price per room starting from CHF 289.00
Congress Centre on foot: 6 minutes

Category ****

Hotel Bellevue

Price per room starting from CHF 179.00
Congress Centre on foot: 5 minutes

Hotel Du Lac

Price per room starting from CHF 145.00
Congress Centre on foot: 8 minutes

Hotel Interlaken

Price per room starting from CHF 184.00
Congress Centre on foot: 5 minutes

Hotel Krebs

Price per room starting from CHF 168.00
Congress Centre on foot: 10 minutes

Hotel Metropole

Price per room starting from CHF 184.00
Congress Centre on foot: 4 minutes

Hotel Royal St. Georges

Price per room starting from CHF 204.00
Congress Centre on foot: 5 minutes

Hotel Stella

Price per room starting from CHF 168.00
Congress Centre on foot: 10 minutes

Category ***

Hotel Artos

Price per room starting from CHF 170.00
Congress Centre on foot: 7 minutes

Carlton-Europe Hotel

Price per room starting from CHF 165.00
Congress Centre on foot: 7 minutes

Hotel Chalet Swiss

Price per room starting from CHF 117.00
Congress Centre on foot: 12 minutes

City Hotel Oberland

Price per room starting from CHF 155.00
Congress Centre on foot: 5 minutes

Hotel de la Paix

Price per room starting from CHF 105.00
Congress Centre on foot: 10 minutes

Hotel Derby

Price per room starting from CHF 143.00
Congress Centre on foot: 10 minutes

Hotel Goldey

Price per room starting from CHF 143.00
Congress Centre on foot: 4 minutes

Hotel Lötschberg

Price per room starting from CHF 112.00
Congress Centre on foot: 12 minutes

Neuhaus Golf- und Strandhotel

Price per room starting from CHF 100.00
Congress Centre on foot: 40 minutes

Hotel Savoy

Price per room starting from CHF 117.00
Congress Centre on foot: 7 minutes

Category **

Hotel Alphorn

Price per room starting from CHF 128.00
Congress Centre on foot: 15 minutes

Hotel Bahnhof

Price per room starting from CHF 80.00
Congress Centre on foot: 10 minutes

Backpackerhotel Falken

Price per room starting from CHF 100.00
Congress Centre on foot: 10 minutes

Hotel Blume

Price per room starting from CHF 90.00
Congress Centre on foot: 6 minutes

Hotel Harder Minerva

Price per room starting from CHF 100.00
Congress Centre on foot: 5 minutes

Hotel Post Hardermannli

Price per room starting from CHF 92.00
Congress Centre on foot: 13 minutes

Hotel Rössli

Price per room starting from CHF 112.00
Congress Centre on foot: 8 minutes

Waldhotel Unspunnen

Price per room starting from CHF 107.00
Congress Centre on foot: 30 minutes



Social Options in Interlaken

Overlooked by three mighty mountains, Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau, Interlaken has been a vacation destination for over two centuries. It is an ideal starting point for countless excursions and numerous activities. Over 45 mountain railways, cable cars, chair lifts and ski lifts lead to 200 kilometres of slopes and a dense network of hiking trails. Excursion ships, including historic paddle steamers, ply the waters of Lake Thun and Lake Brienz. For further information, please visit www.interlaken.ch.

Link to webcams of Interlaken and surroundings:
www.interlaken.ch/multimedia/livecams.html?L=3

Weather Information

In October, the average air temperature in Interlaken is between 5° C and 13° C. The average number of rainy days is 9 and the average number of hours of sunshine per day is 4. If you plan an excursion in the mountains, warm winter clothing and good winter footwear is required. For a local weather forecast, please consult www.meteosuisse.ch.





With the support of



HELVETAS
Swiss Intercooperation





For information regarding the Plenary Meeting, please contact:
www.icac.org
plenaryinformation@icac.org

For information regarding the hotel booking, please contact:
schneider@interlaken-congress.ch