



Report on 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress 2nd - 5th February 2016, Chennai, India



**“596 delegates from 28 countries
around the world at the
19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress
which was unprecedented in the annals of UITIC”**



Report readied for Council for Leather Exports by
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Support organization to 19th UITIC International Footwear Congress 2016

PREFACE



UITIC: International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians

The International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians (UITIC) is an organisation which aims at developing technical knowledge in the footwear industry, in particular by organising international conferences on a regular basis and by taking the initiative in setting up information exchanges between its members, exclusively in the field of technology.

UITIC Congresses

UITIC's main activity is to organise an International Technical Conference which tackles the latest technical problems: automatic sewing, computerised management, new materials, quality, training, design, etc. It is the most prestigious meeting of experts at an international level and is attended, on average, by more than 400 technicians.

UITIC Conferences have taken place in:

1972	EVIAN (France)	New materials, new processes.
1975	ALICANTE (Spain)	Development and technical prospects in the footwear industry.
1977	MAYENCE (Germany)	Future prospects and development trends in the footwear industry in the European area. The use of computers in the footwear industry. Automation and flexibility.
1979	BRISTOL (Great Britain)	Successful footwear manufacturing in developed countries.
1981	BELGRADE (Yugoslavia)	Footwear production in the microelectronics age.
1983	MILAN (Italy)	Automation of processes that enhance productivity and avoid handling times.
1985	BUDAPEST (Hungary)	Advances in CAD/CAM systems.
1987	ALICANTE (Spain)	The footwear industry of the future.
1989	NANTES (France)	"Just-in-time" or how to meet market needs reducing lead times.
1991	MUNICH (Germany)	Successful footwear companies of tomorrow.
1993	ATHENS (Greece)	Industrial organisation, new materials, quality management, training and automatisms.
1996	PORTO (Portugal)	Materials with better performance, new production and commercialisation tools, quality assurance systems and environmental management.
1999	FERMO (Italy)	Evolution of the shoe technology in the last 3 years and prospects for the near future.
2002	BUDAPEST (Hungary)	Transnational production of footwear and its components as a result of the growing globalisation of the economy.
2005	TUNIS (Tunisia)	Changes driven by footwear production globalisation and delocalisation.
2008	ELCHE (Spain)	The advantages of technology for footwear trading and production processes.
2010	LEON (Guanajuato, Mexico)	Powerful ideas in the footwear market.
2013	GUANGZHOU (Dongguan, China)	Social Responsibility: a challenge for the Footwear Industry.
2016	CHENNAI, INDIA	Future Footwear Factory

In addition, apart from conferences, relations between members are encouraged by promoting technical study trips to other countries.

UITIC Awards

The International Union of Technicians of the Footwear Industry, also presents the "UITIC Award", to recognise, at an international level, the work of people who contribute particularly in the technological development in the footwear industries, whether it be for their activities in the actual footwear sector or in the related industries in three categories namely: Technical; Scientific & Managerial.

The Award Winners have been:

NAME	COUNTRY	CATEGORY
Wolfgang Schlamp	AUSTRIA	Technical
Wilhelm Fischer	GERMANY	Scientific
Kurt Seyboldt	GERMANY	Managerial
Jan Pivecka	CZECH REPUBLIC	Technical
Giancarlo Albanesi	ITALY	Scientific
Antonio Vicente	SPAIN	Managerial
Pietro Torielli	ITALY	Technical
Wilfried Screier	GERMANY	Scientific
Pierre Bonnet	FRANCE	Managerial
Tiziano Mostura	ITALY	Technical
Petr Hlavacek	CZECH REPUBLIC	Scientific
Santiago Pons	SPAIN	Managerial
Ars Arpel Group	ITALY	Special Mention for the Press
José Luis Poveda	SPAIN	Technical
Marc Folachier	FRANCE	Scientific
Giovanni Bagini	ITALY	Managerial
Leandro Alarcón	SPAIN	Special Mention for the Press
Enio E. Klein	BRAZIL	Technical
Sergio Dulio	ITALY	Scientific
Roberto Plasencia	MEXICO	Managerial
Revista CalzaVance	MEXICO	Special Mention for the Press
Ferenc Schmel	HUNGARY	Technical
Andreas Tepest	GERMANY	Scientific



Why is it useful for India

The UITIC Congress gave us a chance to update ourselves with the latest in Technology and Trends in the global footwear markets. It also brought eminent experts in these areas from across the world and gave us an opportunity to interact with them and imbibe the knowledge disseminated as well as implement the new ideas discussed to improve our product quality, improve productivity and march ahead of the competition.

Taking into account that the industry needs to be dynamic in order to meet market needs, it was important to keep themselves well informed on every aspect which concerned them and the UITIC Congress was one such important avenue for Indian manufacturers. In general, the presentations were made by technical experts who had thoroughly practiced the themes which were being exposed by them thus avoiding theoretical and publicity approaches, which made it even easier to follow and implement in the Indian context.

An UITIC CONGRESS in India was very beneficial for the Indian Footwear Manufacturers.

19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress

The Theme of the 19th Technical Footwear Congress is **"Future Footwear Factory"**. Advances in technology, design and information sciences have enabled the modernization of factories for producing footwear with advanced properties, making optimum use of resources. However there remains the perennial challenge of changing consumer demands and market vagaries. Also, today's instantly-connected world has ushered in a plethora of opportunities and challenges. Footwear factories have to adapt and improvise to stay ahead in this dynamic scenario. The 19th UITIC Congress aims to bring together technical experts, manufacturers, and stake holders of the Footwear industry, for a period of intense deliberations on the theme.

The **Council for Leather Exports (CLE)-India** is the Apex body for the international promotion and overall development of the Indian Leather & Footwear sectors, **hosted the 19th UITIC Congress during 2-5 February 2016 at Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Chennai.**

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Press Meet
2nd February 2016

Mrs Sunanda Santappa, Council for Leather Exports welcoming the gathering!



UITIC 19th Congress in Chennai:
A successful event!



Mr Yves Morin, President, UITIC in his address to the Press on 2nd February 2016

The 19th International Technical Footwear Congress of UITIC (International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians) has just ended. From the 3rd to the 5th February, more than 596 participants met in Chennai, India, discussing topics about “the future footwear factory”

Organized by UITIC and the Council for Leather Exports of India, the event managed to bring together a representative sampling of the international footwear industry with professionals and experts from nearly 30 countries, including 174 foreign attendees from outside India. It proposed 30 presentations and a total of 35 technical posters.

Yves Morin, President, and Françoise Nicolas, General Secretary of UITIC, as well as the Executive Committee, would like to thank everyone involved for this successful event:

- The attendees, first of all, for their presence and their active involvement,
- The presenters and speakers,
- Kenmore Shoes, BBK Leathers Private Ltd. And KH Group for organizing the factory visits,
- The sponsors of the congress.

.They would like to specially thank the CLE for its major contribution to the success of this congress. CLE provided a strong support organizing this event under the Presidency of Rafeeqe Ahmed, Chairman of CLE, Aqeel Ahmed, Convener of the Congress and Regional Chairman of CLE, and Ramesh Kumar, Executive Director of CLE.



Mr Subash Kapoor, Vice Chairman, Council for Leather Exports speaking to the PRESS on INDIA LEATHER WEEK 2016 and the two major endeavours of the Council for Leather Exports: 19th UITIC Congress 2016 and 1st Designers Fair 2016.



Mr PR Aqeel Ahmed, Convenor, 19th UITIC & Regional Chairman-South, Council for Leather Exports addressing the PRESS on the Congress



Mr Naresh Bhasin, Chairman, Design Task Force & Regional Chairman-West, Council for Leather Exports addressing the PRESS on the 1st Designers fair 2016.



Mr Antonio Munar from Spain and Ms Karen Giberson, USA speaking to the PRESS on the 1st Designers Fair 2016

Interaction with the PRESS



Welcome Dinner

2nd February 2016









NETWORKING



Factory Visits

3rd February 2016

Opening Session

4th February 2016

The 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress commenced with an Address by Ms Jayne Estève Curé from Jayne Fashion Agency, UK who gave us a background of UITIC as an organization. She complimented the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) India for organizing the 19th Congress of the UITIC (International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians) in Chennai-India. She informed the gathering that it was for the first time that the UITIC Congress was being held in India, the second largest footwear manufacturing country in the world. She stated that UITIC was very proud of the overwhelming response to this Congress in India and said that there would be 600 delegates from 28 countries around the world which was unprecedented in the annals of UITIC and once again congratulated the organizing team from CLE for their extraordinary efforts in reaching out to the Leather and Footwear fraternity from across the globe.



Ms Jayne added that this congress would bring together experts and decision makers who all play an important role in the worldwide footwear business and manufacturing process in addition to Brands, footwear manufacturers and experts who would all join together to discuss the Future of the Footwear Factory as well as innovations in the footwear Industry.

She thanked the organizing team for arranging visits to Leather and Footwear before the Congress which was very much appreciated by all. In conclusion, she expressed the delight of all delegates to be in India for the Congress and exuded confidence at the success of the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress in Chennai.

This was followed by the **Invocation** to mark the solemnity of the occasion.

Shri PR Aqeel Ahmed, Convenor of the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress and the Regional Chairman (South), Council for Leather Exports, India then Welcomed the gathering.

In his **Welcome address**, Shri Aqeel Ahmed stated that it was with immense pride that he stood before the august gathering as the Convenor of the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress and welcomed them all to India. He recounted that it was for the first time in its 42 year History that the UITIC Technical Congress was being held in India and added that as a major global hub for the manufacture of Leather and Leather Products, it was but appropriate that India played host to this event.

Shri Aqeel informed the audience that the Footwear industry was an important driver in the economy of our country and was a significant segment of the leather industry and was in fact the 'engine of growth' for the entire leather industry.



He stated that India was on the threshold of a great leap forward with respect to its economic growth with major path breaking initiatives taken by its dynamic Prime Minister like the "Make in India" as well as "Skill India" programmes. The "Leather and Leather Product Sector" in India had been identified as a "Focus Area" under these programmes, he added, which would further provide a huge momentum for the growth of the Leather Sector in India. He underlined that the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress would witness Brands, Footwear Manufacturers, Technical Experts, Scientists discuss about innovations in the footwear Industry and the "Future Footwear Factory" which formed the THEME of the Congress and added that the ORAL Presentations as well as POSTER presentations on the sub-themes of:

- Manufacturing Based on the Needs of the Consumers
- Intelligent factory and smart supply chain
- Sustainability and regulatory trends impacting on factories
- Attractive Footwear Factories and New Way of Management

would be very interesting and informative.

Shri Aqeel Ahmed said that the organizing committee of the Congress was immeasurably pleased to inform that the response to the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress had been OVERWHELMING and as opposed to the 300 – 350 participants in the previous edition of the UITIC Congress held in China, here in India the participation had surpassed all expectations and broken all records with close to 600 participants for the 19th UITIC Congress. He added that the members of the organizing committee remained humbled by this response which spurred them to exceed themselves and put forward an event of such unforgettable grandeur that it would forever remain etched in the hearts of the participants as an "experience to cherish" lifelong.

The ORAL Presentations would be helmed by distinguished experts from across the world including Spain, Germany, Italy, Portugal, UK, France, Mexico, China, Hong Kong, Hungary, Austria, Romania and India while the POSTER Session would feature 40 Selected Posters which have been evaluated by a distinguished panel of International Experts comprising the "Scientific Committee" of the Congress, he informed. An interesting aspect of the POSTER Presentations would be the presence of a large

number of Posters submitted by the STUDENTS which had encouraged the Organizing Committee to have a special AWARD for the Best STUDENT Poster, he added.

The Convenor of the 19th UITIC International Footwear Congress emphasized that a unique feature of the 19th UITIC would be the "Exhibition of know-hows, new technologies, new materials/ components" which would be showcased to the International Footwear Fraternity gathered here. He added that the response obtained for this Technology Showcase was also immense and all the 20 Exhibition Stalls had been completely sold out.

Shri Aqeel Ahmed stated that an event of this magnitude would not be possible without the help of Technical Support Partners and added that the Council for Leather Exports was singularly fortunate to have on-board the CTC Groupe, Lyon, France and CSIR-Central leather Research Institute (CSIR-CLRI) as "Technical Support Partners."

He also graciously acknowledged all the SPONSORS for this Event and especially conveyed heartfelt THANKS to the "Government of India" for being a major contributor towards the Organizing of this Congress.

He took the opportunity to THANK all the Speakers and Distinguished Experts who had travelled across the globe to be at this Congress to share their knowledge and experience. In conclusion, Shri Aqeel Ahmed heartily Welcomed the august gathering once again wished that they enjoy their stay and savour the Indian Hospitality and Culture and go back enriched and enlightened.



The distinguished dignitaries Shri CV Shankar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chief Guest, Mr Yves Morin, President, UITIC and Dr Girish Sahni, Director General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Guest of Honour, were then invited to the dais and honoured with Floral Bouquets and Shawls.

The 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress was then inaugurated with the traditional 'Lighting of the Lamp' by the Chief Guest and the distinguished dignitaries.

Shri CV Shankar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu in his Chief Guest Address

warmly welcomed all the delegates from around the globe and expressed his pride in the fact that the UITIC Congress was being held in India and that too in Chennai for the first time in the history of UITIC. He informed the audience that the "New York Times" has recently adjudged Chennai as one of the 50 'Best Cities' in the world and added that Chennai had a very rich Cultural heritage with high levels of Technical adaptation and great Human resource capital and skills. He opined that, therefore, it was appropriate that the Technical Footwear Congress was being held in Chennai. He added that India produced outstanding Leather and Leather Products and used the Design Inputs available globally. He lauded the Leather Industry as being 'Economically and socially sustainable' and complimented them for their proactive measures taken for 'Pollution Control' which matched global standards, he added.

Shri CV Shankar also highlighted that CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CSIR-CLRI) provided excellent Technical Support to the leather Industry and Chennai also was lucky to have the presence of other leading Technical Institutes like the IIT, Madras and he added that with over 500 Engineering Colleges, Tamil Nadu produced about a million Engineering graduates every year which provided the

skilled manpower required for the Industrial progress of the country. He emphasized that continuous R&D and Innovation were required to make better products of value which should benefit both the Customer as well as the Entrepreneur.



The Chief Guest, Shri CV Shankar, expressed his confidence that this Congress would be useful for all the attendees and would forge many new friendships. He recalled the Global Investors Meet (GIM) held last year and underlined that the meet ended with US\$ 38 Billion worth of agreements signed primarily in the areas of Renewable Energy, Building Technology, Automobiles, Auto Components, Food Products and Information Technology among others. He also informed the audience that in the



area of automobiles, the Tamilnadu Government had been able to develop world class R&D Institutes in collaboration with leading auto manufacturers like Mahindra, Ford, Renault and Nissan among others.

Concluding, Shri CV Shankar hoped that this Congress be held in Chennai many more times and wished all the participants a successful Congress. He also urged them to visit the numerous Heritage sites in and around Chennai. He also congratulated the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) for taking up this initiative to bring this Congress to Chennai and complimented Shri M Rafeeqe Ahmed, Chairman of the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress and Chairman of CLE and his Team for their tireless efforts in staging this world class congress.

Mr Yves Morin, President UITIC in his address greeted the delegates and saluted the presence of Shri CV Sankar, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries Department of Tamil Nadu and Dr Girish Sahni, Director General of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi,

He stated that he would like to emphasize two main points, the First being that during the 18th UITIC Congress in China in 2013, he had declared that the footwear industry had a "promising future" and some delegates were surprised and recalled a few figures to explain his position at that time namely that the World shoe production in 2014 exceeded 24 billion pairs, which was the very first time this figure had been reached, with a growth of 8% compared to 2013, and added that most of the industrial sectors that would love to obtain these great results. He said that in addition, the worldwide population being of 7.3 billion people, the average consumption of shoes in 2014 was 3.3 pairs per person and per year, a number again that we had never reached before and if you benchmarked this 3.3 pairs to the 7 pairs of shoes sold per person and per year in the USA, you would understand that there was still scope for improvement vis-à-vis our consumption and this would lead to increased production and hence the optimism.

He underscored that thanks to the increase of the population and thanks to the growth of purchasing power, the footwear industry had on a long term basis, a "promising future" and we need to manage this increase of the worldwide production!

He stated that his second remark was that nobody present knew what would be the **"Future Footwear Factory"** but one thing was sure, "if we do not try to understand what could be the future, if we do not try to illustrate it, if we do not take time to sit down in such a Congress to think about it, we are sure that we will not be prepared to face it and we are sure to miss the changes that will occur", he opined. Stressing this point, he wished that the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress would be

an opportunity to present actionable insights or food for thought, which could help define the contours of the **"Future Footwear Factory"**.



Continuing, Mr Morin added that already the various editions of UITIC Congresses have deliberated on innovation, technology, automatic machines but the emphasis has now moved to other major changes in preparation that would modify the entire supply chain which in turn would affect both the way we design, manufacture and sell shoes. He stated that while the new technologies of information and Corporate Social Responsibility, which were the topics of the prior Congress the accent at this Congress was on distribution using the internet and online selling, generating greater responsiveness, more flexibility and more communication between customers and suppliers in order to attract 'connected' consumers in ever more demanding markets.

He hoped that the broad panel of selected presentations would measure the progress made and urged the attendees to identify the ones they wanted to implement in their plants in the coming years with realistic examples. He emphasized that we must think big and we must look ahead and plan for the future, set up modern factories if we wanted to be an industry capable of attracting skilled workers tomorrow. He added that UITIC was not the only institution to work on this topic as in January 2016, the "World Economic Forum" in Davos, Switzerland, had chosen almost the same theme **"The fourth Industrial revolution: what it means, how to respond"** and added that India was largely involved in this forum in Davos, with a great specific session called **"India and the world"**, which was dedicated to describe how India could be a global resource for innovation, growth and talent!

In conclusion, Mr Morin stated that the factory visits, quality and diversity of speakers and visual presentations in the form of posters, experts from all over the world and networking are the hallmark and originality of the UITIC Congresses and this explained its growing success since 44 years. He proudly informed the gathering that with more than 568 delegates and amongst them about 180 coming from 28 foreign countries, this Congress would probably be the largest one ever organized by UITIC since 1972 and hoped that this would be an opportunity for foreign delegates to discover or rediscover India, its prestigious culture and history and also its footwear industry that ranks second in the world, with a production of 2 billion pairs a year, and fervently wished that this would make them all want to practice **"Make in India"**!

On behalf of UITIC, its Executive Committee and its Scientific Committee, which had both contributed a lot to the success of this Congress, Mr Morin, warmly thanked the Council for Leather Exports (CLE), India, without whom the staging of this grand Congress would not have been possible, and in particular he thanked Shri M Rafeeqe Ahmed, Shri PR Aqeel Ahmed, Shri R Ramesh Kumar and Mrs Sunanda Santappa for their tireless efforts in ensuring the success of the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress. He also thanked Mrs Françoise Nicolas and Mrs Alexandra Faivre of the UITIC Secretariat as also the Sponsors for their generous support. He concluded by requesting the audience to give a Standing Ovation to all who had contributed to the Organization of the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress.



Shri M Rafeeqe Ahmed, Chairman of the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress and Chairman of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE), India in his address deemed it an immense pleasure to welcome the dignitaries and the Congress participants to the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress in Chennai, India. He expressed his sense of gratefulness to the global Footwear

community to supporting this UITIC Congress. Tracing the genesis of this event, he informed that Mr Morin, President, UITIC had approached the Council for Leather Exports, India about a year back requesting it to host the 19th UITIC Congress in India and added that CLE considered it an honour to host this event and agreed to the request forthwith.

He stated that Footwear was an element of elegance, style and a symbol of the stature of the person and the Theme of the Congress "Future Footwear Factory" clearly represented this train of thought. He thanked Shri CV Sankar, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries Department of Tamil Nadu and Dr Girish Sahni, Director General of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi for their presence at the inauguration of the Congress.

He informed the gathering that India was the second largest producer of Footwear in the world with a current Turnover of US\$ 5 Billion and had an ever-growing Domestic Market with the per capita consumption of footwear in India set to grow to 3 pairs by 2020. He also added that the Production of Footwear was set to increase to 4 Billion pairs by 2020 which clearly highlighted the huge Market Potential of India.

Shri Rafeeqe Ahmed thanked all the Industry Members and the various Trade Associations for their support in the hosting of this Congress and expressed his confidence that the deliberations at this Congress would help evolve Concrete Roadmaps for the development of this Industry.



Dr Girish Sahni, Director General of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi in his Guest of Honour address welcomed the dignitaries and the delegates of the Congress. He stated that the excitement and aura of the Congress was palpable and deemed it as a great privilege and honour for him to be present at the Inauguration of such an important Congress especially in an area which was so fundamental to the growth of the Indian economy.

He added that Footwear was an area imbued with great Creativity and Design and he was extremely excited at the large turnout at this Congress which augured well for the future development and growth of this industry, he added. He expressed his optimism that the deliberations at the Congress would throw up a great synergy of mind and action. He also informed the audience that India was at the forefront of Green Technology and CSIR had been pioneering solutions in this area. He also

recalled the efforts of Dr T Ramasami, former Secretary, Department of Science & Technology and former Director of CSIR-CLRI for his path breaking initiatives in establishing Environmental friendly options for Leather Processing which had helped the industry a great deal. He concluded by wishing the Congress great success.



Shri R Ramesh Kumar, IAS, Executive Director, Council for Leather Exports (CLE), India proposed the formal Vote of Thanks. He thanked Shri CV Sankar, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries Department of Tamil Nadu for his presence despite his busy schedule and complimented him for his great commitment to the growth and progress of the Leather Industry. He also thanked the Guest of Honour, Dr Girish Sahni, Director General of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi for gracing the occasion and recalled CSIR-CLRI's partnership with the Indian Leather Industry and thanked him for his encouraging words.

The Executive Director, CLE thanked Shri M Rafeeqe Ahmed, Chairman of the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress and Chairman of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) for being the 'Driving force' of the Indian Leather Sector and opined that the organization of the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress was another feather in his cap. He added that the microplanning of Shri M Rafeeqe Ahmed had helped the Organizing Team plan this event meticulously and his spirit, soul and hard work had gone into ensuring the success of this Congress.

Shri R Ramesh Kumar also profusely thanked Shri PR Aqeel Ahmed, Convenor of the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress for his attention to every detail in the planning and hosting of this Congress which had resulted in such a professional display of the event. He also thanked Mr Yves Morin, President, UITIC for choosing Chennai as the venue for the Congress and expressed his gratefulness to Mr Morin and his team for giving their valuable inputs towards the conduct of this event.

The Executive Director, CLE also thanked the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu for their immense support and thanked them for including the leather Sector as a Focus Sector under the "Make in India" programme of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. He also thanked the Industry Members, the Academics, experts as well as the participants who had graced the occasion. He concluded by expressing his heartfelt Thanks to Shri M Mohammed Hashim, the Doyen of the Indian Leather Industry for his inspiring presence at the event and also took the opportunity to thank the entire team behind the Organization of the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress.

