



Website

Dr Joe Cuning, Chair of Membership and TI Webmaster, hosts and administrates The Textile Institute website, in his free time, in conjunction and on behalf of TIHQ. Dr Cuning is looking at ways of developing the site so that it is more interactive and user-friendly for members, non-members and TI committees.

Sections and Special Interest Groups are being encouraged in 2008 to host and manage their own website. The whole purpose of these sites is to create a location where members and non-members alike can meet and discuss topics of mutual interest. One of the most unique aspects of membership of the TI is the diversity of membership. Not only are we located all over the world, we work in a wide variety of professional settings. Being able to meet and talk is an important aspect of life together. The aim of the interactive site is to put this theory into practice.

Web activity peaked in 2007, with the average visits increasing from 35 000 a month to 50 000. In July alone, there were 69 000 visits and a staggering 107 000 actual visits in June 2007. The average time spent viewing per page has also increased per visit. The Corporate Member pages continue to be the in the top three and the recruitment, events and publication pages and links always prove popular and are in the top 10.

The website is a key source of information and is also a gateway to further networking. A new mailing system, Constant Contact, was introduced in 2007, and this has proved successful, based on member feedback, the most positive feedback from members being that TI email looks professional and the information has improved.

There is a genuine commitment from Board, Council and staff to provide an excellent service for textiles, clothing and footwear worldwide. This we are hoping will lead to a more creative, streamlined and forward-looking Institute. All members have a stake in the development and success of the Institute and in developing the global network. With this in mind, The Textile Institute wishes to continue with open dialogue and welcomes all communication.

Stephanie Dick

Director of Operations and Membership

Professional Qualifications - International Recognition

The Textile Institute Qualifications continue to be the international benchmark for the highest standard of textile professional. It is encouraging to report that there was a noticeable increase in the number of FTI awards made in 2007. As usual, applicants came from a wide spread of disciplines, sectors and countries, reflecting both the diverse nature of the Institute and its broad appeal.

We have undertaken an on-going project to update the lists of accredited courses and encourage educational institutions to continue with the accreditation programme. Accreditation acknowledges the standard of teaching and breadth of knowledge gained within textiles. Students graduating from an accredited course benefit from the prestige of having studied on such a course, and those wanting to further their professional development within the field of textiles will benefit when they apply for Textile Institute qualifications.

We should like to take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to Mr Raymond Marks, Chairman of the Diplomas Committee, and to all the members of that Committee for their hard work and dedication in assessing applications and providing help and guidance to applicants to enable them to reach their full potential.

Publications

Woodhead Publishing Limited sub-contracted the production of *The Journal of the Textile Institute (JTI)* and *Textile Progress* to Taylor and Francis in 2007.

We express thanks to both Professor David Buchanan, Editor-in-Chief of *JTI*, and Professor Xiaoming Tao, Editor of *Textile Progress*, and to their respective editorial boards for their hard work in maintaining the high standard of papers published.

Woodhead also had a successful year publishing textile books in association with the Institute, with a number of new titles coming out in 2007, and many more planned for 2008.

textiles has continued to be very popular with members, and sales to subscribers increase year on year.

Business Information Services

2007 was an extremely busy year for BIS with over 5000 enquiries dealt with on textile-related subjects worldwide. The Department has continued to build its collection, and the Institute now has a vast selection of directories, databases and new journal titles added to the collection.

The Department welcomed a dedicated administrator, Jemma Saunders, who has spent most of 2007 concentrating on Information Services and Qualifications.

We continue to monitor independently the Carpet Foundation Quality Mark and we look forward to our continuing contribution.

The Lord Barnby Foundation Trust has again supported the Lord Barnby Foundation Library and the donation, as always, was gratefully received.

Rebecca Unsworth

Director of Professional Affairs

Events

2007 has been another successful year for Textile Institute Events. We have seen events managed by Special Interest Groups, Sections and Corporate Members, as well as other related professional bodies through out the co-badging scheme launched this year.

The 85th World Conference was held in March in Sri Lanka and had around 200 delegates attending and over 300 attending the Inaugural Ceremony. Many current issues were discussed by delegates from all areas of textiles, footwear and clothing, and from all corners of the globe. We would like to thank our colleagues in Sri Lanka, chaired by Professor Lakdas Fernando, for their hard work in making the conference such a success.

We have been delighted to attend and exhibit at a number of events throughout the year, including the first conference of the RITE Group, MedTex, organised by the University of Bolton, and the North West Composites Conference organised by North West Textile Network.

Thank are due to all of you who have organised events during 2007 for the benefit of all our members.

We always welcome suggestions for improvements to our programme of events and would be delighted to hear from you. Equally, if you are organising or know of an event that is of interest to our members, please let us know.

Sarah Tinsley

Events Consultant

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The Textile Institute Annual Report 2008





Chairman's Report



This is my second Chairman's Report, the final one before I hand over to the new Chairman, Professor Subhash Anand, in May. I wish him well as he takes up this role, and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on his receiving an MBE in the recent New Year's Honours List.

I would like to express the thanks of The Board to the staff of The Textile Institute for their hard work and commitment during the year. Following the retirement of Director of Professional Affairs, Helen Yeowart, we have completely restructured the office in Manchester, which is now headed by Stephanie Dick.

In May we welcomed Professor Xiaoming Tao as our new World President. She has taken over this role from Gerry Mauretti, whom we wish to thank for his involvement and enthusiasm over his two-year tenure.

The Institute has maintained the careful management of its financial affairs, with the overall situation continuing to stabilise and show the Institute in a positive position. We had an operating surplus for the first time in many years and were also able to table our accounts on time. Although the Institute benefited from some exceptional items, the balance sheet looks stronger.

One point to mention particularly is that the Institute's Benevolent Society (BENSOC), which was not cost-effective to run in isolation, was brought into the main body of The Textile Institute. However, to ensure the complete integrity of the function and investments of the BENSOC, several safeguards have been put in place.

During the year we maintained a high profile in a number of ways. In March we held our 85th Textile Institute World Conference in Sri Lanka. The event was sponsored by Marks and Spencer and they took this opportunity to announce to the industry their Plan "A" initiative, delivered by Mr Krishan Hundal, Head of Textile Technology.

These World Conferences provide the opportunity for delegates to hear papers on a wide variety of topics that illustrate the latest technologies, systems and issues that affect our industry. Essentially though they are meeting places of familiar contacts, and opportunities to create new ones.

We are planning to hold the 86th World Conference in Hong Kong during November 2008. Our World President, Professor Xiaoming Tao, is taking a leading role in the organising of this important event, which illustrates the internationalisation of the Institute, and presents an opportunity for the Institute to recruit both individual and corporate members.

Two other specific events worthy of mention, both held in the United Kingdom, were, firstly, the Treasury Event that allows young graduates the opportunity to showcase their work to an audience drawn from manufacturers and retailers. This event continues to grow and is a unique opportunity for graduates to advance their careers.

Secondly, the Parliamentary lunch, held in November, grows in scale and importance. 115 guests attended, by far the largest number in the 10 years of it being held. The Lord Haskel, a past World President, hosts the event, for which we are very grateful. We took the opportunity to present Honorary Awards and Companionships of the Institute to a number of individuals, as well as certificates to recently awarded Fellows. The Lord David Triesman was the guest speaker. He is involved with the newly created Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and gave an insight into how this department works to ensure

that new ideas and innovations are delivered into commercial reality by bringing all stakeholders together.

Both of these events took place through the activity and enthusiasm of our London Office and membership.

The four elements of our publications have progressed positively through the year.

textiles continues to flourish and become a magazine that is much sought after and read. The professional publications *The Journal of The Textile Institute* and *Textile Progress*, edited respectively by David Buchanan and Xiaoming Tao, have continued to confirm their reputation as publications of the highest order.

Our website continues to be developed under the guidance and control of Joe Cunning. This vitally important medium communicates with members and non-members alike, and is so important to the way that the Institute is perceived.

The website is extremely popular and is being developed further to allow easy access to information about the Institute and its members, as well as giving the opportunity for networking with individuals around the world.

The cornerstone of The Textile Institute's activities is the awarding of Professional Qualifications, where its Professional Chartered Standards and other qualifications are recognised internationally for their high standards and integrity. These qualifications, combined with an increase in the number of accredited courses confirmed on universities and institutions around the world, mark the high level and unique profile that our Institute has as a professional body.

Finally I should like to remind us all that although we have continued to stabilise the financial situation of the Institute over the last year, we continue to see a decline in our membership, which, although levelling out, needs to be reversed. There will be continuing initiatives to increase membership, especially in the newer areas where textile are used, and also from the new geographical centres of education and manufacturing. The profile that we have through our events, publications and web site gives us a platform to show our relevance in 2008, and we should use this to attract future corporate and individual members.

Professor Mervyn Davies

Chairman of Council

World President's Message



During the first year in office, Professor Xiaoming Tao, World President of The Textile Institute, has had a busy time in academic activities and international networking of education and research.

In May, she was invited to give a seminar on 'Structures and Properties of Electrically Interactive Fabrics' at the 3rd Smart Fabrics Conference, in Washington DC, USA. She visited the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, then attended the annual review exercise of the National Key Laboratory on Advanced Textile Materials at Zhejiang University of Science and Technology, China. In September, Professor Tao delivered a plenary presentation on the current research developments in textiles at the 6th International Conference on Silk and the 2nd International Forum on Textiles at Soochow University, China. Afterwards, Professor Tao visited Cornell University and the University of California, Davis, during her conference trip to the Fiber Society 2007 Fall Conference.

Professor Tao was invited to attend and give a presentation at the Chinese National Review Meeting of Postgraduate Education in Textiles and Light Industries, held in Donghua University and Jiangnan University, China. She delivered a plenary talk on interactive textiles at the International Conference on Intelligent Textiles and Mass Customisation 2007 at Ecole Superieure des Industries du Textile et de l'Habillement, Morocco. In December, Professor Tao gave an invited talk on fibre sensors at the International Conference on Nanotechnology in Shanghai, China, and a talk on nanofiber sensors at the 3rd International Conference on Advanced Fibrous Materials at Ueda, Shinshu University, Japan. Professor Tao also visited Xian University of Science and Technology, where she received a 1st class award for Textile Science and Research by the Sang Ma Foundation, and an Advisory Professorship from the University, in December 2007. In January 2008 Professor Tao visited Soochow Institute of Nano-technology and Nano-bionics, China Academy of Science, China.

Professor Xiaoming Tao
World President



Annual Report 2008

Operations

2007 has been a year of change. In recent years the Institute has undertaken a programme of change, none more so than in 2007. The TI welcomed new members of staff but also said farewell to Helen Yeowart.

The Institute coped with reduced administration and staffing difficulties for the second half of 2007, caused by the long-term sickness of a key member of staff in Membership Administration, who we are delighted to welcome back in 2008. A special thanks is due to all staff who have contributed their time and energy, and to members who were both patient and supportive during this difficult period in 2007.

During the year, a full programme of events was held in the regions. In Sri Lanka, the 85th Textile Institute World Conference presented an excellent range of papers and provided a platform for the exchange of information between delegates. I was honoured to be part of The Textile Institute delegation.

I hope to see many of those I met and their colleagues and friends at the 86th TIWC 2008 in Hong Kong.

Membership

The London Office continues to be a hub of activity, networking and events.

Sections help the Institute to function and provide vital local information that would be otherwise unobtainable. The Institute has had visits from many Section representatives, including India, Israel, Pakistan, USA, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka.

It is necessary that The Textile Institute should continue to provide a full range of services, and all staff and committees are working hard to achieve this objective for 2008 and beyond.

There are new benefits and services offered to members for 2008. The Student Showcase illustrates students' design, research and project work, and, more importantly, lets them express themselves through this showcase. Members, corporate organisations and potential

employers can view information in the members-only part of The Textile Institute website.

The Textile Institute has members in all textile, clothing and footwear sectors and regions worldwide. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) provide a focus for members in different sectors, and many of them organise conferences and events in their subject area.

Corporate members in 2008 will be able to benefit from **FREE** Quick Enquiries from the Business Information Service, co-badging and promotion of events through various media, **FREE** profiles in textiles, the membership magazine, **FREE** advertising of employment opportunities via the TI website, and digitised copies of the *Journal of The Textile Institute* and *Textile Progress* through Taylor and Francis Publishers.

A Corporate Survey was undertaken in 2007 to establish the most popular and most used corporate benefits, and to understand how the Institute is perceived by its corporate members. The results will be published in 2008 when the data have been compiled.

A membership survey is planned for 2008, and the Institute is hoping that all members will take part. This information will be used to update and develop services for 2009 and beyond, looking towards the 2010 centenary.

Members have, in the past few years, requested to be contacted by email before their membership is due for renewal. From 2008, members will be contacted both electronically and by post with a note to renew their membership of the Institute.

Publishing dates will be listed on the TI website so that members are aware of when they will receive their next issue of *textiles*. *textiles* 'returns to sender' have decreased in 2007 and the number of members not receiving the magazine has also fallen.

textiles, the membership magazine, has seen numerous membership campaigns this year, including the "Member get Member" campaign and the £10 membership introductory joining fee for students and graduates. Both these schemes will continue throughout 2008 and beyond. The Institute needs its members, friends and associates to get behind these campaigns to make them a success.

