

6th Hungarian Textile Cleaning Conference

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As regularly in the last few years the Hungarian Textile Cleaning Association held its already 6th conference at Lake Balaton, this time in Zamárdi with a motto “About our hygienic culture – “Change of perception and modern methods in the spirit of innovation”. The event held on 5-7 November 2013 was mainly sponsored by BEZEMA AG and KANNEGIESSER companies. The Textile Industry Technical and Scientific Association also participated in the organization. Apart from the main sponsors the following companies also gave their support: Alvara Cleaning Kft, Mova Kft, Weidel&Németh Kft and Zura Kft.

On the conference 16 national and international companies introduced themselves in the form of small exhibitions and at information desks on which materials and methods recommended to the textile cleaning industry were presented: Albert Kft, Assist-Trend Kft, Christeyns Higiénia Kft, Delta Clean Kft, DOZIT Plus s.r.o., Logo-Tex Kft, Mova Kft, Naturtex Kft, Procter&Gamble Professional / Alvara Cleaning Kft, Penta Clean Kft, Rokatex Kft.

On the second day of the excellent atmosphere event attracting numerous participants really interesting presentations could have been listened to.

The conference of the Textile Cleaning Association continued in two sections after the plenary presentations. In one of the sections the presenters continued to discuss certain detailed questions of textile cleaning while the topic of the other section was the managers' forum in the organisation of Textile Industry Technical and Scientific Association (TMTE) on which the Creative Innovator Cluster was introduced. Then the participants of the sections could listen to presentations on the actual questions of human resource and training, organized innovation and inspiring managing, generation change and questions of aftergrowth, adult training and practical questions of vocational training. Professional partner of TMTE Manager's Club is Hungarian Light Industry Association.

The conference gave opportunity to the companies working in the textile cleaning industry to present their products during the exhibition and consult with the participants. This opportunity was used by many. In the followings we report shortly about the presentations kept in the theme of textile cleaning.

The presentation series of the conference was opened by Mrs Valéria Király's the Textile Cleaning Association director's welcoming words.

How can the adult training support the effective operation of the organization of companies? – the first presentation of the conference was dealing with this topic presented

by Csilla Magyar, leading senior executive of Sämling Solution Consulting Kt. As she explained her company deals with structure improvement, consulting, skills development, talent management, etc. Success depends on co-effect of people and method – she emphasized. The basic of success is structural excellence, which gives durable peak power, highly committed customers, winning organizational structure and superior level of service. All this is not easy to achieve and it requires excellent leaders and colleagues. Project management service offered by the company can help in this to which the most various educational and training activities are belong to. As far as people, the other component of success is concerned, there is high importance of the generational differences which means the relation to informatics apart from general mentality of different ages. Leader's task is to choose the possibly best professionals and talent management.

photo 1: Presentations were listened to by large audience.

STeP - Certification of conditions of sustainable improvement in new perception was the title of dr Pál Pataki's, CEO of INNOVATEX Zrt. and chairman of Textile Industry Technical and Scientific Association (TMTE) presentation. In his prologue he was talking in general about the frequent lack of treatment symbols and emphasized the importance of textile cleaning professionals' competence in doing their job in good quality apart from these deficiencies. Afterwards he introduced the activities of INNOVATEX Zrt. mentioning that the company is member of Hohenstein Institute Group having international network which is operating textile cleaning industry quality system under the name of RAL. Then he proceeded on Öko-Tex qualifying system short introduction mainly the new certification called STeP introduced in June 2013 which means the improvement of certificating previously called Öko-Tex Standard 1000. STeP is the abbreviation of Sustainable Textile Production which was introduced by the international Öko-Tex organization. This independent certification system is recommended to the textile and clothing manufacturing chain participants, brands, retail companies and manufacturers who would like to express to the public their efforts to create the conditions of more sustainable production in a transparent and credible way.

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Hygiene is the focus – Possibilities and solutions was title and topic of the two presenters of CHT/BEZEMA company Mathis Österle and Attila Élő. The cooperation of German CHT founded in 1953 and Swiss Bezema founded by CHT in 1971 is long lasting and the two companies operate as CHT/Bezema group. Presently 22 companies belong to the group and they are present on the market of more than 100 countries with their textile dye, the detergents and additives used in textile cleaning industry and chemicals used in construction and paper industries as well as pet food preparations. The centre topic of the presentation kept on the conference was the introducing of hygienic products used in laundries. The concept of hygiene can be described as the teaching of avoiding illnesses and keeping

health, for which suitable tools are needed but for which the proper clothing, avoiding of risky countries, hand and mouth protection as well as disinfection are closely belong to.

The relevant authorities check regularly the keeping of the hygienic regulations. ATP test was developed for this. ATP (adenozinetriphosphate) is an energy-rich compound which can be found (only!) in living cells. Its presence can be shown with some insects' enzyme reaction like firebug's luciferase associated by lighting effect. This light output is measurable and its strength is proportional with the actual biological energy of the sample. With this relatively easily enforceable method they can determine whether there are and in what quantity remaining living organisations, pathogens in the washing machines drums or on the washed textiles. Presence of ATP and extent of concentration refers to the pollutions and the pollution degree caused by organic compounds where there is a high possibility of microbial pollution.

CHT/Bezema manufactures and offers different products for washing and disinfecting at the same time in different temperatures. Presenters introduced these products and their effects explaining the efficiency and cost friendliness from hygienic point of view during and after washing. They also emphasized the importance of making and the documentation of a hygienic plan especially in case of hospital laundries as well as the hygienic status of the plant is always the operator's responsibility.

Where the world is turning and in this the Hungarian economics? - to this not easy question dr Péter Ákos Bod gave answer who is the Head of Department teacher of Economic Policy Department in Corvinus University. European prosperity improves and although Hungary does not belong to the "northern" part of Europe where this tendency is mainly prevailing, it does not belong to the "southern" either where there are several economical problems – he started his presentation with.

As before each election year pessimism is decreasing in our country in 2013 in individuals and enterprises as well. GKI-Erste prosperity index and its components (business and consumers' trust index) are showing increasing tendency in 2013 but they are still far away from the level of optimism. In Budapest the economic situation is slightly better but there are big differences between the Eastern and Western regions of the country, Eastern regions being worse than Western regions. The purchasing power is weak, GDP volume is highly vacillating: economic growth could not go above 2% versus previous year since 2007. Hungarian output is slightly increasing, after 2012 decreasing now it is in at least positive range. From our neighbouring countries GDP is strongly increasing in Slovakia and Poland, however in Hungary, Romania or in Slovenia it is stable or slightly increasing meaning at present we do not have catch-up power.

Our industrial production shows waving image in which our national sales is not increasing. HUF versus EUR rate also showed strong fluctuation in recent times, at present it is stable. There was a price decrease worldwide on raw material market which is now stable as well.

Inflation is slightly decreasing at present. The so called core inflation (inflation indicator which is cleared from quickly changing economic effected products pricing level like petrol, energy and state-regulated products) within inflation was between 1-6% in the recent years, which is now 3%. The directly perceptible consumer price index was 3-9% between 2007 and 2012. In 2013 it was decreasing and at present it is around 1% - however due to unique factors. Retail sales is stable for 6 years. It was showing a lot higher level between 2000 and 2006 but its price was our significant indebtedness. External trade balance moved into surplus after the crisis.

There are a lot of debates regarding employment. However the employment statistics is showing increasing data since 2010 after the previous strong decrease, they count public employment and the increasing number of the Hungarians working abroad.

Research institutes projections show slight general improvement. External conditions although slowly but improving: Central and Northern Europe can offer long-term growth market, global abundance of money and with this the interest rates seem to be stable. There is no problem with EUR as a currency asset – there is problem with the economics of some of the countries in the EUR zone. European consolidation is slowly but going, “Opening to East” program of Hungary showed little result so far.

Our political relations are unfortunately characterized by divisions. Year 2014 is elections year: this is not always good for economics but can have certain benefits from strengthening of more optimistic atmosphere. In summary the presenter overviewed the most important social-political processes in his opinion:

- *economic migration* – there is migration from Hungary as well, the Western pensioners' establishment in our country continues: there are tasks to be done (income repatriation, presence of mobile middle classes, needs for health-care and wellness services, new pension-strategies)
- *ownership activity of the state has increased* – however will they handle it with tax base due to its once and continuous budget request?
- *redesign of capital flow in the world* – a lot depends on the local receptivity, the position in networks and the recognizing of new norm order.

Changes in NTR (OKJ) textile cleaning training, TMTE training offer was the next topic presented by Gabriella Ecker Executive Secretary General of Textile industry Technical and Scientific Association (TMTE). At the beginning of her presentation she described the activities of the association, including the NTR adult training program organized by TMTE. 98 persons took part in the textile cleaning training programs between 2007 and 2013 that were successful and gladly popular among the professionals. Afterwards she spoke about the main changes of NTR trainings as of 2014 which are the followings:

- there will be several professional trainings but unfortunately the textile related ones will decrease.
- the trainings will be more similar to the school system trainings than before, greater number of hours in education will take place
- textile dyeing and textile cleaning professions have been merged and the number of compulsory training hours have been determined in minimally 640, maximally 960
- four types of module closing exams will end the training courses.

The last textile cleaner training in the old system started in August 2013, 18 persons participating in it.

The association is ready for the new system and starts two new training courses:

- Technical requirements, selection criteria, marketing and application rules of individual protective equipment (11 February 2014 – 11 March 2014, 5 days training)
- Prevention of quality debates and other defective performances and possibility of their settling amicably in the textile, clothing and textile cleaning industry (planned start is 1st quarter of 2014)

Both topics are important for textile cleaning industry as well.

Modernize your laundry with Kannegiesser equipment – was the title of the presentation of Kannegiesser company represented by Otto Burger and József Gyurinka who is the managing director of Polizo Kft representing the company in Hungary. As an introduction they emphasized that there is a big competition in the textile cleaning industry as well since although the costs (mainly energy and salary) are continuously increasing, the entrepreneurship prices are practically stable. Therefore the margin is decreasing however there is a need for continuous development in this area as well.

There is no general solution for modernizing since the possibilities are different in each country and each company. However it is very important that the “building blocks”, ie. different machines and equipment belonging to the textile cleaning technology chain should always have the harmony. The energy saving limited to certain machines only is not enough. Replacement of an old machine with a new one is not enough, it is necessary to modernize the energy, logistics and data management as well. The presentation was describing its details.

As far as energy management is concerned it is very important to control the energy consumption (steam, gas, water and detergents) and emission (eg. CO2 emission) and keeping of the strict regulations. The presenters showed examples of different Kannegiesser machines for different purposes to be organized in a recommended system keeping in mind the energy saving (water consumption, heat recovery and heat exchanging systems). In the area of logistics the main target is to optimize the material flow, needing less manual work,

ensuring better machine utilization, process time must be decreased to the shortest one and optimal solution must be found to deliver the washed ready made goods to the customer. Based on the experience of the company with optimal logistic solutions more saving can be achieved than decreasing of energy and water consumption. In data management the most important is to keep the goods and the relevant data together. Several solutions are known for this out of which the most frequently used one is bar code system.

In the frame of data management Kannegiesser is having a so called teleservice which continuously analysing the mechanical and process data, optimizes these parameters, gives support in maintenance and management of the laundry as well as continuous online connection between the laundry and Kannegiesser company.

Monorail system developed by Kannegiesser company is for serving material transport within the laundry.

Effective company management – accounting practices ensuring success. Zsolt Ruszin, chairman of FairConto Zrt. allayed some false belief regarding billing in his presentation and described the main rules. He emphasized that the entrepreneurs are not completely unprotected against National Tax and Customs Office (NAV) since NAV can be successfully actionable in VAT reclaiming cases. Based on the so far experiences in 50% of the national tax examinations it can be achieved that the planned statement of NAV would not be put in the examination closing decree, while at first or second degree in almost 90% of the cases the level of statements is decreasing, furthermore there is at least 50% chance for winning of the cases regarding VAT reclaiming. Afterwards in his presentation he described the small taxpayers itemized tax (KATA) and the relevant regulations as well as the tax rate explaining the relationship between KATA and EVA (ie. taxing methods) also the relationship of companies activities and employment (avoiding of dummy employment contracts). Finally he summarized the expected changes in 2014.

Outlook on European textile cleaning industry was the name of the block summarizing the German, Czech and Slovak textile cleaning industry situation.

Lothar Kühne, chairman of Liga Oeconomica was dealing with the German textile cleaning industry in his presentation. This sector reached 2,7 billion EUR turnover in 2011 and can reach 3,2 billion in 2013. This sector employs 21 500 people. The main factors among the costs are labour and increasing energy costs. Total energy consumption in the total sector is 5,5 kW/kg washed textile in average while at the really effective companies it is only 2 kW/kg. Data show that primarily the work wear washing comes into view more and more due to the increasingly strict regulations. There is significant improvement in the area of hotel and restaurant textiles cleaning as well where there is great emphasis on hygiene as well. Development goals are the followings: targeted process automation, using laundry logistic software, robots in goods forwarding, heat recovery systems and radio frequency identification (RFID).

Jan Christof, director of Czech Textile Cleaning Association spoke about the activities of their association at the beginning of his presentation. There are 75 normal members and 19 'special' companies in the organization. The association publishes its magazine 6 times a year and prepares other information materials as well. It organizes international conferences (InterClean), takes part in professional education and the legislation affecting the area. Cooperates with the organizations of laundries and dry cleaners, textile testing institutions and other professional organizations. The Presenter was talking about the Czech textile cleaning industry afterwards. They are washing in total 250 000 tonnes of textiles yearly in 1150 laundries of the country. In the Czech textile cleaning industry there are strong efforts for using modern equipment, concentration of the scattered laundries in less but bigger plants, increasing of the amount of textile renting and decreasing of the prices due to the increasing competition. The Presenter spoke about the activities of the Association afterwards.

Marek Uhrin, director of Slovak Textile Cleaning Association described the situation of the Slovak textile cleaning industry. He also started his presentation with the introduction of the activities of their laundry and dry cleaning association. The Association is working closely with its partner confederates. Publishing magazine, operating a website, issuing certificates are the main activities of the association. There are 200 regular laundries operating on the Slovak textile cleaning industry (170 are small among them). Apart from this there are 300 laundries in different social institutions (eg. nursing homes) and 250 in sport and other institutions. From the 120 hospitals and sanatorium only 20 of them have their own laundry. Introduction of the rent washing is in process at these places. Some of the laundries are foreign-owned and have very modern equipment. There is a tendency to concentrate the several small laundries in Slovakia as well. Present laundry capacity exceeds the need of the country therefore they work for abroad as well (mainly Czech and Polish markets). Increasing energy prices and long payment time cause problem in Slovakia too, as well as forced decreasing corporate prices.

Progress and hygiene in European textile cleaning – Peter Wennekes, leader of International Committee of Textile Care (CINET) after the short introduction of the institution pointed out the importance of hygiene in the area of health-care and catering, an important topic that CINET is dealing with. Due to the extensive tourism the spread of pathogens cannot be prevented and as a defence the agents against them are becoming more and more resistant due to their mutation. However average lifetime increases in developed countries and elderly people are more susceptible to infections which strain the health-care even more. Spreading of the infections therefore must be prevented in any case and hygiene has primary role in it.

Optical cleanliness (ie. if there is no visible stain on the textile) is not equal to *hygienic cleanliness*. There are a number of hygiene concept definitions apart from which the presenter pointed out the one from the Irish health-service meaning "hygiene is a practice

which keeps the human and the environment clean, protects them from spreading of infections and which recognizes, evaluates and keeps under control the dangers harmful to health". Meaning hygiene of the hand, food supply, laundry services, waste management and their machines and equipment.

Hygienic requirements are controlled by different regulations and limits country by country. European standard EN 14065 describes the ensure of microbiological quality relevant to textiles washed in laundries in certain sectors where it is needed. (for example health-care and catering). The standard deals with the Risk Analysis and Biocontamination Control (RABC) with a purpose to continuously ensure the microbiological quality of washed textiles. Hygiene is important not only for the laundries but the dry-cleaning plants as well however the standards and regulations do not cover this area. CETEX made a study on it.

Controlling of health-care textiles washing technology was the title of Mrs Edit Bagoly Csukás's presentation, quality control leader of Laboratórium Kft., was dealing with the topic from hygienic point of view. As an introduction she described the legislative background of disinfection process. Necessary disinfection in the environment of infectious patient is described in Law on Health-care (year 1997, law CLIV, 72 §), while about the procedure of disinfection NM decree (18/1998 VI.3. § 35, point 4) is relevant. Professional guidelines of disinfection and applicable disinfectants and procedures are described in the periodically issued and decree forced "Indicative of the disinfection and disinfectants" publication by National Centre of Epidemiology (OEK).

Hygiene has high importance in preventing the spread of infections. All textiles used in patient care must be disinfected meaning antiseptic washing must be used. Textiles used for operations and aseptic interventions must be sterilized with pressurized saturated steam (ie. above 100 °C) after disinfection washing. Direct contact and skin dandruff spreading in air play role in infections after operations therefore special care must be taken in proper quality of operating room clothing.

Purpose of disinfecting washing is to destroy the microbial contaminations apart from the dirt on the textiles. During developing of this technology the relevant European standard (MSZEN 13795:2011 +A1:2013) must be taken into consideration, at the laundry design the hygiene guidelines of the European Union must be considered. *Indicative on disinfection, manual of applicable disinfecting procedures in epidemiological practice and health-care services* (Budapest, 2012) issued by National Centre of Epidemiology Disinfection Department was made based on these. Processing of the laboratory samples and the evaluation of the results are summarized in *Clinical and epidemiological bacteriological manual* (Publisher Melánia, Budapest 1999).

Disinfecting washing can be done by thermo-disinfection (meaning high temperature treatment) or chemo-thermo-disinfection treatment (based on using heat and detergents at the same time). Effectiveness of the process has to be controlled by biological sample (with

culturing bacterial strains) and clean textile examination. Further part of the presentation described the details of washing machines by biological preparation. Adequacy of the washing machine and disinfection washing can be considered perfect if none of the test bacteria cultured have thrived back on the washed and disinfected textile and if only even one have thrived back the result is not acceptable. Examination has to be done every time a new, renewed or just repaired washing machine is deployed (latter in case if the place of the reparation could have modified the washing disinfection effect), new or modified technology is being used but even the continuously used washing machines have to be examined every 6 months.

Clean and disinfected textiles control also have to be done. The procedure for this is the so called "contact sheet" procedure. Textile can be considered perfect if the so called "bloody agar" (eosin methylene blue) or HYCON Contact Slides (Biotest) medium sheet surface the average amount of bacterial colonies is under 100 and disease causing bacteria has not cultured.

Hygiene from the perspective of the laundries – was the title of dr Tibor Deme's, managing director of Dunántúli Mosodák Kft. presentation. "What is this whole circus for? " was the funny subtitle of the presentation referring to the serious presentation underlining the importance of prevention against infections. Purpose of hygiene is to keep the ubiquitous viruses and bacteria away from the human body and certain means (medical and health-care devices, medicines, microelectronic devices, restaurant textiles, dishes, food preparation equipment, etc.) Application of regulations ensuring hygiene must be planned and kept strictly.

Substantially laundry can remove only visible impurities. Invisible ones, like bacteria and viruses cannot be removed by simple washing, a different method has to be used, that is disinfection.

Above all care must be taken avoiding textile already cleaned once to be contaminated again in the laundry. The laundry premise must be designed and organized in a way that the dirty and washed linen could be separated from each other and the people working at the two working premises could not get in contact with the textile stored in the other working area. It is recommended to develop the premises so there is slightly higher pressure in the clean room area than the one with dirty textiles in order to avoid contaminated air flowing towards the clean linen.

Ironing (calendering) has good disinfection effect since pathogens cannot stand the temperature around 150 °C of calendar rolls. Sterilizing is done in the hospitals, not in the laundries.

Great care must be taken while packaging of clean textiles in order to protect the linen during delivering and storing from recontamination. However sterile textile needs special

aseptic foil packaging that has to be closed hermetically (with welding) versus simple polyethylene foil. In the meantime this is a rather expensive solution.

Hygiene 81% - answer to this interesting title was answered by Mr Szilveszter Urbán, managing director of Salesianer Miettex Magyarország Kft. in his presentation where he explained that among the guests of a hotel taking part in a public opinion research 81% of them replied that the most important criteria in the hotel textile washing is hygiene and their related experiences influence their hotel choice as well.

In the laundries of Salesianer Miettex they keep in mind 5 main requirements during the work for hotels:

- cleanness and hygiene
- appearance of textile
- complete number of textiles
- on-time delivery and
- delivery reliability

In the disinfection washing chemistry has the main role however the water temperature, time and mechanical effect also has high influence. In their opinion washing can be considered disinfection washing if it is done at 70 °C. Washing efficiency is influenced by the followings:

- water and energy effectiveness
- water recycling
- using of new and not really effective chemicals
- milligram punctuality of dosing of detergents
- excellent operation of dosing devices
- changes of controllers
- carefulness of work
- proper control

Market does not really care about the ensuring of the keeping of hygienic regulations in the laundries, they suppose it is already done therefore laundries have to work to meet this anticipated trust.

6th conference of the textile cleaning industry with its high level content and organization reflected the whole year professional work of the Textile Cleaning Association as well with a lot of useful knowledge enlarging the participants' skills. Ensuring consultation possibilities in civilized conditions as well as professional consultations, trainings, developing and building relationships showed the cooperation within this sector. More than 130 participants took part in this grandiose event representing 70 textile cleaning and supplier companies.

The 3 day conference was a social event as well. Apart from the strict professional programs (presentations, exhibitions, laundry visit) the two dinners with great atmosphere gave possibility for the present national and international professionals to develop their relationships which may help the future cooperation.

This conference would be held in Autumn 2014 as well for which all textile cleaning professionals are invited who would like to provide their customers with high quality services. This event can give a big support for this.

Emphasizing all these were Mrs Valéria Király's closing words as the director and Mr György Zura's, member of Consultative Committee of the Textile Cleaning Association.

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As mentioned in the prologue, the **managerial forum** organized by the *Textile industry Technical and Scientific Association* (TMTE) conducted in parallel with presentations on textile cleaning where representatives of the association and the managers of the companies in cooperation with it discussed the most important tasks of TMTE which has a purpose to ensure a more effective operation of the association. Very important recommendations were done during the event that would be used during the next year work plan.

(utolsó oldal fotói)

Fontos beszélgetések kellemes körülmények között – Important conversations in pleasant conditions

Részlet a kiállításról – momentum of the exhibition

Zura György, Király Valéria, dr Pataki Pál – Mr György Zura, Mrs Valéria Király, dr Pál Pataki

Ülésezik a textiles szekció – Textile section meeting