



# LRC News Leather

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A monthly newsletter published by Leather sector Research & development Centre (LRC)

## IN FOCUS

LRC training on "Leather sector Research Methodologies" highlights challenges and opportunities.

During the last month the LRC team conducted some activities like, organized an intensive training on Leather sector Research Methodologies, sensitization the information about LRC to (Stakeholders, Institute, GoB), LRC news letter, etc. The first and 2nd emission of LRC News Leather (hard & soft copy) reached more than 3000 readers in national & International community. All of them reply to us with thanks, suggestions and recommendation. But one thing we want to clear about LRC News Leather that is, we would include the recent activities of LRC and some local and international news, articles, blogs and fashions. We are trying to shorten time of our active community to entry globalization. In this issue we include Business news, Fourth Tannery of the Year programme: Asia excluding China shortlist named, Nike & Puma in Talks to Develop Bio-Leather Shoes from Chicken Feathers, What new leather chemicals do we need?, latest fashions in Leather product and footwear, Recent Leather Fair information etc.

## Recent Leather Fair (April-May 2014)

- APLF – Materials, Manufacturing & Technology (MM&T), Hong Kong, 31 Mar-4 April 2014
- China (Dongguan) International Footwear Machinery & Material Industry Fair, Guangdong, 1-4 April 2014
- NEW YORK SHOE EXPO 2014, New York, US 05 April 2014 - 07 April 2014
- Society of Leather Technologists and Chemists (SLTC) Annual Conference, Northampton, UK, 26 April 2014
- China Shoes-China Leather-China Bags, Guangzhou, 1-3 May 2014
- Indoleather & Footwear Expo, Indonesia, 7 May-10 May 2014
- Shanghai International Bags, Leather and Shoes Exhibition, Shanghai, 16-18 May 2014
- ANPIC 2014, Mexico, 21 May 2014 - 23 May 2014
- POLSHOES 2014, Poznan-May 13, Warsaw-May 15, Krakow-May 21-22, 2014
- International Exhibition on Shoes & Leather Industry, Guangzhou, China, 27-29 May 2014

## LRC Training on Leather Sector Research Methodologies

Mr. Akteruzzaman, Program Coordinator, LRC urged upon the students of ILET (Institute of Leather Engineering and Technology) and executives of leather sector organizations to have proper knowledge of Research Methodologies to achieve innovative ideas for leather sector development in the present day of competitive global market. He made the plea at the opening Ceremony of the training course on an intensive training on Leather Sector Research Methodologies held at Wings EL Centre, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, on 7 March, 2014 from 3:00 pm. He stressed that Research is the most important factor to address for leather sector development in any sort of organization as Research has become a function of conscience keeper.

As a part of its training and selection procedure of Research Officer, LRC (Leather sector Research & development Centre) organized this training program, said Mr. Mohammad Ahsanur Rashid, Program Manager, LRC. He also expressed LRC mission and vision, objectives, ongoing activities and finally he said that you can get a lot of useful information and knowledge from this training course which has expanded your mental horizon.

The aim of the training is to give a clear concept about research methodologies, research proposal writing and increase the capacity the participants.

Twenty two (22) participants from different prominent Leather sector organizations as well as fresh graduate individuals from ILET participated in the training program.

For leather sector development research is important tools for our economic growth, said Mrs. Dilara Zahid, Lecturer, IDMV, University of Dhaka who act as resource person of this training program. The contents of her course were, research and its characteristics, research design, stages in the research process, sources of data, dimension of research, types of research, scientific method (qualitative, quantitative), data collection technique, surveys, data types and statistical test, population and sample, qualitative data collection methods, observation, case study, focus group discussion, observation methods, questionnaire or schedule, ethics of research and research proposal writing steps.

At the close Mr. Mohammad Ahsanur Rashid, Program Manager, LRC thanked the participants for their positive comments and stressed that their learning will be effective only if they apply their acquired knowledge in the leather sector research & development activities.



LRC Program Coordinator, Akteruzzaman (left), Program Manager, Mohammad Ahsanur Rashid (centre) and Dilara Zahid (right), Lecturer, IDMV, University of Dhaka, seen in the stage on training program on Leather Sector Research Methodologies held at Wings EL Centre, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209 on 7 March, 2014.



## Export Performance (July13-January 2014)

	Leather	Footwear	Leather Products
Export Performance	289.25	338.85	123.09
% Change of previous (July12- Jan. 13)	45.38	33.21	46.61

(Source-Export promotion Bureau, Million USD)

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your products  
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LRC News leather is a publication of Leather sector Research & development Centre (LRC) where we inform recent activities of LRC, latest news, design, research and business related local & international information of Leather, Footwear & Leather goods sector. This letter is edited by Md. Akteruzzaman, Program Coordinator & Md. Ahsanur Rashid, Program Manager from LRC Office-67/2 Zigatola, 1st Building (2nd Floor), Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh, Tel. :+880-2-9631398

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## Business news

### Fourth Tannery of the Year programme: Asia excluding China shortlist named

World Leather magazine is pleased to announce shortlisted candidates for Asia excluding China for the 2013-2014 Tannery of the Year competition, aiming to find the best examples of tanneries across the world that have built the principles of corporate social responsibility into their way of working. This fourth Tannery of the Year programme will culminate in a glamorous awards evening in Shanghai in September 2014. There is an open invitation to the entire global leather industry to attend and share the celebrations. We can reveal the list of 11 shortlisted tanneries from Asia excluding China, from which two finalists will come. The shortlisted tanneries are from Bangladesh:

- Apex Adelchi, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Riff Leather, Chittagong, Bangladesh

Full History: <http://leatherbiz.com/fullitem.aspx?id=133320&uid=99747&cid=z>

### "Zero discharge" earns gold medal for Lahore tannery

Lahore-based tanner Royal Leather Industries Limited has won a gold medal for corporate social responsibility from Pakistan's Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Specifically, the award came in recognition of Royal Leather's compliance with national environmental quality standards for "zero discharge" of wastewater. It is the first tannery in Pakistan to have achieved this. In 2013, Royal Leather won the highly commended award for Asia excluding China in the third Tannery of the Year programme, and details of its wastewater treatment strategy appeared in a report in the February-March 2013 issue of World Leather.

<http://leatherbiz.com/fullitem.aspx?id=133450&uid=99747&cid=z>

### Swedish "Chemical Tax" on Consumer Goods

A new report published last year by the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI) describes how a new tax on consumer goods that contain certain chemicals might be imposed in order to reduce the use of hazardous substances and accelerate the move towards greater substitution and innovation regarding "green chemistry".

KEMI suggested that substances such as phthalates, allergenic or carcinogenic dyestuffs and antibacterial agents used in textiles and footwear would be a 'prime target' for such a tax to begin with, and then, the scope of the taxation would widen to include more consumer products and substances.

KEMI goes on to say that the taxable products shall be those found to contain measurable amounts of any hazardous taxation substance greater than a prescribed concentration limit under a standardised or established method of analysis. Importantly, taxation will be aimed at both domestically produced textiles and footwear along with imported goods placed on the Swedish market.

The taxation, which is estimated to reduce annual purchases of consumer products containing hazardous substances by 60% as well as raiding SEK 200 million (US\$31M) for the government, is yet to be approved.

<http://www.blcleathertech.com/blog/swedish-chemical-tax-on-consumer-goods/2014/03/07/>

## Latest trends in Leather Product & Footwear



Wallflowers needn't apply for the spring/summer installment of Sergio Rossi's calf-strap sandals. With crystals and leaves, long calves will be sporting these, while if you need a bright boot to go with your new Prada fur coat, look no further than the styles below.

<http://fashion.telegraph.co.uk/newsfeatures/TMG10317790/Milan-Fashion-Week-spring-summer-2014-blog.html>



<http://www.millionlooks.com/fashion-shows/menswear/milan-fashion-week-gucci-fall-2013-mens-collection/>



A series of Leather-Wrapped Bicycles that capture the heritage of leather craftsmanship, and its significance in American culture. Will be releasing seven one-of-a-kind bicycles in 2014 at random times throughout the year.

<https://willleathergoods.com/journal/introducing-wills-bicycle-series/>

## Technical News

### What new leather chemicals do we need?

I thought it would be a good idea to write about the wonderful new technically innovative chemicals that are heading our way. This could be a very short blog.

Attending trade fairs and seminars in the last 3-4 years it occurs to me that there are two classes of presentations. Firstly, there those from the international chemical sector, with slick presentations and a re-packaging of existing products or a collection of tricks to meet the ever expanding RSL demands (chromium VI scavengers, formaldehyde free materials, phthalate free materials etc). Secondly the few remaining leather research centres and universities that do fundamental work and are government funded are recycling old ideas and presenting material of such industrial remoteness that they are never likely to move from research to production.

So what do we want? What should the tannery be asking for? These may be hard but they are needed for the future. My top three new products would be:

- **Sulphide replacement for unhairing** - Top of my list. Every year there are deaths in the tanning sector from hydrogen sulphide poisoning. The biggest contributor to tannery odour is hydrogen sulphide. We need an alternative. Partial replacement with enzymes is a part replacement but certainly not new.
- **A replacement for chromium** - There is a chance that in the medium term pressure groups will succeed and that finally chromium III tanning will be outlawed. There is no particular reason for this to occur but it may happen. There are wet-white options but these will not easily fit into the leather for footwear business and a "chrome-like" material is required for basic tanning.
- **A fast black dye** - 50% of the world's leather is still dyed black and for this we use traditional dyes. The requirement is to find something that dyes leather black but has better wet and dry rub fastness.

In recent times I have not seen any indication that these issues are still on R&D agendas, that is assuming R&D agenda's still exist in today's tough world.

The Toggler blog: [thetoggler@internationalleathermaker.com](http://thetoggler@internationalleathermaker.com)

See more at: <http://www.internationalleathermaker.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/470sthash.7wrl4Maa.dpuf>

### Nike, Puma in Talks to Develop Bio-Leather Shoes from Chicken Feathers

Eco-leather Corp, a company that aims to commercialize breathable leather made from chicken feathers, is collaborating with Nike and Puma on developing an athletic shoe made out of non-toxic materials, Fast Company reports.

Eco-leather is the brainchild of University of Delaware chemist Richard Wool, who makes bio-based leather using techniques developed by aerospace engineers to turn chicken feathers, combined with natural fibers and plant oil resins, into shoe soles. Wool has also developed a bio-based foam that can replace petroleum-based polyurethane, Fast Company says.

The company's goal is to produce alternatives to the leather production process, which, according to the nonprofit Blacksmith Institute, is a top toxic threat, using cancer-causing chemicals and toxic heavy metals including chromium.

Using chicken feathers will also help agribusiness firms cut waste disposal costs, Wool says, adding that a company offered him 2 billion pounds of the material for free so it didn't have to pay for expensive feather disposal.

Wool, along with chemical giants Dow Chemical, Cargill and Life Technologies, won the 2013 President Green Chemistry Challenge award for developing chemicals safer for public health and the environment. In the academic category, Wool was recognized for creating several materials from less toxic and renewable bio-based feedstock's such as vegetable oils, chicken feathers and flax that can be used as adhesives, composites, foams, and even circuit boards and as a leather substitute.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/01/21/nike-puma-in-talks-to-develop-bio-leather-shoes-from-chicken-feathers/>

### Track Your Article Submissions

All concern related leather sector, we have developed a Newsletter that will allow you to keep track of the article submissions you have done. **You are requested to send your valuable articles to LRC office or via email.**

### Nanomaterials & REACH

In its simplest terms; nanotechnology is "engineering on a very small scale". Nanotechnology deals with dimensions less than 1 micron. In other words, nanotechnology is the applied science of designing, developing and characterizing devices and materials at the molecular level. It is a revolutionary technology that is presently making a significant contribution to industry.

The European Commission is expected to submit its nanomaterials impact assessment proposal for potential amendments to the REACH Annex this summer.

Despite continuous debate about health and environmental concerns, nanomaterials are already widely used in various industries such as cosmetics, textiles or food. The current regulation requires registration only when importing or manufacturing more than 1 tonne per year or a given substance. A full chemical safety assessment is instead required only above 10 tonnes per year. However, due to their peculiar nature, this threshold is often not reached by nanomaterials, thus raising the concern of some NGOs. The proposal is expected to address some of these issues.

The outcome may have a significant impact for the industry and also for ECHA's nanomaterials work plan. Suggested amendment options from the consultation held in November included clarification of registration requirements and measurements to overcome the lacking information in regards to nanomaterials.

<http://www.blcleathertech.com/blog/nanomaterials-reach/2014/03/07/>