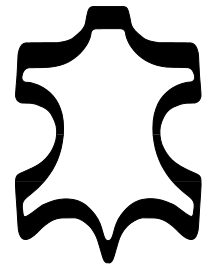


International Council of Tanners



29 March 2017

PRESS RELEASE

The International Council of Tanners (ICT) held their annual meeting in Hong Kong on 28 March 2017, when 28 members and invited guests were present.

A main item was an update by Richard Pai, President of ICT and of the Taiwanese International Leather Association (TILA) together with Su Chaoying, Honorary Chairman of China Leather Industry Association (CLIA) on the third World Leather Congress – of which they will be joint hosts – to take place in Shanghai on 29 August 2017 – the day before ACLE.

The core theme of the 3rd Congress is “The Leather Revolution – How the Industry will respond”. Recognising the profound changes that will be taking place throughout the leather marketing chain over the next 20 years, the Congress will be structured to combine presentations from high profile speakers from inside the industry, as well as experts from outside, along with panel sessions designed to explore the various issues in more detail.

The Congress will be divided into four main sessions: the first is the overview, with the Keynote vision for the industry, an assessment of where the industry stands today and an insight into what is happening in China.

With the help of global experts in consumer marketing, from major brands and from international tanners the other three sessions will explore:

- the key changes in the way that consumers are behaving and with special focus on China;
- the direction that leather products manufacturers, will take over the next few years and what will make them continue to use leather;
- how modern tanneries will respond to the challenges posed by consumers, brands, environmental demands and pressures on raw materials.

Regarding the state of trade, all members reported some difficulties in the market in 2016; 2017 was seen broadly as stable, but there was general concern about recent increases in raw material prices, which did not appear to be justified by supply and demand conditions.

The Council also agreed to circulate and promote new ICT Guidelines for the purchase of raw materials, following the lack of agreement so far on the revision of the International Contracts.

In the Open Session of the meeting, Mike Redwood gave a presentation on key issues for the leather industry over the next few years in which he reminded members of the need to continue to stress the positive aspects of leather and to avoid leather becoming a commodity. Roberto Vago of ASSOMAC gave a general overview of electronic measuring machines – as background to the ICT’s review of the appropriate reference method for measuring leather in the case of disputes. Giacomo Zorzi of ICEC presented the Italian Certification system for leather, where the discussion focussed on the importance of credible industry based schemes and the need to try to avoid a proliferation of different schemes promoted by customer organisations or commercial organisations.

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For information about the 3rd World Leather Congress
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