

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Second Meeting of the Executive Committee of IFLMEA was held on Friday, the 06<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 at 4.30 pm at IFLMEA Conference Hall, IFLMEA Office, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.

The meeting was well attended with the following members present:

Sl. No.	Name of the EC Member	Name of the Company
1	Mr. K. R. Vijayan, Chairman	M/s. Good Leather Company
2	Mr. Israr Ahmed Mecca, Vice Chairman	M/s. India Shoes Exports
3	Mr. A.R. Senthil Kumar, Hony. Secretary	M/s. Rathnam Leathers
4	Mr. Salman Parpia, Hony. Treasurer	M/s. DharmseeParpia
5	Mr. P.R. Aqeel Ahmed, Chairman CLE	M/s. Florence Shoe Company
6	Mr. M. Rafeeqe Ahmed	M/s. Farida Prime Tannery
7	Mr. T. Rafeeqe Ahmed	M/s. T. Abdul Wahid & Co.,
8	Mr. N. Shafeeq Ahmed	M/s. ShafeeqShameel& Co.,
9	Mr. SateeshJadhav	M/s. Gaitonde Leather & Accessories
10	Mr. YavarDhala	M/s. Forward Leather Coy.,
11	Mr. Pakkar Sayeed Ahmed	M/s. Pakkar Leather Exports
12	Mr. G. Mohamed Jahan	M/s. Jahan Leather Exports

SPECIAL INVITEES:

1	Dr. K.J. Sreeram	Director, CLRI
2	Mr. A.R. Raghunathan	Auditor
3	Mr. Shahzad Ahmed	M/s. Shafs Leather Exports

Leave of absence was granted to the members who could not attend the meeting.

## FELICITATION TO DIRECTOR-CLRI:

Mr. K.R. Vijayan, Chairman-IFLMEA felicitated Dr. K. J. Sreeram, Director-CLRI with a bouquet and Mr. A.R. Senthil Kumar, Hony. Secretary-IFLMEA presented a shawl to the Director, on his appointment as Director of CSIR-CLRI. Chairman-IFLMEA appreciated the services of the Director to the Leather Industry and assured fullest support of IFLMEA to CLRI



Speaking on the occasion, Director-CLRI informed the members that CLRI has taken up the issue of misuse of the terminology “Leather” by various other alternative material manufacturers, in terms of BIS and International Standards. He explained that Indian and International Standards clearly say that anything can be called as Leather if animal fibre is intact. He said that Indian Standards is tougher than the International Standards and converted products such as Leather Board and Bonded Leather etc., cannot be called as Leather.

Mr. M. Rafeeq Ahmed, Farida Prime Tannery, felt that if the terminology of "Leather" is changed for Leather Products such as Leather Board etc., the tariff itself will change and hence attract higher import duty. He highlighted that in Germany if insole is used it is called as Full Shoe even though it does not have a sole attached to it. Similarly if we adopt the Indian Standards, the brands may not agree.

Replying to this the Director-CLRI said that he will check with both BIS and International Standards and recommend adoption of a common terminology for Leather.

Mr. N. Shafeeq Ahmed wanted to know how to propagate what is leather and what is not.

Mr. YavarDhala added that public is made to believe that Vegan Leather is better than Natural Leather and hence needs a lot of efforts to change its image among the consumers.

Director-CLRI Dr. Sreeram informed the members that CLRI is in the process of collecting samples of various non-leather products and testing them in comparison to the natural leather for their properties and sustainability.

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING:**

Minutes of the First Meeting of the Executive Committee held on Thursday, the **28<sup>th</sup> of November 2019** at **05.30 pm at IFLMEA Conference Hall**, IFLMEA Office, Egmore, CHENNAI – 600 008 was presented before the members and approved unanimously.

## **EXPORT PERFORMANCE & RAW MATERIAL AVAILABILITY:**

Mr. K.R. Vijayan, Chairman-IFLMEA informed the members that Leather tops the list of decreased exports and a fall of about 28% in terms of INR is recorded.

Mr. P.R. Aqeel Ahmed clarified that all products across India have shown decrease in export apart from Finished Leather. Even imports have reduced on pan India basis for all products, he informed.

Mr. M. Rafeeq Ahmed said that the prices of Finished Leather have fallen down by almost 20%, to which Mr. P.R. Aqeel Ahmed said that even the Raw Material prices come down drastically to almost about 35%

Mr. Israr Ahmed Mecca, Vice Chairman-IFLMEA, informed that the raw material prices have increased for big size skins, which have shown some positive improvement in the current scenario.

Mr. SateeshJadhav, M/s. Gaitonde Leather & Accessories Pvt. Ltd., informed that the prices of Hair Sheep have shown an upward trend.

Mr. M. Rafeeq Ahmed felt that IFLMEA should come out with a solution to increase the Export of Finished Leathers.

Chairman-IFLMEA Mr. K.R. Vijayan assured Mr. M. Rafeeq Ahmed that IFLMEA invite members opinions on improving the export of finished leather from India.

Mr. YavarDhala, M/s. Forward Leather Coy., said that the sad part is that big brands are moving out of India, and even those brands who are importing from India, major brands are moving to PU / PVC (Flynet fabric) from Leather. He said that all luxury brands have cut down the quantum of usage of Leather in their products.

It was felt that in the current situation, while Sheep, Cow and Big sized goat have shown an improvement, steps to be taken to improve the export of Finished Leather generally.

## **EXPORT TRENDS & RECENT FAIRS:**

Mr. N. Shafeeq Ahmed informed that members that during the Lineapelle Fair the news about Corona Virus was not leaked, and we saw focussed visitors to the fair.

Mr. Salman Parpia, Hony. Treasurer-IFLMEA also said that the Lineapelle Fair was good.

Mr. P.R. Aqeel Ahmed said that in the Milan Fair 70% of the exhibitors and visitors used to be from China, and this time they were not present during the Milan Fair.

Mr. Israr Ahmed Mecca felt that since the Lineapelle was combined with Micam and Mipel, the fair was good.

Mr. N. Shafeeq Ahmed said that shiny and glossy materials have shown a come-back. Mr. Israr Ahmed Mecca added that there is a huge push for sustainability.

Mr. M. Rafeeque Ahmed said that IFLMEA and CLRI should collaborate and educate our industry and the brands to push for sustainability. Mr. YavarDhala requested Chairman-CLE Mr. P. R. Aqeel Ahmed to promote Indian Leather in Fashion Capitals globally. Mr. P.R. Aqeel Ahmed informed that US specific marketing is already being done through CLE.

## **LEATHER FASHION SHOW 2020:**

Members appreciated that after a long time, we have seen a Leather Fashion Show organized by IFLMEA, which is of international standards. Mr. YavarDhala, Convenor, Leather Fashion Show Committee updated the committee about the Leather Fashion Show 2020 and the income generated through it, which was highly appreciated by the committee members.

## **INDIA INTERNATIONAL LEATHER FAIR 2020:**

Mr. K.R. Vijayan, Chairman-IFLMEA updated the members about the participation of members through IFLMEA in the India International Leather Fair (IILF) 2020 and the expected commission IFLMEA is likely to get from ITPO towards the same, which was again appreciated by the committee members.

## **IFLMEA PROGRAM ON LWG CERTIFICATION CUM EUROFIN/BLC MEMBERSHIP:**

Mr. A.R. Senthil Kumar, Hony. Secretary-IFLMEA informed the committee that we have negotiated with Eurofin/BLC for a discount on membership as well as LWG Certification. He requested the members to utilise this opportunity and take up the Eurofin/BLC Membership through IFLMEA and also do the renewal audits of LWG Certification through IFLMEA.

Members appreciated the efforts and assured that they will take up the Eurofin/BLC Membership as well renewal of their LWG Certification through IFLMEA.

## **MEETING WITH DoTE – Co-operation with ILT:**

IFLMEA Hony. Secretary, Mr. A.R. Senthil Kumar updated the members about the meeting held Council for Leather Exports (CLE) with Director of Technical Education (DoTE) with regard to the mutual co-operation between IFLMEA and Institute of Leather Technology (ILT), jointly with CILTAA. Shri. R. Selvam I.A.S., Executive Director was present at the meeting. The areas of co-operation between ILT and IFLMEA-CILTAA have been identified and an action plan has been drawn.

## **PURCHASE OF PROPERTY BY IFLMEA & ISF:**

Members were updated about the present status of the building under construction in the property which was purchased by IFLMEA and ISF jointly. They were also informed about the tenants and their requirements in the building.

While discussing on the rental position of the building, Mr. Israr Ahmed Mecca wanted to know about how long Bhoomi and Buildings would be paying the rent to us in case they are not able to finalize a tenant for the building. He requested the Hony. Secretary to check with Bhoomi and Buildings and get a written commitment from them.

Members were assured by the Hony. Secretary that an MoU between Bhoomi and IFLMEA which was communicated over e-mail will be drafted and signed at the earliest.

Thus the meeting came to an end with high tea.

K. R. Vijayan  
Chairman

A.R. Senthil Kumar  
Hony. Secretary