



**After the Quota System:
The Impact of the MFA Phase-Out on Growth and Employment in Asia**
International Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka, April 26 – 27, 2005

Programme

April 26, 2005

08.00 Registration

Inauguration

08.30 **Welcome Address**

Dr. Beate Bartoldus, Head of the Department Asia & Pacific, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Germany

08.45 **Introductory Remarks**

Dr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka

09.00 **Address by the Chief Guest**

Mr. S. Virithamulla, Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Commerce & Consumer Affairs

09:20 **World Trade in Textiles and Garments 2005: A New Era**

Ms. Sarika Gupta, UNCTAD India

09:40 **The Impact of the MFA Expiry on Countries in Asia: Overview and Estimates**

Mr. Denis Audet, International Trade Advisor, author of an OECD report, Paris

10.00 Tea/Coffee Break

Session I

*Moderator: Dr. Saman Kelegama
Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS)*

10.30 The Impact of the MFA Expiry on Selected Countries

Sri Lanka *Mr. Tuley Cooray, Secretary General, Joint Apparel Associations Forum-SL*

Bangladesh *Ms. Nazneen Ahmed, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)*

Thailand *Dr. Voravidh Chareonlert, Chulalongkorn University*

India *Dr. Samar Verma, Policy Advisor, Oxfam India*

Pakistan *Dr. Musleh-ud Din, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics*

Nepal *Mr. Shyamal Krishna Shrestha, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment (SAWTEE)*

11.30 Discussion

12.30 Lunch

Session II

*Moderator: Ms. Sarika Gupta
UNCTAD India*

14.00 How Will the Big Consumer Markets (EU, USA) React on the MFA Expiry?

Mr. Denis Audet, International Trade Advisor, author of an OECD report, Paris

Comment by the Delegation of the European Commission: Mr. Roshan Lyman

Comment by the United States Embassy: Mr. Dean Thompson

14.30 Social Security and Decent Work: How to Protect the Interests of Workers in a Liberalized Textile Trade?

Mrs. Esther Busser, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), Geneva

15.00 Tea/ Coffee Break

15:30 Discussion

April 27, 2005

Session III

*Moderator: Mr. A. Sukumaran
Managing Director, Star Garments Ltd.*

09:00 **“Survival Strategies” for the Textile and Garment Industries in Sri Lanka: Options for Action**

Dr. Tilak Fonseka, Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), Sri Lanka

09:30 **The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) of the EU**

Mr. Roshan Lyman, Delegation of the European Commission to Sri Lanka

09:45 **Experiences of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI)**

Ms. Sonali Gunasekara, Ethical Trading Initiative

10.00 Tea / Coffee Break

Session IV

*Moderator: Dr. Sunil Chandrasiri
Department of Economics, University of Colombo*

10:30 Panel Discussion

Sri Lanka’s Textile and Garment Industry after 2004: Emerging Scenarios

Panelists:

Mr. Nihal Samarappuli, Board of Investment, Sri Lanka.

Mr. Anton Marcus, FTZ & General Services Employees Union

Mr. M. I. De Silva, Chairman SME Initiatives, Sri Lanka Chamber of Garment Exporters

Mr. Ravi Fernando, CEO for Corporate Brand, MAS Holdings

Discussion

12:45 Lunch

Session V

*Moderator: Ms. Astrid Becker
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*

14:15 Panel discussion

How to avoid a “Race to the Bottom” in Asia?

Opening statements by the Panelists:

The Responsibility of the Global Buyers

Mr. Nalaka Godahewa, CEO, Fashion Saigon and Cottonline

The Responsibility of Producing Countries

Mr. Nalaka Godahewa, CEO, Fashion Saigon and Cottonline

The Role of Labour Standards and Codes of Conduct

Ms. Esther Busser, ICFTU Geneva

15:45 Tea / Coffee Break

16.05 **Discussion**

16:45 Closing Session