



PRESS RELEASE

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CNTAC and STAR Network Sign Landmark MOU on STAR Day, Strengthening Cambodia-China Cooperation in the Garment Industry

Phnom Penh, Cambodia – February 24, 2025:

The Sustainable Textiles of the Asian Region (STAR) Network and the China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on STAR Day, formalizing the opening of a STAR liaison office in Humen, China. This collaboration aims to enhance regional sustainability efforts through STAR's expanded presence while strengthening Cambodia-China cooperation in the garment industry.

Established in 2016 with the support of the GIZ FABRIC Project, the STAR Network is a leading inter-Asian network of major garment manufacturers' associations. With its secretariat based in Cambodia's TAFTAC, STAR unites its members' collective voices to drive change toward a more sustainable garment industry in the region, focusing on industry dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaborative initiatives. This new collaboration with CNTAC, a prominent STAR member and China's leading textile and garment association, marks a crucial step in advancing STAR's mission.

Mr. Thomas Hesketh, Head of the STAR Secretariat, expressed his enthusiasm:

"This MOU represents a great step for the STAR Network. The liaison office in Humen enhances our ability to support our members and grow our reach. The MOU also provides a forum for the STAR Network to meet physically every year in China, continuing the momentum of our newly established Secretariat."

With the additional support from CNTAC, the expansion into a secondary liaison office in Humen, China, significantly boosts STAR's regional presence and influence. This expansion demonstrates the commitment of STAR members to addressing industry sustainability as a united network. The new office will serve as a hub for innovation, collaboration, and sustainable practices, benefiting the garment industry across Asia, including Cambodia. This collaboration with CNTAC underscores the importance of continued participation in regional initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability and improving industry standards.

Mr. Xu Yingxin, Vice-President of CNTAC, shared similar sentiments:

"Our collaboration with the STAR Network is a testament to our shared commitment to sustainability in the textile and apparel industry. The member countries of the STAR Network are also the most important overseas investment destinations and trade partners for China's textile and apparel industry. We are eager to work closely with STAR to achieve our mutual goals of strengthening our industry through STAR's platform as a united voice of manufacturers."

The STAR-CNTAC MOU signing coincided with the celebration of STAR Day, a formal gathering of STAR members and stakeholders to reflect on the Secretariat's progress and strategize future initiatives. This timing was ideal, as STAR Day provided a platform for industry leaders to exchange ideas, driving the STAR Network forward while opening new opportunities through the new liaison office.

The STAR Network also warmly welcomed a new STAR Board Member, representing the Towel Manufacturers Association (TMA).

"I am excited and honored to be part of the STAR Network and grateful to the team for their efforts in setting the platform to take it to new horizons."

— Mr. Ather Bari, Chairman of TMA, New STAR Board Member

Beyond highlighting the network's dedication to sustainability and addressing industry challenges, the event also underscores Cambodia's active role in the STAR Network as the current home of the STAR Secretariat and its commitment to sustainable garment industry practices.

About CNTAC

Established in 2001, the China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) is China's leading textile and apparel industry association, guiding corporate social responsibility, sustainability, and compliance. CNTAC has been at the forefront of promoting sustainable practices and improving industry standards in China.

About STAR Network

The Sustainable Textiles of the Asian Region (STAR) Network, established in 2016 with the support of the GIZ FABRIC Project, is the first inter-Asian network of garment producer associations. It brings together nine associations from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Vietnam, representing over 35,000 members and approximately \$420 billion in export value. The network serves as a platform for industry dialogue and trust-building, helping its members address common challenges, particularly those related to sustainability.

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