Report on
SIMAC Tanning Tech - LINEAPELLE Fairs - MODEUROP Review
22-26 February 2016, Milan, Italy
PREFACE

The trade promotion office of Italian Embassy and the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) facilitate trade between Italian and Indian Companies. ITA assisted ASSOMAC (National Association of Italian Manufacturers of footwear, leather goods and tannery machines) in organizing a delegation to visit SIMAC/TANNING TECH 2016, which will took place in Milan from 23rd to 25th February 2016.

SIMAC is the world’s leading show of machines and technologies for footwear and leather goods industries and TANNING TECH is the world’s leading show of machines, technologies and chemicals for tanning industry.

ICE- Italian Trade Agency and ASSOMAC, organized a sponsored visit for select delegates, as highly respected experts of the sector, CSIR-CLRI was invited to attend the 2016 edition of SIMAC TANNING TECH.

Team CSIR-CLRI was led by Dr BN Das, Chief Scientist & Cluster Chairman (Leather Products), Sarvasri Abhinandan Kumar, Leather Process Technology & Md Sadiq, Shoe Design & Development Centre

LINEAPELLE is an International exhibition of leather, accessories, components, fabrics, synthetics and models and took place during 23-25 February 2016 in Milan, Italy.
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In her welcome address, Ms Gabriella Bocca, President, ASSOMAC, Italy welcomed the 150 ‘special delegates’ to the February 2016 edition of SIMAC Tanning Tech being held in Milan during 23-25 February 2016. She made a short presentation of the innovations which complete the present range of ‘shoe and leather goods machines,’ machinery and chemicals for the tanning industry. She added that the innovations were divided into two groups:
1. Shoemaking and leahtergoods machines and
2. Tannery machine
The group includes, she said: innovations, machine or types of machines presented to the market for the first time, changes in already existing technology. The innovation level of these machines is therefore different and directly valuable from the user according to the type of automation, integration and implementation they offer.
She hoped that the new Italian technology in machines would help in global production of leather and leather products qualitatively.

In his address, Mr Andrea Mattiello, Leather Sector, Rome said that he was delighted to have 150 delegates from Egypt, Ethiopia, Argentina, Indonesia, Vietnam, Pakistan, Algeria and India. He hoped that the visit would be profitable and that every delegate would return home with a store of useful contacts for their business.
ITALIAN EXCELLENCE IN LEATHER INDUSTRY: INTERVIEW WITH DR. FRANCESCO PENSABENE, ITALIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER IN INDIA

DR. FRANCESCO PENSABENE – is the present Italian Trade Commissioner and Trade Promotion Attache’ of the Italian Embassy, New Delhi – India.

In his current role he also oversees the operations of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal & Bhutan.

In his previous assignments, Dr. Pensabene has held a variety of important positions ranging from Director of International Cooperation dept., Head of Asia and Pacific Division and Head of the International Organizations Unit at the Head Quarters in Rome (Italian Trade Agency).

He has also served as the Deputy Trade Commissioner at the Consulate General of Italy in Istanbul (Turkey).

Can you give us a overview of the Italian leather market and its excellence in leather machinery sector

Italy is ranked as a world leader of leather, footwear and leather goods. This is due to the excellence achieved in manufacture of equipment for the leather industry. Since the year 2000 over two-thirds of the world’s tanning machinery is manufactured in Italy. According to ASSOMAC (the trade association) 50% of the world’s demand for machinery for footwear & leather goods and 80% of tanning machinery continues to met by Italy despite the stiff competition. 126 foreign countries have purchased Italian machinery in recent years and the overall turnover in 2005 was €488m, 58% of which came from exports. At least 350 companies employing more than 6200 people, has helped keep this sector maintain it’s lead position.

What type of leather machinery does Italy produce and how much of it is exported.

Machinery for the leather working industry is divided into three sub-sectors: footwear, leather goods and tanning. In terms of exports, the figures for the various sectors varies, in line with the development of the global economy. Italian machinery for footwear manufacture today represents 33.7% of the world market, up from 23% in 1995. In 2004 Europe still accounted for 59.61% of overall exports. In leatherworking machinery, European markets leads the way with 38.19% of the total market share, while the Asian market has seen a growth of 2.43% and accounts for a market share of 36.69%, holding potential for becoming a lead customer for Italy. Markets in the Americas grew by 38.26% in 2004, which accounted for 16.89% of our exports. The sector of tanning machinery instead recorded export growth of +6.71%. Asia is by far the most interesting area: in 2004 it accounted for 43.82% of our exports, with growth of almost 24%. Europe account for 24.37%, and America 23.27% of exports.

Which are the major leather districts in Italy

There are two major districts in Italy for the leatherworking industry and relative machinery. The district of Santa Croce sull’Arno in Tuscany represents one of the primary hub areas in Italy and internationally. Tanning began here in the mid-19th century, and today accounts for 35% of Italian finished leather and 98% of leather soles, which is valued at over €2 billion. The district contains around 900 companies accounting for 10,000 jobs, with an average size of around 12 employees per organisation. The machinery sector alone represents 30% of national production.
The other historical district is that of Vigevano, in Lombardy, which has been subject to severe pressure over recent decades: on one hand from the market (with a shift in consumer interest towards sports footwear), and on the other due to the price war waged by lower quality goods, produced both in areas of Italy in which the sector has recently developed, and in other countries (especially in Eastern Europe). Vigevano transformed itself by concentrating on shoe production for the top end of the market and by investing heavily in premium technology and machinery.

What is Italy’s share in India’s import of Italian machinery and parts in the last two years?

Italy is the largest exporter of machines in leather sector in India. In the year 2015 the total value was US M$ 39.10 as against US M$ 39.03 in the year 2014, an increase of 0.182%. The other major exporter to India are China and Taiwan. Germany’s contribution has been gradually decreasing.

The ICE - Italian Trade Agency is the government organisation which promotes the internationalisation of the Italian Companies, in line with the strategies of the Ministry for Economic Development. ICE provides information, support and advice to Italian and foreign companies. In addition to its Rome headquarters, ICE operates world from a large networks of Trade Promotion Offices linked to Italian embassies and consulates and working closely with local authorities and businesses. The principal function of our offices is to foster bilateral trade relations by providing Indian entrepreneurs and companies with information on Italian products, companies & market updates. We also provide assistance in establishing contacts with Italian companies by participating in exhibitions, promoting Italian products, organizing training courses, technological conferences, workshops, seminars, arranging media advertising campaigns, etc. In addition, we organize a variety of industry-specific promotional events such as trade missions of Indian businessmen to Italy visiting major exhibitions, bringing delegations of Italian businessmen in India and arranging bilateral meeting for mutual benefits. The Italian Trade Agency in India was established in 1969 and we are present with two offices in New Delhi and Mumbai.

ASSOMAC is the National Association that represents the Italian Manufacturers of Footwear, Leather Goods and Tanning Machinery, an industrial sector that is a world leader. Italian exports account for more than 50% of all the exports of Countries manufacturing machinery in this industrial sector worldwide. Every year, Italian companies export more than 80% of their production to 100+ countries around the world. ASSOMAC and its member companies have been in India for many years and throughout this time they have accompanied the massive development of the local leather and footwear industry. This collaboration between suppliers and users is greatly appreciated as proven by the fact that approximately 50% of the machines currently imported by India is manufactured in Italy. It’s not just quality that sets Italian machinery apart from the competition. It is also customization. Italian Tannery Machines Manufactures work closely with customers to create a product that is “right” for the job, much like the relationship between suppliers and users.
ITALIAN INDUSTRY OF FOOTWEAR, LEATHERGOODS AND TANNING MACHINERY MANUFACTURERS

The Italian industry of footwear, leather goods and tanning machinery manufacturers is a productive sector that gathers about 235 small and medium-sized companies and boasted in 2014 an overall turnover of about 518.00 million Euros, of which 80% exported.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Export (millions Euro)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Traditional footwear machineries</td>
<td>97.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather goods machineries</td>
<td>26.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection machines</td>
<td>47.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanning machineries</td>
<td>148.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spare parts</td>
<td>79.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moulds</td>
<td>21.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>422.00</td>
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Most of the companies producing traditional footwear and leather goods machines is located in Lombardy (especially in Vigevano) but other productive centres are located in Tuscany and in the Marches. Companies manufacturing machines and equipment for sport shoes are mostly located in Veneto, in particular in the area around Padua, and in Varese (Lombardy).

The tanning machines sector is worldwide leader as well; the companies are primarily located in Tuscany, Veneto, Lombardy, Piedmont and Campania. The tanning machinery sector exports most of its production and the main markets in 2014 were: China, Brazil, India, United States, South Korea and Spain.

The sector of footwear machines exports about 80% of its production and in 2014 its main markets were India, Romania, Spain, Portugal, Germany and China. The Italian industry of footwear and leather goods machineries, developed during the 50’s, is a world-wide leader.
A visit to Halls 14 & 15 at the SIMAC tanning Tech revealed the most important and advanced technological innovations in machinery that would be immensely beneficial to the discerning Indian manufacturers of leather and leather products. Here are a few highlights:

1. Cutting – edge ‘cutting solutions’ for Leather
Mr Prasanna Venkatesh, India representative of ZUND demonstrated the new cutting machine with double beam with multiple cutting heads that was introduced by them for cutting leathers for the automotive and upholstery industry.

SIMAC Tanning Tech had a wide range of cutting machines from different manufacturers each one specialising in their niche area:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Specialty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMELZ</td>
<td>Could cut multi-layered, thick gauges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZUND</td>
<td>Patterns for upholstery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATOM</td>
<td>A variety of cutting machines for different applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TESEO</td>
<td>Optimization: one beam, four heads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELITRON</td>
<td>Innovative production methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEMINI</td>
<td>Leather savings through cutting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Reconditioning of all types of tannery machines

With over than 80 years of experience in this work sector, and exports of all production Soldani SF, was very popular for reconditioning used machines throughout the world.

Manufacture of tannery machines brand Soldani SF also manufactures polishing machine, buffing machine, shaving machine for reptiles, glazing machine for reptiles, Supplier of all spare parts and accessories.

Well renowned for Recondition complete of all types of tannery machines, their booth was flocked by many discerning visitors.
3. Sammying Felts for through feed sammying: immediate dewatering, degreasing and offer an excellent drainage

The Dollfus & Muller felts are used on through feed sammying machines during hide processing in tanneries and are called sammying felts or Wringer felts. In a tannery, the sammying machines (Wringers) take out from the hides its surplus of water and its fats.

Dollfus & Muller sammying or wringer felts allow an immediate dewatering, degreasing and offer an excellent drainage. The hide runs between two felts under high pressure applied by strong cylinders (up to 7 cylinders). Dollfus & Muller felts are resistant to high pressure, easy to guide for a quick running start and allow an easy maintenance. The bottom sammying felts are also available in black color for a reliable infrared surface measuring, and are then called black bottom felts.

The popularity of these felts and their characteristic features cover:
- Best grease absorption
- Homogeneous and immediate skin drying
- Non-marking surface
- Easy felt degreasing (accentuated life span)
- Fibre loss resistant

4. Belt/ Strap cutting machine

Galli spa at SIMAC Tanning Tech had a wide range of machines for leather goods making, belts, bags, saddlers, watch straps.
The unique feature of the belt machine was the ability to stitch and turn with fine tapers and standard punches.
Another unique machine was their range for watch straps.
5. Innovations in soling materials

Dr BN Das, Chief Scientist, CSIR-CLRI leads a discussion with Mr S Sahu & Team HUNTSMAN on the need for flexibility in soles and their usages in soles and how to define whether the raw material is ether or ester.

6. Laser cutting

AF srl, Italy displayed their multifunction machine, carver machine, driller machine, scaler machine to make intricate patterns quickly.
A table-top 3D printing machine from ATOM lab demonstrated the printing of shoe lasts, shoes and outsoles. The average time taken to print one unit is approximately four hours.

Also on demonstration was the robotic system for ‘FUTURE SHOE’ making.
8. Reverse Shoe

REVERSE SHOE Technology was one of the most frequented stands at SIMAC Tanning Tech. Reverse Shoe demonstrated the manufacturing of shoes without the usage of tacks or even adhesives. A stitched and turn technique had just two simple machines to carry out the operations on pre-fabricated uppers that were tube-stitched and then stitched to the sole.

Mr Anil Mulchandani, Chief Representative-South, Italian Trade Agency understood the nuances of ‘reverse shoe manufacturing’ and enthused the delegates to pay attention to this new technology. A leading Indian manufacturer, Mr Khaleel-ur-Rahman also evinced interest in this technology which made the shoe flexible and comfortable.
As per an EU directive, “all measuring machines must be MID compliant,” said Mr Capolupi and Mr Dal Ceredo of GER Instruments.

A new global phenomenon from Europe: the software is locked, they said. System SELEVSION checks the thickness and area at different elements of leather.

Mr Abhinandan Kumar from CSIR-CLRI raised a query on the dust on the surface of leather and how this machine would eliminate this to which they answered that the machine had the capability to use sophisticated sensor to determine the dust particles before calculating the measurements.
A very interesting display at LINEAPELLE was ‘water-proof’ MICROFIBER from Dongguan Hong Qing Leather Produce Co. Ltd., Hong Kong.

Microfiber is the highest grade synthetic leather and is a high-tech simulation of high-end leather products. These synthetic leathers simulate the structure of natural leather, using sea-island superfine micro-fibers (ultra-fine fiber bundles) and high-grade polyurethane resins as raw materials. They use needle punched nonwoven technology of 3D structure and the material, has a lot of similar characteristics as natural leather. It has excellent physical and chemical performance characteristics and will surely become popular around the world. Because of its super performance, the microfiber leather is being seen as the optimal alternative of real leather.

The significant features of microfiber leather are:
- Microfiber synthetic leather performance is as good as the real leather and the surface effect can be achieved in line with that of the real leather
- Tear resistance, abrasion resistance, tensile strength and other physical properties are on par with real leather, and chemically also they are cold-resistant, acid proof, alkali-resisting and non-fading
- They are light weight, soft, have good breathability, are smooth and give a good hand feeling, and are tidy and free from wear facets
- They are Antibacterial, anti-mildew, mothproof, without any harmful substances, very environmental friendly and in fact can be labelled as a ‘Green Product’
- They are easy to cut, have a high utilization rate, are very easy to clean and possess no odours

The microfiber leathers find readymade applications in: Furniture upholstery, Automotive interiors, Luggage and bags, Shoes, Clothing, Gloves, Fine inner packing material and Interior decoration material.

A summary of Chemical Tests results of this MICROFIBER displayed at the stands showed that ‘Microfiber’ has eminently passed all major chemical tests such as: Azo dyes, formaldehyde, PCP, TCP, Cadmium, Lead, Phthalates, PVC, Organotin compounds, AP, APEO and PAH content.
MODEUROP Review of Spring Summer 2017 & First Look: Autumn Winter 17/18 season

Record of discussions amongst the fashion experts on trends for Spring Summer 2017 season as seen @ the LINEAPELLE stands:

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Trend Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gebhard</td>
<td>Sugar, over-sugar, glittering, Barbie world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen</td>
<td>Browns, cuoio, jeans, wet-look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jutta</td>
<td>Shining, shining pastels, silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marga</td>
<td>LINEAPELLE colours are very dark. Too many fairs in two weeks: Munich Fabrik Start, GDS, Paris fair and now LINEAPELLE</td>
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Introduction of ‘warm yellow’ for Spring Summer 2017 season

The members agreed to the idea of introducing a ‘warm yellow’ in the MODEUROP colour palette for the Spring Summer 2017 season replacing colour ‘wheat’ as this colour was found to be too pale whereas a ‘warm yellow’ would be best suited for the season.

Discussions for the MODEUROP Autumn Winter 17/18 season:

Mr Gebhard Mueller said that he remained inspired by the ‘old tailoring’ from MIU MIU and Prada that would give a new look to the colour groups for the Autumn Winter 17/18 season:

- HERITAGE: younger heritage inspired from heritage
- ATHLEISURE: inspirations from uniforms
- SAFE: Outdoor, utilitarian, very classic, brit style

WARM: simple warm story, wool colours/ brown story
COOL: black & white, darks, greys, classical materials
NEUTRALS: continuation of essentials: khaki, camouflage, taupe, metal materials, outdoor

1st from LINEAPELLE: Report by Ms Marga Indra Heide, MODEUROP, Germany

Lineapelle Report S/S 2017

More visitors, great popularity! Lineapelle has certainly benefitted from the close scheduling with Paris as many visitors opted against ‘Le Cuir’ in Paris and in favour of Milan. The mood is also positive on the leather front. Things have calmed down considerably here.

The Trends:

Sweet or Natural?
Our attention is divided here: on the one hand, the range at Lineapelle luxuriated in almost kitsch-looking, light, shimmering fabrics – from silver to pastel – and, on the other hand, we saw a nice range creating a comeback for natural fabrics in a suitable colour scheme.

Basically, every type of leather is special. Shine, shimmer, texture and a special finish! (Perfectly transposed in the Modeurop colour theme REFINING).
Boring, lacklustre leather is totally out.
First the **Fantasy** theme: a theme that is suited both to leather and to synthetics/high-tech and fabrics. It glistens and shimmers, sparkles and radiates. **Metallics** are also still around – from very discreetly shimmering to a metallic mirror finish. Sparkling effects, partial rhinestones and matt-shine graduations.

**Soft patent** in great variety is part and parcel of this! Very much in demand in all pale colours – from white to sugary pastels, especially rose variations as well as blue or mint and obviously all silver and grey nuances.
Romantic Glam: here you feel lots of romance and a touch of nostalgia. Running through this theme is lace, ornamental laser cuts, sequins and metallic dust, reminding us of fairy tales and princesses. Add to this bags of fresh and colourful ideas. Purist ‘Gardening’.

Other keywords: Paradise & Exotics & Ethno Feeling. (Modeurop colour theme Gardening)

Here we find lots of prints and embossing around themes like flowers, blossoms, ferns, plants as well as unfamiliar animal prints and lizard embossing. Colours are a bit stronger, with lots of turquoise and aqua (hydrangea), green (kiwi), light red (geranium), lavender and orange.
This exotic theme is rounded off by elaborate appliqués, also in the form of imaginative blossoms. Skilled craftsmanship is important here. Keyword: ‘artisan’. Influences from the 70s are still in evidence! Incidentally, all these imaginative, sometimes extremely romantic themes are primarily used for sporty shoes – i.e. sneakers! Obviously, heeled sandals and new pumps are also suitable for this. And bag fashions cannot avoid these themes either!

However, there are also innovative technical fabrics in evidence – with a sportier character. Here the main focus is 3D. And advances in this field are progressing rapidly. Add to this the further developments in mesh fabrics (spacer fabrics) – which are often doubled in sandwich style (with intermediate padding) and feature various perforations/mesh patterns.
Always a nice summer theme – very popular especially in the bag segment: plain and multi-coloured braiding.

A good match for all these developments are numerous stripe variations – from fine to thick block stripes in a colour blocking style. The preferred colours are classic in nature: black/white, white/ocean, white/yellow or a tricolore style.

**Contrast Range:**

‘Natural Feeling’. Nice and genuine, authentic leather in the typical ‘cuoio’ colours from sand and wheat through to cognac. Colours here are reminiscent of fields of grain through to Mediterranean terracotta tones (Modeurop colours from wheat to terra and wood).
This leather displays delicate finish effects, often achieved by polishing or brushing – giving it a very natural and precious look.

Also going down well are the many examples of suede particularly featured in this colour scheme that round off the natural feel here – incidentally also drawing inspiration from the retro trends of the 70s & 80s. This is a great theme for summer booties, western styles, heeled sandals and mules – and obviously also a super story for bags and belts.

**Trend selection by LINEAPELLE : Colours & Trends for Spring Summer 2017**
Trend selection by LINEAPELLE had four colour groups for the Spring Summer 2017 season:

**Range 1:** had a lot of performance materials, patents, milled leathers and large scale croco leathers/prints.

**Range 2:** had prints, animal prints, furs/that were also reversible.

**Range 3:** had 3D effects on leather such as leaf motifs on skins, buttons on skins, pebble milled, fine perforated, pearlised, gold/silver and gun metal, blues and jeans effects

**Range 4:** glitter and shiny, cuts and slashes, patent with prints, 3D and rubberised effects, transparent, sequins, embroidery on silver leather; weaves

**Visit to Accessories Pavilion @ LINEAPELLE**

A prominent exhibitor, M/s Enkay HWS had a fine collection of soles in blown TR, PU with partial word finish and PU soles with Foot beds.

In picture, Mr Yogesh Madan, General Manager of Enkay HWS displaying their collection.

The LINEAPELLE Trend Selection for Accessories had many new developments for the season as listed below:

1. Zippers with floral prints, reptile prints and in bright colours
2. Fluorescent thread hand stitching on woven belts/ straps
3. Cork footbeds with floral prints
4. Sequined uppers for ladies pumps
5. Different weaves for shoe uppers
6. Narrow toes with shortened for parts in different heel heights, most importantly block heels
7. Lasts with Pointed toes with wall
8. Platform soles and tower heels flanged out
9. Thin metallic finish outsoles for glamour shoes for women
10. Butterfly appliques
11. Almond toes for Men’s shoes
12. Pointed and squared toes for Men
13. Ladies square toes, block heels
14. Different stones for uppers for ladies shoes
Mr Tonino Cannucci was immensely pleased to meet Team India at his pavilion at LINEAPELLE. His first remark was to ‘compliment the Council for Leather Exports for the fine organization of the 1st Designers fair that coincided with India International Leather Fair 2016.

He said that atleast 15 Indian shoe companies whom he had interacted with at the Designers fair had come to his stand at LINEAPELLE and not only to his stands but to the stands of ALL other designers who had come to India.

He quickly added that while he was very sceptical of the outcome when Team India met him in September last year; he now remains very pleased.

In conclusion, he complimented and congratulated Md Sadiq of CSIR-CLRI for his foresight and introducing him as a ‘designer’ to CLE.
Visit to ARS SUTORIA in Milan

Mr Matteo Pasca, Managing Director, ARS ARPEL Group invited Team CSIR-CLRI to ARS Sutoria to visit and interact with the Staff and Students. The Team visited ARS Sutoria on 24th February 2016.

Mr Pasca conducted the Team around the Institute: the various departments that included the Traditional designing room that taught pattern-making; the CAD-CAM facility and the pilot plant for manufacturing the prototypes and the bags designing class as well.

Mr Pasca said that the course had indeed become very International with students from all parts of the world. Infact, there were five Indian students in the last batch, he said.

ARS, now offers short-term courses for designing ‘Sports Shoes’ and the various constructions such as different types of stroebel construction. They were many students being sponsored by the Nike brand.

Students were working on shop illustrators and creating their own Mood Boards and working on Trend Research which are some of the new concepts introduced to the ARS courses.

He spoke about the new co-operation with Instituto Marangoni for design of Leather Garments.

Components required for manufacturing the prototypes were being sourced from the local industry and majorly sponsored by the local industry: soles, lasts, leathers, trims he said.
Mr Pasca then showed us the collections designed by the students and very emotionally introduced Md Sadiq to the faculty and students of ARS SUTORIA as an alumni who was now a well-known in the field. The visit also revived friendships with the staff of ARS Sutoria and Mrs Rosella Cucco, the Secretary in particular. It was a very nostalgic visit to ARS SUTORIA after 24 years of completing a course at this prestigious school.

On this occasion, Mr Matteo Pasca presented a ‘first copy’ of the FIRST BOOK brought by ARS SUTORIA in Year 1947 that ARS had then in their archives and were in the process of reviving the archives. Mr Pasca added that they had already digitised all editions from 1947 to 1980 and the rest is in Process.

Mr Matteo Masca, Managing Director, ARS ARPEL Group recalled his very fruitful trip to India during India Leather Week 2016. He said that he remained amazed by the growing India International Leather Fair and had very kind words in complimenting the Council for leather Exports for the excellent conduct of the 19th UITIC International Technical Footwear Congress 2016.

He also expressed his desire to be a ‘media partner’ to the XXXIV IULTCS Congress 2017.
The first edition of the ARS Sutoria Journal brought out in Year 1947.
Mr Mike Redwood, Leather Naturally! sounded very optimistic in his discussions with Team India. He said that the automotive and luxury market were doing well. He also presented his observation that the UK market was doing quite well. Similarly, he opined that the automotive – commodity/ upholstery market was a good place to put upgraded leather. Cars and even aeroplanes, he added as they are easy to maintain. He said that he had travelled to Italy from UK via British Airways that had new seats with low density leather. He cited the example of BMW using light weight leather. Leather Naturally! definitely saying that: using leather as opposed to plastic benefits the planet.

Mr Khaleel-ur-Rahman, Managing Director, Nibras & Co stated that this LINEAPELLE was buoyant because of:

- New countries showing interest. Iran has come in a big way showing leather soles; also Africans. Opportunity for India to capitalise as it is in a unique position to service this market.
- The Italian Designers are showing more interest to work with Indian companies which provided India another opportunity to explore.
- Market trends are good and many orders have been booked. While there are fewer participants from India in this edition; those who have come, have a smile on their faces.
Mr Yavar Dhala, Managing Director, FORWARD Group emphasised that the quality of visitors was top notch and this fair presented very clear trends and directions for ‘Spring Summer 2017.’

The emerging and directional inputs from the MODEEUROP initiative resulted in advance preparedness wrt colours and textures for his company, he said. He underlined the fact that brands were looking for innovations and novelties – much more than ever before.

Their intent was to make products more appetizing at sensible prices and this was top most on their agenda. He added that the U.S. markets were looking very positive while the European and UK markets were thoughtful.

He concluded saying that “for those who seek, they shall find their way forward”

Mr Kumaresa Pandian, Managing Director, BLUE DIAMOND Leathers reckoned that the fair was good and that there was a better response for seasonal articles/ textures. He stated that this fair presented an opportunity to study global trends and elaborated that Italian trends were moving towards traditional and saleable markets.

Machinery sector at SIMCA Tanning Tech was doing very well, he stated and opined this would improve the Tanning process in a big way. He confessed that he himself had placed huge orders for tanning machinery at the fair.

Mr KR Munikannan, Director, GOOD Leather Company expressed that he had come to the fair with less expectations as the market was down. But, was elated to inform that he had good enquiries and that it was a very satisfactory fair for his company.

He added that the LWG and SATRA membership had helped raise his company’s profile at the fair. He elaborated that enquiries for patent Leather and digital foils were very encouraging.

Mr SS Kumar, Chairman, College of Leather Technology ecstatically stated that “exhibition of the vibrancy of the industry” – the positive trends at SIMAC Tanning Tech.

He said that though the Industry was facing challenges in a few countries, this was the time to re-consolidate and added that the Industry was doing just that.
Concluding Remarks

SIMAC TANNING TECHRecorded A Rise In Visitors
The international exhibition of machinery and technology for the footwear, leather-goods and tanning industries confirmed its role as the sector’s leading event.

Simac Tanning Tech ended on a high. The international exhibition of machinery and technology for the footwear, leather-goods and tanning industries was held at Fiera Milano Rho from 23 to 25 February 2016 and was a resounding success.

“The success of Simac Tanning Tech 2016 was primarily thanks to the exhibiting companies, which interpreted customer needs extremely well, offering sustainable and innovative products – commented Gabriella Marchioni Bocca, Simac Tanning Tech President. She added that a major increase in visitors from both Italy and abroad was recorded and they were especially appreciative of the eco-friendly technological solutions. She underlined that this was fast becoming a pressing global requirement and found a determined response at Simac Tanning Tech. The exhibition remained the most important technology event worldwide for the footwear, leather-goods and tanning sector, she proudly declared and elaborated that over three days, it provided concrete answers to the demand for process sustainability, recognisability and innovation coming from the market.”

This technology and innovation exhibition was also strongly international, thanks also to the many countries that sent 271 exhibitors (Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey and United Kingdom).

Thanks to longstanding cooperation with the ITA, the event drew 25 foreign delegations, for a total of more than 150 foreign delegates, from Algeria, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Palestine, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Tunisia, USA, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. There was also a delegation from Iraq, organised by UNIDO in collaboration with Confindustria and Assomac, plus delegates from Nigeria, Peru and India.

Exhibiting companies had several opportunities to meet the foreign delegates during the event and cocktails were organized in the Simac Tanning Tech Lounge on the first two days of the exhibition.

The Lounge was a popular rendezvous and the ideal showcase for the event’s technology and craftsmanship, with Reverse Shoe presenting a craft workshop.
By contrast, **Future Shoe** was totally given over to **new technology** and visitors could enter the **Air Tech** space to admire **leather seats manufactured for the aircraft sector**, presented by a leader in chemical technology applied to tanning.

“We ended this year’s exhibition with great satisfaction” – said **Amilcare Baccini, Simac Tanning Tech CEO** adding that the results demonstrated that every company was given the ideal setting that favoured encounters between demand and supply. He stressed that their strength lay in being recognized as the international benchmark exhibition where operatives could see first-hand the latest technology for the leather sector, expressed at its maximum potential. He also informed that the Visitors, larger in number than last time, stayed longer at the exhibition and emphasized that they remained committed to confirming their role again in 2017.

The next Simac Tanning Tech has been scheduled from **21 to 23 February 2017**.

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**International Meeting on Service Centres**

**Mr Mario Pucci of ASSOMAC**, in his Opening Remarks at the International Meeting on Service Centres held on 26th February 2016 at Hotel Melia Milan, outlined the agenda for the meeting.

- This was followed by discussions and presentations on: ‘The Role of Service Centres – with an update summary on its various initiatives and interventions; and
- ‘Development Tools for the Enterprise’ which highlighted the advantages of Management Training and Business Coaching through interesting case presentations; which was followed by a presentation on
- ‘Development of local craftsmanship’ comprising sharing of co-operation experiences by PISIE in the Industrial clusters through basic mechanization for footwear production.

**Mr Mario Pucci** moderated the panel discussion with the foreign delegations.
Expression of sincere gratitude by

TEAM CSIR-CLRI

Team CSIR-CLRI records it deep sense of appreciation to the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) and to ASSOMAC (National Association of Italian Manufacturers of Footwear, Leather Goods and Tannery Machines) for inviting and facilitating it’s team’s visit to the SIMAC/TANNING TECH 2016 Fairs. The fairs gave a deep insight into the latest developments in Machinery, Materials and Technology for both the Leather and Leather Product Sector and the Team was enriched by this experience.

Team CSIR-CLRI acknowledges the help and support of the Council for Leather Exports in giving CSIR-CLRI the opportunity to associate itself in all initiatives aimed at benefitting the Indian Leather Sector.

The Team offers it’s heartfelt Thanks to the Management of CSIR-CLRI for their encouragement and support in this endeavour.

thank you!