

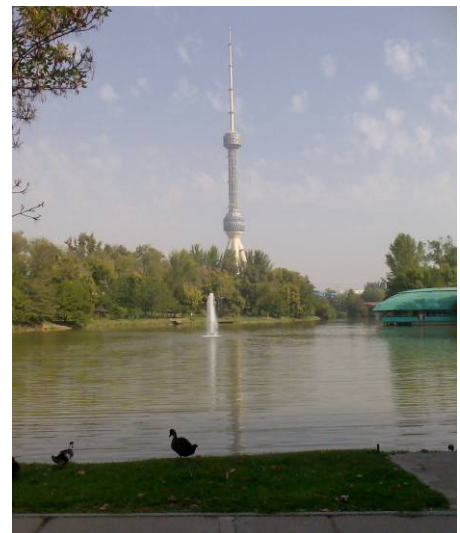
CAITME 2009 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 15-17 September 2009

Benninger Textile Finishing successful at the CAITME 2009 in Tashkent.

Uzbekistan is a double landlocked country in central Asia full of contrasts. It shares borders with Kazakhstan to the west and to the north, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the east, and Afghanistan and Turkmenistan to the south. The midlands offer a spectacular scenery with a combination of high mountains and low valleys. The lowland stretches out over 4/5 of the whole 447'400 km² territory. The Tianshan and Pamir foothills in the northeast are well worth seeing. The highest point in Uzbekistan is the Khazret Sultan, located at 4'643 m above sea level. 90% of the country is vast desert and mountains. Kyzylkum in the north is one of the biggest deserts in the world. Uzbekistan's economy relies mainly on commodity production, including gold, copper, uranium and black coal. It is also a well-known cotton producer. The climate in the Republic of Uzbekistan is continental, with little precipitation expected annually (100–200 millimeters). The average summer high temperature tends to be 32 C, while the average winter low temperature is around –6 C. Perfect conditions for cotton.



Tashkent



Fair ground

September is the most beautiful month of the year. Wonderfully smelling fruit, vegetable and herb markets on every corner, remind of an ancient oriental country. It was this special time of the year, that the 5th CAITME took place. Mr Ikram Hayadrov, the Minister of light industry, opened the fair with a speech, in which he emphasized that USD 200 mio. are planned to be invested in the textile industry in the year 2010. A special modernising programme is foreseen for the year 2008 to 2012 for the amount of USD 615 mio. The programme contains 79 projects, all aiming for higher returns in cotton processing. The goal is to increase the cotton manufacture to 510'000 t, the cotton yarn production to 407'000 t and the cotton cloth production to 320 mio. m² a year. Following his speech, the Minister Haydarov visited a couple of booths and also honoured the Benninger team.



Booth



Visitors

176 companies out of 17 different countries attended the exhibition. Among the 176 participants there were 32 from Germany, 30 from Turkey, 18 from Italy, 9 out of Switzerland and 3 each from Belgium and France. 21% of the booths were occupied by Indian exhibitors (15 companies), 18% by Turkish companies, 12% Chinese and another 12% by South Koreans. The organisers of the trade fair surprised the guests with a Gala Dinner and traditional dance and music on the day of the opening.

Up to today the Uzbek Textile market has been frequented heavily by Turkish companies, who mainly buy grey fabric. The private enterprises in all bigger textile centres of Uzbekistan show an increasing interest in modern pre-treatment equipment. The new trend is that these companies no longer want to sell grey fabric, but preferably want to make profitable business with finished goods. At the time they are updating their spinning and weaving mills, next on the list is the modernisation of the wet finishing. Thanks to Benninger and Küsters Wet finishing machines, which are running in Bukhara, our references in Uzbekistan are very good. Whenever it comes to an effective investment policy for the native companies supported by the government, Benninger has quite a good chance due to its reputation.

The time was also used to discuss running projects with Uzbek banks. These discussions were very demanding, as our Italian competitor has started a serious low-price-strategy for the Uzbek market. In particular, the bed-linen project comprises an impregnating machine with singeing device, a bleaching machine, a mercerising machine, a dyeing station with Küsters DyePad and an after print washing range. The discussions ended with some "homework" for Benninger.

On 16 September Guido Benz (Sales Manager TF) and Valery Sharkaev (Director office Moscow) visited the company "Fayz" in Tashkent, the only Benninger pre-treatment reference for knitted goods in Uzbekistan.

The evening of this special day was dedicated to hospitality and friendship. Together with some friends of Valery, Natasha Savushkina (Moscow Office) and Guido Benz studied the huge variety of Pilaf, a traditional stew. Together, they created a new Pilaf style: Pilaf à la Swiss. Thanks for the great support!



Valery Sharkaev, Guido Benz, landlady

Report: Natascha Savushkina, Sales Engineer (Moscow Office)