Folks, I think we need to focus. There are too many conferences for the textile industry. If they are not solely focused on sustainability they always have at least some environmental talks or “green” suppliers. Are we to target conferences like we target sustainability projects? Focus on those your company has deemed a priority? Even this can be a problem because of the amount of overlap and content delivery. I see 2 major issues;
• there is a lot of “heart” when it comes to talk about the environment at the expense of science
• the complication around even the simplest of efforts is often deeper than we expect

So, who decides what the truly big important issues are when it comes to textile sustainability? The UN has created their Sustainable Development Goals which creates a shared language for us to talk about sustainability initiatives. It’s probably a good place to start.

Next, how do we get the accurate detailed information we need? How do we not get side tracked by “the issue of the day” when the the big environmental issues are being ignored? There’s still a lot of work to do to answer these questions.

I like the idea that knowing your problems will lead to solutions. Obviously we have serious problems in the textile supply chain. We’d like to hear from you about what you believe the BIG problems are for your company. Once we have the “problems” identified we can then work on solutions.

……..and I get that the rest of the newsletter covers a couple of recent conferences.

Textile Exchange 2017
Textile Exchange held its annual conference in Wash., DC October 9-13.
• over 500 participants
• 37 countries
• 328 companies

Conference focus: Catalyzing the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the Textile Community.
An overview will be available end of November.

BIG NEWS
rPET Working Group Commits to 25% increase by 2020.
* 36 Major Brands & Retailers Signed up to 100% Sustainable Cotton by 2025
* Preferred Fiber & Materials (PFM) Market report released - 95 companies reported, $1.2 Trillion in sales a 14% increase in the adoption of PFM vs 2016

Sustainable Textile School
Chemnitz, Germany
The Sustainable Textile School was held September 18-20, 2017. This event was held in a textile school, had a specific focus each day and was focused on the science behind the issues.
Day 1 – Fibers
Day 2 – Chemicals
Day 3 – Fabric Formation
Corduroy by Haysun Hahn

We are thick in pile fabrics! This trend for textured textiles that is currently in every distribution will not be exiting anytime soon. However, it is evolving, and happily we are inching towards the more traditional textures, patterns, and one of my favorites the classic Corduroy.

This is a time of paradox, extreme contrast in almost everything … in fashion, the trend discussions center on how far we can push design to express the contrast. Super-sized volume matched with naked tight shapes influence how we want fabrics to behave. We can see the interest from irrational volume of fur in footwear, to the craze for extreme volume in hair styles, and apparel seem melodramatic and fun at the same time.

Corduroy is always a diplomatic weave, structured with traditional cues, it is casual, functional, and approachable. The purist might insist on cotton, luxury might want this interpreted in silk, and in some of the synthetics we might have to call it something totally different. No matter how confusing the fiber content and care labels read, this is a great transition in the trend of mixing and redefining a modern approach to casual luxury.

The jackets, suits, particularly pantsuits, and outerwear, are important in the modern wardrobe, what better fabric then corduroy. Of course, there is the small detail when wearing this fabric, that sound of wales rubbing against each other when a person walks by wearing corduroy pants, gotta think about that!

FABRIKOLOGY 2017 Calendar
Find us at the following tradeshows ✤ speaking or ✣ attending

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