



ALPACA MONTHLY NEWS

EDITOR: FRANCIS RAINSFORD

EDITORIAL

CHINESE “MADE IN ITALY” - TROUBLE IN THE HEART OF PRATO

Textile correspondent, Jürg Rupp, reported at the end of last year about working conditions and a tragic accident in the textile city of Prato in Italy:

For most of 2013 Bangladesh was the focus of some very bad press due to accidents in garment factories. However, the situation in the traditional textile city of Prato appeared to be almost as bad.

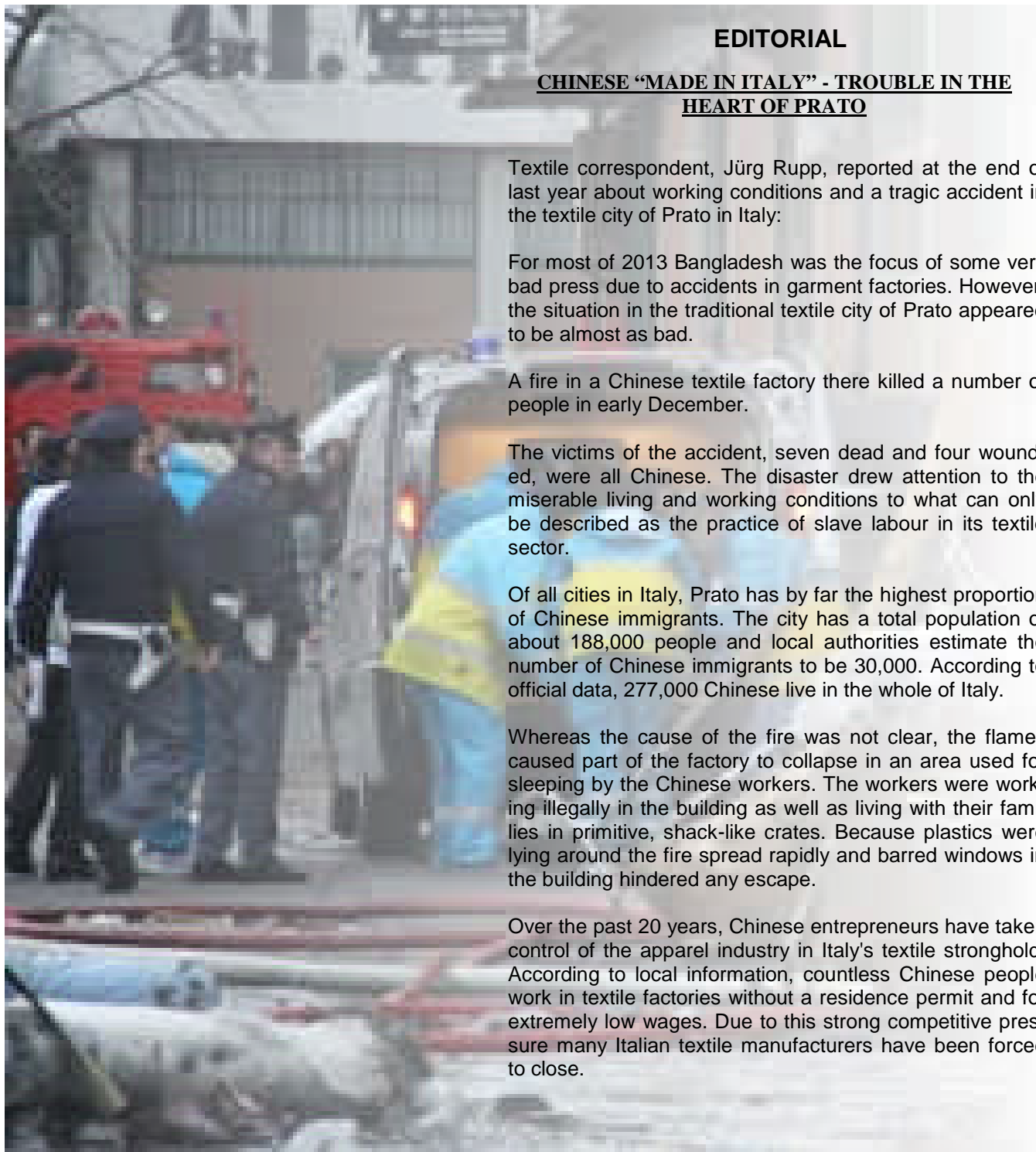
A fire in a Chinese textile factory there killed a number of people in early December.

The victims of the accident, seven dead and four wounded, were all Chinese. The disaster drew attention to the miserable living and working conditions to what can only be described as the practice of slave labour in its textile sector.

Of all cities in Italy, Prato has by far the highest proportion of Chinese immigrants. The city has a total population of about 188,000 people and local authorities estimate the number of Chinese immigrants to be 30,000. According to official data, 277,000 Chinese live in the whole of Italy.

Whereas the cause of the fire was not clear, the flames caused part of the factory to collapse in an area used for sleeping by the Chinese workers. The workers were working illegally in the building as well as living with their families in primitive, shack-like crates. Because plastics were lying around the fire spread rapidly and barred windows in the building hindered any escape.

Over the past 20 years, Chinese entrepreneurs have taken control of the apparel industry in Italy's textile stronghold. According to local information, countless Chinese people work in textile factories without a residence permit and for extremely low wages. Due to this strong competitive pressure many Italian textile manufacturers have been forced to close.



According to Prato's Chamber of Commerce, there are some 4,000 Chinese companies throughout the province, specialising mainly in the field of "pronto moda", characterised by fast delivery of new designs at low prices.

The companies concerned employ an average of 10 to 15 illegal workers in their factories.

Authorities complain that the Chinese are hardly pay-

ing any taxes with the major part of their income being sent back home to China and that Prato's social services, schools and hospitals are hopelessly overburdened by the same people. There is considerable anger about the Chinese "invasion" in Prato from thousands of Italian workers who have lost their jobs in the textile sector during the last few years. Since 2000, the number of people officially employed in this sector in Prato has been halved to just 20,000.

CAMELID CLIPS

The new year in Cambodia got off to a tragic start when military police opened fire with assault rifles on 3rd January to quell a protest by stone-throwing garment factory workers demanding higher pay in a crackdown that killed four people.

Chaos during nationwide strikes erupted for a second day as security forces were deployed to halt a demonstration by thousands of workers, who refused to move and threw bottles, stones and petrol bombs at an industrial zone in Phnom Penh.

The clash, in an industrial zone in Phnom Penh, was part of a political crisis where striking workers and anti-government protesters came together in a loose movement led by the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP).

Unions representing disgruntled garment workers joined opposition supporters protesting against the government of Prime Minister Hun Sen to demand a re-run of an election in July that the opposition says was rigged.

The clashes took place at Canadia Industrial Park in Phnom Penh, home to dozens of factories that make clothing for western brands that include Adidas, Puma and H&M.

Human rights group LICADHO described the incident as "horrific" and that their own investigation and surveys of hospitals had found four people were killed and 21 wounded.

It followed a crackdown the day before outside a Yakjin (Cambodia) Inc. factory in another part of the city, when armed troops struck demonstrators with batons, wounding 20 people. Yakjin is a maker of clothing for Gap and Walmart .

The CNRP, led by former finance minister Sam Rain-

sy, has courted some 350,000 garment workers from nearly 500 factories across the country by promising to nearly double the monthly minimum wage to US\$160 if it wins a re-run of the July election, which Hun Sen is refusing to hold.

For its part, the government is refusing to raise the wage beyond US\$100 dollars a month and has ordered factories to reopen to prevent damage and job losses in an industry worth US\$5 billion a year to what is one of the world's poorest countries.

Garment manufacturing is Cambodia's biggest foreign currency earner, a major employer and a vital source of income for many rural families who complain they can barely survive on the wages that are lower than neighbouring Thailand and Vietnam.

Many western brands outsource footwear and apparel to Cambodian factories, mainly because labour is cheaper than in China.



A striking garment worker in Cambodia.



A video that surfaced in December purporting to show the mistreatment of angora rabbits in China has led to calls to boycott its fibre.

A number of major names have already suspended sourcing angora goods following an investigation by animal rights activists, apparently.

It comes amid allegations that Chinese suppliers of the much-sought after hair are plucking it off rabbits who have been tethered to a board and are heard yelping in pain.

After a video was circulated on social media, which sparked a consumer outcry, brands including H&M, Boden, Primark, Calvin Klein, Whistles and Next have suspended sourcing, according to reports, and Top-

shop has stopped buying angora clothes after receiving a petition from more than 100,000 people.

A spokesman for Marks and Spencer said, "We will not place any further orders from our suppliers for products containing angora until we have concluded our visits to farms."

The footage of the alleged brutal farming techniques was obtained by investigators for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

A spokeswoman for Stella McCartney's fashion company commented, "In light of information released about the widespread despicable treatment of angora rabbits, we have decided to stop all future use of angora in Stella McCartney products. Although we have always guaranteed that our angora wool mix fibres come from a cruelty-free source in Italy, we are no longer willing to encourage the use of angora in luxury fashion."

One unnamed textile agent reported he had seen rabbits kept in "horrific" conditions in South America.

"They are kept in cages on top of each other. It is very similar to how they keep battery chickens," he said.

It is estimated there are around 50 million rabbits farmed in China for angora hair and the country accounted for 90 percent of the 4,700 tons produced in 2012.

Angora fibre is frequently blended with alpaca for exotic blends for knitwear.



A tethered angora rabbit having its fur torn out by hand



The Region of Ayacucho's vicuñas produced a record total of fibre in 2013.

During the 2013 chaccu (round-up) season (15th May to 15th November), the Region of Ayacucho produced 3,400 kgs of vicuña fibre for the period in question - an all time record.

The Regional Director for Agriculture in Ayacucho, Ismael Oscco, said, "To organise a total of 238 chacucus throughout the region during this last season is an immense achievement. Each chaccu has to be sanctioned by a legal resolution which takes time and effort to prepare."

"The local communities involved in rounding-up the animals and shearing them were the prime beneficiaries with an average market price of US\$ 500.00/kg for the fibre produced."

The total vicuña population of Ayacucho is around 50,000 and, this year, a problem of excess numbers in the Lucanas province of the Pampas Galeras National Reserve was discovered where there was in-

sufficient pasture to support the numbers of vicuñas grazing there.

As a result, a significant percentage of animals were found to be sick and under-nourished.

Oscco has requested that the Agriculture and Environment Ministries grant permission for these animals to be relocated to an area in the north of the region where grasses are in abundance.

On a negative note, it was reported that, during the last days of December in Pilpichaca in the neighbouring Region of Huancavelica, an unknown group of hunters killed 93 vicuñas and escaped with their fleeces.

The fibre obtainable from these fleeces is estimated to total 18 kgs with an overall value of around US\$ 5,000.00.

On 2nd December, the House of Lords of the British Parliament passed the Multiparty Trade Agreement between the EU, Colombia and Peru. The agreement had previously been passed by Parliament's House of Commons on 26th November.

Thus, this Trade Agreement is in the process of being ratified. The Agreement will boost trade between Peru and the United Kingdom, and the other members

of the European Union, for the benefit of all countries. The global economy continues to become ever more expansive.

Following the approval in the House of Lords, the final step is the approval of the Agreement at the next meeting of the Privy Council (a high-level committee of the government), which will take place in the coming months.

PERUVIAN ALPACA EXPORT STATISTICS
 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER 2013
 VALUE US\$ FOB - QTY IN KGS. - UNIT M2

COUNTRY	YARN		TOPS		KNITWEAR		ACCESSORIES		WOVEN GARMENTS		WOVEN CLOTH		NOILS	
	VALUE FOB	QTY KGS	VALUE FOB	QTY KGS	VALUE FOB	QTY UNIT	VALUE FOB	QTY UNIT	VALUE FOB	QTY UNIT	VALUE FOB	QTY M2	VALUE FOB	QTY KGS
USA	5,969,706	179,550	47,834	1,945	11,745,152	702,334	2,186,053	73,222	2,935,769	69,633	761,467	24,716	-	-
ITALY	6,856,342	244,822	12,617,602	931,009	1,338,737	40,157	35,232	736	23,149	509	471,743	21,326	175,338	83,613
CHINA	2,215,587	132,455	18,122,272	1,423,659	31,553	625	518	9	4,400	133	190,206	8,698	265,733	82,040
NORWAY	10,620,414	387,959	-	-	561,175	27,238	278,227	6,333	45,708	1,229	237	5	-	-
GERMANY	2,936,744	83,144	257,835	30,697	3,608,637	173,659	211,477	4,346	225,705	4,841	701	3,464	38,221	23,123
JAPAN	1,100,372	43,689	2,133,143	125,904	3,669,135	110,421	53,677	1,226	124,874	4,081	4,951	96	2,809	734
UNITED KINGDOM	949,700	29,731	1,086,635	98,800	2,193,244	67,911	360,772	22,808	192,990	3,693	21,950	498	45,980	33,295
FRANCE	273,657	8,814	12,349	594	2,328,350	83,477	180,227	4,277	115,001	4,545	120	1	-	-
AUSTRALIA	61,077	1,510	304,947	25,049	857,998	28,394	133,501	2,678	548,981	27,336	903,162	18,839	-	-
HONG KONG	2,361,765	79,261	2,980	98	60,302	1,060	308,892	31,659	-	-	27,552	1,370	-	-
KOREA	1,713,594	57,930	359,055	22,947	4,813	152	-	-	18,968	689	632,689	33,147	-	-
BOLIVIA	2,175,066	190,811	-	-	69,533	1,693	-	-	26,087	239	77,854	3,755	-	-
SWITZERLAND	366,375	10,749	450,654	33,855	483,304	22,719	127,489	2,852	100,262	4,340	3,229	84	30,189	9,055
DENMARK	419,199	12,941	-	-	324,846	15,010	567,964	26,977	85,317	7,452	346	10	-	-
TAIWAN	98,179	3,806	1,229,995	127,517	-	-	10,941	328	-	-	2,507	62	-	-
CANADA	459,096	13,666	51,520	3,173	454,771	29,688	166,338	4,745	60,685	2,013	130,972	4,826	-	-
CHILE	221,229	8,917	70,482	5,067	352,473	16,375	182,838	6,337	313,443	57,653	25,327	1,599	-	-
FINLAND	298,117	8,889	-	-	81,861	15,692	687,554	39,127	12,744	812	15,821	600	-	-
LITHUANIA	150,991	5,593	31,047	3,074	165	4	776,760	24,465	91,662	10,480	4,711	326	-	-
SPAIN	35,587	1,165	-	-	282,432	19,131	101,632	2,890	401,863	21,506	197,051	9,900	-	-
NEW ZEALAND	205,081	5,124	146,617	14,429	120,181	7,652	5,868	144	44,405	1,293	427,929	1,376	-	-
BELGIUM	251,570	9,915	-	-	290,850	13,306	56,776	1,913	6,419	200	25,373	912	-	-
MEXICO	9,397	436	-	-	469,364	38,829	27,800	840	94,076	5,394	14,440	809	-	-
SYRIA	596,414	29,480	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RUSSIA	-	-	-	-	66,791	2,991	192,863	8,927	153,436	5,024	15,254	174	-	-
JORDAN	379,905	14,626	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRELAND	98,364	2,571	-	-	151,812	4,082	88,384	2,190	6,030	385	4	1	-	-
ECUADOR	168,590	8,812	13,191	1,041	76,635	19,393	1,601	34	34,551	1,633	-	-	-	-
NETHERLANDS	54,178	1,777	-	-	155,533	6,745	42,278	761	12,081	174	-	-	-	-
COLOMBIA	110,155	8,330	-	-	110,710	9,759	2,868	59	17,916	1,179	21,795	1,125	-	-
AUSTRIA	-	-	-	-	247,726	7,936	4,488	122	5,846	186	-	-	-	-
BRAZIL	69,511	4,709	-	-	43,642	1,281	112,792	2,239	21,611	1,811	-	-	-	-
INDONESIA	237,043	9,418	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ARGENTINA	85,413	5,081	-	-	82,281	2,352	2,195	52	31,050	2,267	14,383	1,161	-	-
URUGUAY	207,275	7,947	-	-	1,412	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
VIET NAM	203,000	6,919	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SWEDEN	30,934	909	-	-	80,574	12,046	45,479	831	2,022	78	-	-	-	-
EGYPT	94,558	26,271	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,340	12,225
ESTONIA	600	8	-	-	-	-	124,439	3,817	3,042	117	5,055	94	-	-
KUWAIT	126,016	3,034	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MACAU	-	-	103,891	11,722	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LATVIA	100,289	2,315	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UKRAINE	98,752	3,387	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112	6	-	-
TURKEY	-	-	66,557	9,132	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SINGAPORE	-	-	-	-	62,476	1,750	-	-	-	-	1,235	25	-	-
POLAND	26,646	794	-	-	15,000	500	-	-	-	-	1,498	43	-	-
VENEZUELA	-	-	-	-	23,582	1,869	17,188	838	-	-	-	-	-	-

PERUVIAN ALPACA EXPORT STATISTICS
 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER 2013
 VALUE US\$ FOB - QTY IN KGS. - UNIT M2

COUNTRY	YARN		TOPS		KNITWEAR		ACCESSORIES		WOVEN GARMENTS		WOVEN CLOTH		NOILS	
	VALUE FOB	QTY KGS	VALUE FOB	QTY KGS	VALUE FOB	QTY UNIT	VALUE FOB	QTY UNIT	VALUE FOB	QTY UNIT	VALUE FOB	QTY M2	VALUE FOB	QTY KGS
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	-	-	-	-	30,574	312	1,800	100	-	-	150	1	-	-
SOUTH AFRICA	4,458	128	26,453	2,194	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PORTUGAL	26,984	991	-	-	3,196	284	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INDIA	21,665	713	7,026	447	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COSTA RICA	1,740	145	-	-	23,255	569	-	-	626	36	-	-	-	-
ICELAND	-	-	-	-	22,111	589	124	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARAGUAY	19,650	2,940	-	-	-	-	1,400	200	-	-	-	-	-	-
HONDURAS	-	-	-	-	17,960	1,262	1,650	115	-	-	-	-	-	-
PHILIPPINES	18,150	557	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MAURITIUS	16,434	463	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GUYANA	-	-	-	-	11,471	741	120	4	366	44	-	-	-	-
PANAMA	196	14	-	-	5,557	86	-	-	6,149	259	-	-	-	-
LUXEMBOURG	30	1	-	-	10,438	497	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MALAWI	10,121	357	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BELIZE	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,700	600	-	-	-	-	-	-
KAZAKHSTAN	-	-	-	-	7,030	117	167	4	2,351	60	-	-	-	-
NEPAL	8,249	186	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ROMANIA	-	-	-	-	4,309	124	-	-	1,284	144	-	-	-	-
HUNGARY	-	-	-	-	5,290	230	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
THAILAND	3,554	131	-	-	-	-	400	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
GUATEMALA	1,194	79	-	-	2,353	383	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SERBIA	2,472	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CUBA	-	-	-	-	775	350	-	-	-	-	20	2	-	-
ISRAEL	-	-	-	-	566	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EL SALVADOR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	2	-	-
BULGARIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	144	2	-	-
BAHRAIN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	139	2	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	42,571,384	1,664,038	37,142,085	2,872,352	30,591,934	1,491,883	7,110,470	278,909	5,771,006	241,470	4,000,486	139,054	611,610	244,086

SOURCE: SUNAT/COMEXPERU

IAA ALPACA MONTHLY BULLETIN

The IAA Alpaca Monthly Bulletin is aimed at keeping members informed of news from the IAA. We encourage any member to supply articles of interest to update members about developments in the Camelid world. Articles with a human interest angle are particularly welcome.

Please submit to the Editor:
francisrainsford@yahoo.co.uk



Asociación Internacional de la Alpaca
International Alpaca Association
Campaña Paisajista 106, San Lazaro
Cercado, Arequipa Peru
Telefax +51 54 229344
<http://www.aia.org.pe>, www.thealpacamark.info
E- mail: aia@terra.com.pe