

Ramkumar Wins Award from Industry-Leading Professional Group

Thursday, March 24, 2016 By Glenys Young, Texas Tech
A Texas Tech University researcher has been chosen to receive a prestigious technical achievement award from TAPPI.

Seshadri Ramkumar, a professor of technical textiles and countermeasures to chemical threats in Texas Tech's Department of Environmental Toxicology and The Institute of Environmental and Human Health, will receive TAPPI's NET (Nonwovens Engineers and Technologists) Division Technical Achievement Award and the Mark Hollingsworth Prize for technical advancement in the field. The TAPPI NET Division is the world's leading professional group in the field of nonwoven technology, and the Technical Achievement Award is deemed the highest technical award for the field's researchers.

"This award has been possible because Texas Tech realized the importance of research in the new field of nonwovens way back in 1999 and supported my effort through the Admiral Zumwalt Program, which helped with the creation of FiberTect decontamination wipe technology," Ramkumar said. "The research program showcases strong and continuing collaboration between Texas Tech, Reese Center and industry groups such as Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. I am thankful to Texas Tech for providing a supportive research environment that is absolutely needed for any research program to succeed."

Ramkumar's award will be presented at a May 17 awards dinner during the 2016 NET INC (Innovative Nonwovens Conference) in Cincinnati, Ohio.

"I have known Ram for nearly a decade and am proud to be involved in presenting this well-deserved award to him," said Larry N. Montague, TAPPI president and CEO. "He is extremely energetic, solid and passionate about the Nonwovens industry, and his leadership skills have helped to drive the TAPPI NET Division forward as a true motivator."

West Texas Young Farmers Association to Host District 19 Candidate Forum

Friday, March 25, 2016 Information from WTYFA

The West Texas Young Farmers Association will host a 19th Congressional District Candidate Forum on Tuesday, March 29, at the First Baptist Church Gymnasium, 219 W. Main Street in Brownfield.

Attendees should be seated by 6:15 p.m., and the forum will begin at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited. The forum also will be broadcast live at <http://towntalkradio.com>. Candidates Glen Robertson and Jodey Arrington will be in attendance to answer questions related to various issues affecting Terry County and the region.

For more information, visit the West Texas Young Farmers Association on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WTYFA/> or call (806) 638-2049.

PCG's 59th Annual Meeting

Friday, April 8

Lubbock Memorial Civic Center • 9 a.m.-Noon

Keynote Speaker

Presented by Farmers Cooperative Compress

David Wasserman

The Cook Political Report

More information at www.plainscotton.org!

Marriott Hotels to Offer Customers Made in America Terry Products

Monday, March 21, 2016 By Seshadri Ramkumar

Marriott International will become the first hospitality company to offer its customers bath towels and mats that are made within the boundaries of the United States using home-grown cotton.

The United States has been long importing textiles and apparel goods from other countries, including Bangladesh and Vietnam, as it has shifted away from low-end manufacturing industries. However, the United States is focusing on high-end textile manufacturing sectors such as industrial textiles and nonwovens.

Marriott International, which reports revenues of more than \$14 billion last fiscal year, announced recently that it will use terry fabrics made from U.S. grown cotton and manufactured in the United States. Marriott has entered into a partnership with Standard Textiles to develop these goods to be used in its 3,000 U.S. hotels.

"We believe our guests will appreciate knowing that even simple items they use every day in our hotels represent progress for the U. S. economy," J.W. "Bill" Marriott, Jr., Executive Chairman of Marriott, said in a news release.

Standard Textile will manufacture these goods in its Thomaston, Georgia and Union, South Carolina plants in the U.S. It is reported that this new program will create 150 new jobs at these locations.

The use of home-grown cotton has brought cheers to U.S. cotton producers. Steve Verett, Executive Vice President of Lubbock, TX based Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., said, "From a cotton producer perspective, this is excellent news. Anything we can do to increase demand for our product certainly will benefit our producers. We appreciate Marriott International for recognizing the importance of supporting the U.S. cotton and textile industry. It is significant for a major hotel chain like Marriott to make this commitment, and we hope others will follow."

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