 

**Thailand Textile Institute (THTI) and Taiwan Textile Research Institute (TTRI) kick off the opening of the “Thailand-Taiwan Textile Testing and Certification Service Center” to expedite the development of testing services with the view of expansion to the ASEAN market**

 **13 September 2023 – Thailand Textile Institute joins hands with Taiwan Textile Research Institute to open the Thailand-Taiwan Textile Testing and Certification Service Center to expedite the development of testing services for technical, functional, and medical textiles with focus on One Stop Service and readiness to expand the base as the testing center of ASEAN**.

 **Mr. Pramode Vidtayasuk, Chairman, Thailand Textile Institute** states that Thailand Textile Institute operates under the Foundation for Industrial Development as a center for promotion and development of the country’s textile and garment industry. Its missions include development, research, increased productivity, increased efficiency, creativity, industry, and personnel, as well as drive of standards in parallel with environmental preservation. The cooperation and partnership between Thailand Textile Institute (THTI) and Taiwan Textile Research Institute (TTRI) started since 2006. In 2017, Taiwan-Thailand Industrial Collaboration Summit (TTICoS) was held in Thailand. In the summit, the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between THTI and TTRI to assist the textile industry of both countries in terms of technology for textile testing and services for technical textile with special functional qualifications, and to deepen cooperation for knowledge and capacity exchange, technical assistance, and market development.

  During the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cooperation continued online. TTRI, with its more advanced testing capacity for special functional qualifications than Thailand, provided assistance and cooperation in testing personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks and protective clothing within a short period of time and with urgent certification to solve the crisis of the shortage of medical textile. In the TTICoS 2021 held at that time, realizing the potential of THTI, TTRI signed a new MOU to promote the cooperation in testing and certification of medical textile, as well as exchange and sharing of information and experience with the aim of establishing a two-way accreditation scheme for the certification of functional, technical, and medical protective textiles, as well as establishing the Thailand-Taiwan Textile Testing and Certification Service Center.

 **Dr. Robert Jou, Vice President, Taiwan Textile Research Institute** states that in 2023 the TTICoS 2023 has been held continuously. It is therefore a great opportunity for the official opening of

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**the Thailand-Taiwan Textile Testing and Certification Service Center** to expedite the increased efficiency and expanded capacity in the testing and certification of functional, technical, and medical protective textiles. The collaborative guideline consists of the following:

1. Upgrade relevant skills and techniques through common learning and sharing in response to the increased market demand.

2. Improve the quality control through standards and general testing procedures to ensure quality and safety of products and enhance consumers’ satisfaction.

3. Upgrade competitiveness at the international level through development of the capacity of joint testing in accordance with international standards.

 The knowledge on advanced testing and potential of Taiwan Textile Research Institute and its collaboration with Thailand Textile Institute will upgrade testing skills, technology, increase textile testing items and certification in Thailand, and effectively reduce testing costs for SMEs and industries for their export. Moreover, the testing base of both countries’ textile industrial standards can be expanded to foreign markets to cover ASEAN countries. **THTI aims to develop the “Thailand-Taiwan Textile Testing and Certification Service Center” as the One Stop Service which meets the standards and is the biggest in ASEAN,** as well as a learning source to understand the trend of product development in Thailand and other textile markets in Southeast Asia in the future.

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