



ICHSLTA PRESS RELEASE APRIL 2014

Members of ICHSLTA gathered in Hong Kong on the Sunday afternoon prior to the Leather Fair taking place. The 85th AGM was held at the HK Convention Centre showing a strong turnout of full members and associate members. A new council was voted in for a two year term. Nick Winters (France) will take on the presidency replacing John Reddington (USA) who retired, with Stephen Sothmann (USA) and Su Chaoying (CHINA) both becoming vice presidents. New associate members were voted in from New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Italy, Dubai and Switzerland.

A majority of members adopted the policy statement that the life cycle analysis (LCA) for the sustainability of leather production should start from the abattoir. The analysis should not attempt to allocate any percentage of the resource burdens attributed to the raising of the animal.

The council also discussed the increasing number of trade barriers hindering free trade within the leather industry. ICHSLTA remains a strong defender of free trade and members agreed to combat such measures using all the council's resources and networks at a global level.

Key ICHSLTA council members then joined the Global Leather Coordinating Committee (GLCC) meeting at the same venue, along with members from ICT and IULTCS. Members of GLCC discussed several topics of major importance for the governance of the leather industry. ICHSLTA was able to input on the seemingly inadequate world hide supply to the leather industry. An agreement was made on the LCA for leather manufacture to start from the abattoir as per above and IULTCS announced a forthcoming ISO standard which would list appropriate test methods for restricted substances in leather.

In the evening, ICHSLTA held a cocktail reception with the support of APLF. It had been some time since ICHSLTA had hosted such an event and it was extremely well attended by the entire leather industry with a strong delegation of Chinese tanners and the CLIA president Mr Su Chaoying. The two main sponsors were the US hide association and SPLIT Group.