# More fit for the future

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT NILÖRNGRUPPEN



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#### About this report

This is a sustainability report from Nilorngruppen for 2016. If you have any questions please contact Anna-Karin Wärfors (anna-karin.warfors@nilorn.com). We also welcome feedback from you, our stakeholders and readers, regarding the focus and content of this report.

## A humble and diligent approach

Our customers show increasing expectations of us when it comes to conducting our business in line with a more sustainable global development. An expectation that we very much welcome.

This is our first sustainability report, where we report on our work, our progress and the way forward. The bottom line of our approach is that resources, both natural and human, must be used in a sustainable way.

We appreciate the fact that these are complex issues, especially considering the global supply chains of which we are part. Together with our customers we can contribute to increased transparency and traceability of each component of the end product. Therefore, we will continue to work with eco-labeling and audit schemes, related to our own products and their production.

At the centre of everything we do are our employees. To offer a workplace where they can thrive in their respective roles, without compromising their health and wellbeing, is important.

We will continue to contribute to making our customers, employees and suppliers more fit for the future.

Claes af Wetterstedt CEO Nilörngruppen AB

## "Adding value to your brand"

## BANGLADESH BELGIUM CHINA DENMARK ENGLAND GERMANY HOLLAND HONG KONG INDIA ITALY PAKISTAN PORTUGAL SWEDEN SWITZERLAND TURKEY USA

OFFICES AND MANUFACTURING BASES

MANUFACTURING BASES MARKED WITH BLUE



## About Nilörngruppen

Nilorngruppen is an international company, founded in 1977, which adds value to brands through branding and design in the form of labels, packaging and accessories. Our customers are mostly found in the fashion and clothing industry, many of which have a presence in international markets. At Nilorngruppen we strive to increase our customers' competitiveness by providing services that cover all design aspects, plus a logistics system that guarantees reliable and short delivery times.

#### 2016 FACTS AND FIGURES

- Turnover from 610 (527) MSEK, i.e. an increase of 16%
- Number of employees 358 (335)
- 47% of employees work in production and warehouse
- Women/men ratio 48% / 52%
- Number of labels delivered approx. 1 billion

## Sustainability at Nilörngruppen

For the past 30 years, we have been supplying our customers with customised high-quality designed labels and other brand-strengthening products and services. We like and want to stay ahead.

We acknowledge our customers' challenge to secure a supply chain that minimises – and eventually eliminates – all negative impact on people and the environment. Therefore, working proactively on sustainability is an important value that we add to our customers' brands.

Sustainability at Nilorngruppen means working towards meeting the needs of people and society without compromising the needs of future generations – acting in the long-term interests of many people.

It means adapting to the limitations of the planet and protecting the environment. It means promoting a strong, healthy, inclusive and fair society where people can prosper and fulfil their potential.

Nilorngruppen believes in taking a holistic approach - including the entire design, manufacturing and supply chain.

In 2017 we strengthened our team with a sustainability manager, providing the organisation with expertise and resources. The Sustainability Manager is located at our Head Office and will co-ordinate Nilorngruppen's sustainability work, together with local staff in our sourcing countries. In Nilorn East Asia we have a newly appointed Supply, Sourcing and CSR Manager, an employee with good experience and background in the organisation, Ms Cheryl Hall.

- Nilorngruppen's actions aim to have an overall positive impact on the planet and contribute to protecting biodiversity, animal welfare, sustainable resource use and the development of a value chain with a low carbon impact.
- Nilorngruppen is committed to having a positive influence on people's lives, based on respect for human rights, meaningful community involvement and shared values.

## Governance

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Throughout the whole process, from design to delivery, we strive to implement our Environmental Policy. Read more about our environmental focus and performance on page 12.

#### CODE OF CONDUCT

Our Code of Conduct serves as a common foundation for us and our suppliers in terms of acting in a responsible manner, including focusing on environmental protection and good working conditions. Read more about our work to implement the Code of Conduct on page 11.

#### **ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY**

Our Anti-corruption Policy contains the organisation's rules and restrictions regarding gifts and other kind of appreciations. It also describes the procedures for employees to raise any ethical questions or to report any breaches or suspected breaches of the company's code of conduct. Read more about our work to implement business ethics on page 11.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCE POLICY**

Our Human Resource Policy regulates what the company expects of its employees and what employees expect of the company. The HR policy mainly regulates: management responsibility for developing its staff, information supplied to all employees, annual performance reviews, payments and IT usage. Read more about our work to implement business ethics on page 28.

#### THE VALUE CHAIN - FROM A SUSTAINABILITY PERSPECTIVE



Discussing choice of materials and its implications on sustainability with our customer.



Making more detailed decisions on choice of materials, to which factories to place orders etc. We have an important role in giving our customers options to choose more sustainable solutions.







PRODUCTION

The conditions under which the products are produced, in terms of environmental performance of the factory and occupational health and safety and other labour conditions for the workers

Ensuring that the ambitions of the customer and our own knowledge, result in products that have an as low environmental impact as possible.





By working close to our customers production sites, we can minimise distances, and therefore transport emissions.



We can help our customers reach out to the consumer with messages concerning labelling of products, and in general, help increase the transparency and traceability of products.



Our products are a part of other products, so our key role in this part of the chain is to deliver promptly, in order not to cause delays, which in turn could have negative consequences both from an environmenta and worker perspective.

## Strategic direction

#### VISION

To be the best label and branding company worldwide.

#### **BUSINESS CONCEPT**

Nilorn's business concept is to offer a complete brand profiling service, from initial design through to presentation at point of sale, to establish, strengthen and promote the image of our clients brands. This process incorporates brand identity and differentiation through design, product development, integrated logistics and supply chain services. Nilorn business concept is summarised as "Adding value to your brand".

#### **GOALS**

To exceed our clients expectations in all aspects of our global operations.

#### **STRATEGY**

Nilorn provides services to clients that help them to grow their brand presence in international markets. Fundamentally, our success is tied to the success of our clients.

Nilorn's strategy is to achieve business growth through the process of continuous improvement in both product and service provision, coupled with an innovative approach to the introduction of new designs, products and services that add value and consumer appeal to our clients brands and products.

Through this endeavour, it is Nilorn's intention to become the partner of choice, for the world's leading fashion and accessory brands.





## Business Conduct

The core values are the practices a Nilorngruppen employee should be guided by daily, in all work situations. They form a common platform and strengthen our teamwork. Together with our Code of Conduct and other ethical guidelines, they guide how we conduct our business.

#### **BUSINESS ETHICS**

Nilorngruppen's anti-corruption policy includes not accepting gifts or other benefits from our partners. If ever gifts are accepted, it should take place with full transparency and in a manner that follows the organisation's policy. Employees sign the anti-corruption policy, incorporated in the induction of new employees.

In 2017 we will increase our focus on our business ethics and introduce specific training for employees.

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Nilorngruppen's Code of Conduct lays out the overall ethical approach for us and our suppliers. It is part of the contract that we have with suppliers. However, it is a challenge to ensure that the values and requirements of the Code of Conduct are implemented. We, and our suppliers, operate in countries with different traditions and legal requirements. In 2016 we did not terminate any business relationship suppliers due to non-compliances, but we are now in dialogue with those that have not yet signed the Code of Conduct.

#### **GLOBAL COMPACT**

Since January 2017 Nilorngruppen are signatories to the UN Global Compact corporate responsibility initiative and its principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. In 2017, we will focus on formulating a plan, with the aim to better integrate these principles in the policies and daily operations worldwide at Nilorngruppen.

In 2017 we will update the Code of Conduct, together with other policies, to ensure that they are aligned with the UN Global Compact. We will also focus on communication of these updated policies and roll-out training, at all locations of Nilorngruppen.

#### **NILÖRNGRUPPEN CORE VALUES**

- Passion
- Innovation
- Respect
- Common Sense
- · Responsibility
- Execute
- Teamwork

#### NILÖRNGRUPPEN CODE OF CONDUCT

- Legal requirements
- Child labour
- Health and safety
- · Workers' rights
- Wages and working hours
- Environmental protection



## Environmental commitments

The customer, and end consumer, should feel secure in the use of Nilorngruppen's whole product range. Sustainable products, for us, implies finding better materials. Once chosen and used, those materials should be kept in a recycling loop for as long as possible. For us it is important to work to be genuinely better all round, not only from the product perspective.

We are committed to reducing the environmental impact of everything we do - designing a product, choosing production processes, choosing a supplier, planning the logistics etc. Our aim is to be a genuinely environmentally-friendly company, not just selling eco-friendlier products when we are asked for them. Both materials and mode of transportation are almost always decided by the customer. Our role in guiding the customer in finding better alternatives is becoming more and more important and we see an increased interest from our customers.

At Nilorngruppen, we have a philosophy of being close to our customers. We aim to deliver labels within 48 hours, depending on location and stock levels. By reducing the supply chain, we help to reduce transportation.

During 2016 we have taken a first step in collecting information and measuring our emissions. This will give us an initial baseline in our work to reduce our environmental impact.

Nilorngruppen's operations are located in several different countries and as there is differences in emissions between countries, especially diverse and wide-ranging for electricity consumption and travel, we have used local emission factors where possibly (Defra/DECC).

- Staff travelling 282 tonne CO2e\*
- Energy consumption 226 tonne CO2e\*\*

Our methods for collecting data form various internal and external partners will be in focus during 2017, with the aim to get a relevant, consistent and transparent reporting.

#### **RESPONSIBLE USE OF CHEMICALS**

Nilorngruppen produces a variety of products in many different materials, at our 7 production sites. We conduct internal audits which include checking the handling and storage of chemicals used in production. This is also a prioritised issue in the audits conducted at our suppliers' sites.

Nilorngruppen is participating in the Chemicals Group at Swerea IVF. The Chemicals Group exists to disseminate the latest findings related to chemicals and their potential impacts on the environment and human health, to its member com-



panies. The chemical guidance developed by the initiative helps the members to avoid importing products containing unwanted substances.

#### **REACH**

All Nilorngruppen partners are required to sign an agreement stating that the REACH regulation is complied with. This is a non-negotiable requirement.

<sup>\*</sup> including China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Portugal, Sweden, Turkry and England

<sup>\*\*</sup> including China, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Sweden and England



## What's in a label?

With our creative labels we help our clients strengthen their brands and products. They are often also a great way to inform the consumer about the product and its origin.

Eco-labels are also a way in which our customers can communicate responsibility along the production chain, making the consumer more aware about their purchases. But that's not all. We at Nilorngruppen can also certify our products – including labels, buttons, accessories, etc. – according to various environmental labeling schemes.

Eco-labels are voluntary, for the purpose of promoting environmental and social responsibility and helping consumers in making better choices.

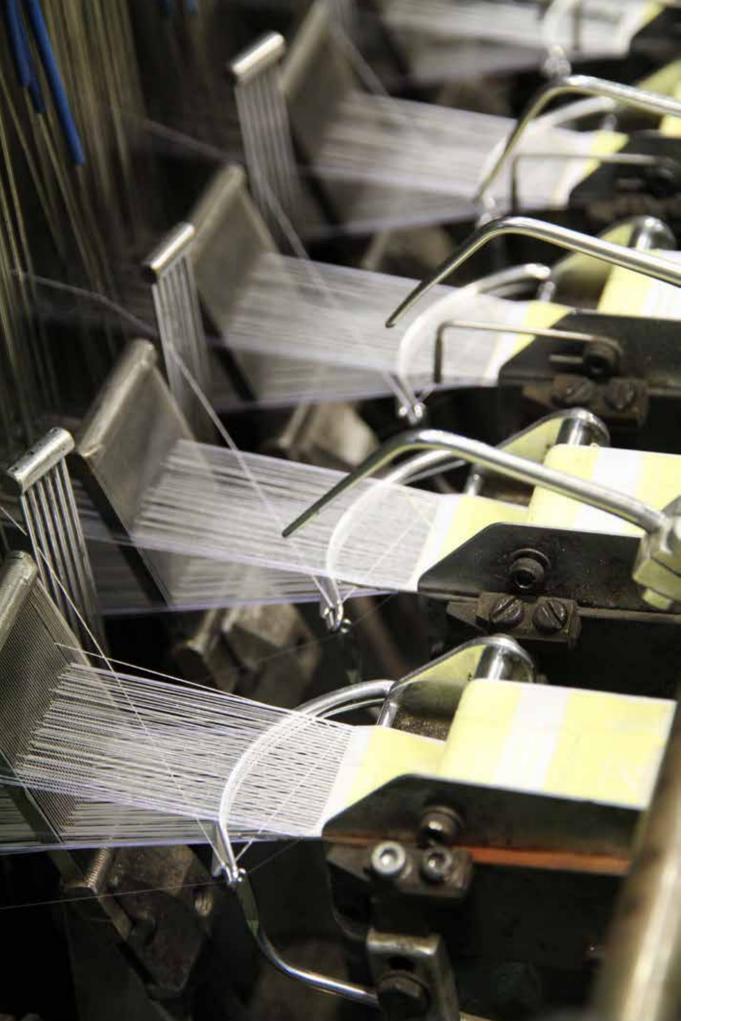














# bluesign® - An important step towards better and more transparent supply chains

The bluesign® system puts the whole production chain in focus. This is something that we at Nilorngruppen have found to be very well aligned with our own ambitions, and as of 2013 we are a bluesign® system partner. We now aim to incorporate more of our range and volume under bluesign® certification.

bluesign® technologies was founded in Switzerland in 2000. bluesign® certification not only indicates that the product itself is made of materials that are considered more environmentally sound, but that the entire chain of production – from raw natural materials to the finished product delivered to the end consumer – has as little negative environmental impact as possible.

The bluesign® system focuses on resources, people and the environment.

The focus areas are:

- · Resource productivity
- · Consumer safety
- Water emission
- Air emission
- Occupational health and safety

Responsible resource management, i.e. focusing on protecting human health and the environment, shall be the goal for all system partners. A proactive strategy towards clean and transparent production shall be promoted. The best results cannot be achieved within weeks or even months; rather, they represent ongoing efforts for continuous improvement. The road towards sustainable production cannot and should not be travelled alone – it involves collaboration within the whole supply chain network to minimise the product's life-cycle impact.

We at Nilorngruppen find the increasing focus on bluesign® to be a very positive trend and we welcome more of

our customers to join this initiative and choose bluesign® approved products.

Input Stream Management is an important part of the bluesign® system and involves us working towards eliminating all unsustainable substances from production. Input Stream Management is a preventive approach which helps the textile industry produce in a more environmentally friendly and resource-efficient way.

#### **PORTUGAL - HOW WE BECAME CERTIFIED**

The Nilorn factory in Portugal is a bluesign® system partner as of 2012. The assessment of a factory entails the following steps:

- An evaluation of the production site, focusing on the use of chemicals, the working conditions, environmental impact, and water and energy consumption.
- Based on the detailed assessment, a report on the findings and an action plan with necessary measures are drawn up.
- Once all necessary measures have been implemented, the products can be approved according to the bluesign® system. These measures could include: eliminating the use of hazardous chemicals, changes in operation, installation of air and water cleaning systems, improvement of personnel safety and an overall improvement in house-keeping.

#### HONG KONG - NEXT IN LINE

The factory in Hong Kong is currently undergoing the assessment, with the aim to become bluesign® system partner in 2017.

## Certifications

At Nilorngruppen we also work with other certifications and with different types of more sustainable materials in our products.

Here we provide you with the latest insights into some of these certifications and materials.

## OEKO-TEX® 100 (class 1)



The STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® is an independent test and certification system for textile raw, intermediate and end products at all stages of processing. Examples of products that can be certified are yarns, woven and knitted fabrics, accessories such as buttons and labels and readymade articles etc.

The certification aims to provide the end consumer with a reliable, third-party, independent product label for non-hazardous products that are tested in accordance with the STANDARD 100 criteria catalogue and thereby contribute to effective consumer protection. It also aims to support companies in the textile chain based on a scientific criterion catalogue and neutral laboratory tests to help them improve in the product safety area with regard to human ecology.

The OEKO-TEX® tests for harmful substances are fundamentally based on the respective purpose of the textiles and materials, they cover:

- · legally banned and controlled substances
- chemicals known to be harmful to health (but not yet legally controlled)
- parameters for health protection

These requirements go far beyond existing national legislation. Testing is geared towards how the textile will actually be used, the more closely the product is in contact with the skin, the stricter the requirements. Class 1 is the highest level.

The OEKO-TEX® Association conducts annual control testing of certified products, at a rate of at least 25% of all certificates issued. It tests articles bearing the OEKO-TEX® label that are available in retail shops and also samples of materials from factories. In addition, independent auditors carry out random checks of companies holding OEKO-TEX® certificates, in the form of unannounced inspections.

Nilorngruppen holds an OEKO-TEX® certificate for textile production and accessories, produced both in our own factories as well as suppliers' factories. We hold certification for product class 1, the highest level.



## Recycled materials

We are always scouting for new, more sustainable materials for our products.

Recycled polyester is a material that we can offer for different uses such as woven and printed labels, felt and embroidery. Recycled polyester can also be blended, with a warp in polyester and a weft in, for example, organic cotton. Recycled materials are something we see an increasing interest in from many customers and we will continue to develop our ability to offer such materials.

## FSC

FSC stands for 'Forest Stewardship Council', an international non- profit organisation dedicated to promoting responsible forestry.

FSC certifies forests all over the world to ensure they meet the highest environmental and social standards. Products carrying the FSC label are independently certified to assure consumers that they come from forests that are managed to meet social, economic and ecological needs.

A properly labelled product shall both carry the FSC symbol and the certificate number.

Nilorngruppen products that can carry this label are products produced with the use of paper or forest based textile fibres. Nilorngruppen aims to continuously increase the content of FSC certified paper in our products and we are now able to provide it in all sales markets.



#### LOGISTIC FOCUS

- Reliability
- · Efficiency
- · Cost effectiveness
- · Worldwide distribution
- · Short delivery times

## Our production and logistics

Nilorngruppen is strategically located in major garment-manufacturing countries around the world, enabling us to ship labels in stock to our customers within 48 hours, depending on location and relevant stock levels. A majority of the production is through external suppliers as it allows us to be flexible and adapt to our customers' locations. Our own production is an important complement. With this combined approach, we can ensure timely deliveries and high quality.

#### **PRODUCTION**

Of our total purchasing value in 2016, 80% is in Asia and 20% in Europe. Sourcing in Asia mainly comes from Hong Kong, China and India. Most of our European sourcing is from Turkey and Italy. As a complement to the sourcing activity, Nilorngruppen own production facilities represented approx. 10% of the group turnover in 2016.

Nilorngruppen has its own production sites in:

- Bangladesh (opening in 2017)
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- India
- Portugal
- Turkey
- · United Kingdom

#### **LOGISTICS**

The development of the fashion industry requires that Nilorngruppen is represented in many parts of the world, through their own companies and a network of strategic partners. Nilorngruppen has access, through collaboration with partner companies, to high quality production in emerging markets in Asia.

The Nilorn Web Solution provides a complete overview of orders, warehousing and distribution, allowing both the client and manufacturer to order labels, control design and the delivery. We have warehouses in Dhaka, Hilden, Holstebro, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Karachi, Keighley, New Delhi, Recarei and Shanghai.



At our production site in Portugal we produce woven and printed labels. The factory is blusign \$ and ISO 9001 certified. There are 54 employees.



## Working with our supply chain

New suppliers to Nilorngruppen are to be reviewed by the CSR department. The first assessment includes looking at social audits that the factory may have been subjected to previously, as well as other issues such as their production capacity and quality of products. A supplier is preferably visited prior to production.

We do our own inspections in combination with relying on third party audits, through BSCI, SEDEX and other initiatives. ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 are also certification schemes used among suppliers, which we take into consideration when choosing a supplier.

Most importantly we focus on having a very close dialogue and frequent meetings with all prioritised suppliers.

2016 was the second year for the supplier evaluation in Asia. The evaluation is a good tool to help both us and the supplier to improve. The implementation of the supplier program started in Hong Kong and China. During 2017 we will continue implementing the program in remaining sourcing countries.

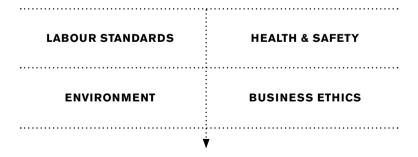
#### SEDEX

Sedex, the Supplier Ethical Data Exchange, is a not for profit membership organisation dedicated to driving improvements in responsible and ethical business practices in global supply chains. Sedex is an online database which allows companies to store and view data on ethical and responsible business practices. Sedex does not set any standards or determine the policy of its members.

Sedex provides a place to store any and all ethical audit reports, with a summary of non-compliances held in a common format. However, Sedex has created the Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA) – a common audit methodology and report format.

#### THE SEDAX GLOBAL PLATFORM

is a secure, online database which allows members to store, share and report information in four key areas:



AT NILORNGRUPPEN, WE ARE AUDITED AGAINST SEDEX/SMETA IN OUR FACTORIES IN HONG KONG, PORTUGAL AND TURKEY - MAKING THE RESULTS AVAILABLE FOR ALL SEDEX MEMBERS TO ACCESS.

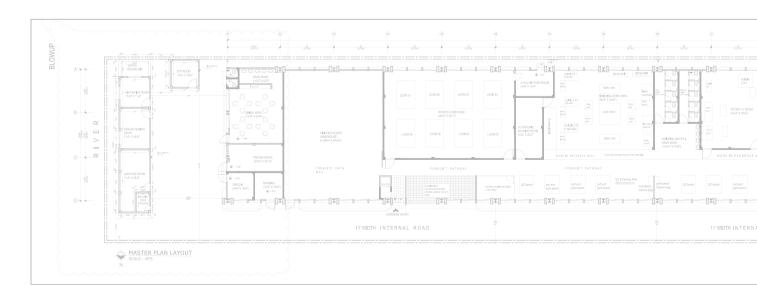
# FACTORY IN THE MAKING

It is with great pride that we talk about our latest endeavour - the construction of our own factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh. As with our other production sites, this factory will help our customers find us as a reliable partner, close to their own production. Thereby we can ensure even greater flexibility and quality in our deliveries.

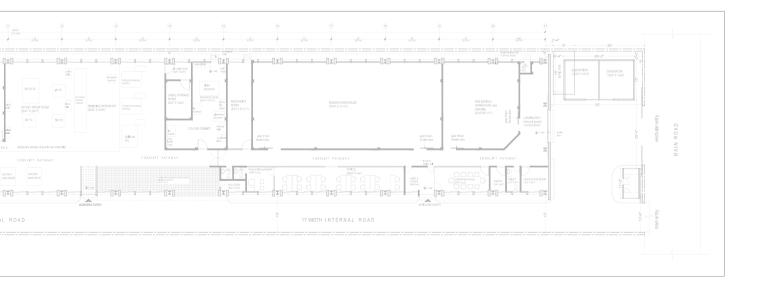
In 2016 construction started and in March 2017 the first products left the brand new factory. In the factory, the whole range of Nilorngruppens' products will be produced - woven and printed labels, hangtags, care labels and barcodes.

To have been able to design and build a factory from scratch, is of course in many ways a great advantage from a sustainability perspective. Especially when it comes to the health and safety aspects of the workers and from an environmental perspective, as all lighting installed is LED, the chemical storage is organised in a separate room and so on.

The factory will initially employ approximately 120 workers, who will be directly employed by Nilorn Bangladesh. We see this as a strength, as it enables us to take responsibility for the workers and offer an opportunity for them to grow with us. The factory will be set up to follow Nilorngruppen's policies and during 2017 it will have its first social and ethics audit, by an external auditor in the SEDEX system.







## Cotton made in Africa

The global demand for sustainably produced cotton is increasing. To ensure supply, we must work together to train and help cotton producers make the transition from traditional cultivation methods to more sustainable practices. This is precisely what the "Cotton made in Africa" (CmiA) initiative is trying to accomplish. We at Nilorngruppen are proud to be partners in this initiative and to help spread awareness of it.

CmiA is an Aid by Trade Foundation initiative that was established in 2005. Its objective is to help smallholder farmers help themselves through trade and to improve the social, ecological and economic living conditions of smallholder cotton producers and their families in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the world's fifth largest cotton exporting region where cotton is grown by about 3.4 million smallholder farmers. A total of more than 20 million people in the region are directly or indirectly living off cotton.

More than 670 000 smallholder farmers are part of the CmiA program, from which they learn about efficient and

environmentally friendly cultivation methods through agricultural training. At the same time, CmiA has established an international alliance of textile companies who purchase raw material from CmiA farmers and pay a licensing fee to use the official seal of the CmiA. The proceeds from licensing fees are reinvested in the project regions of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Nilorngruppen is a partner of CmiA, among many others representing a variety of sectors: from public and private funding organisations to cotton companies, retailers and brands. We provide all standard CmiA hangtags and woven labels.

Read more at www.cottonmadeinafrica.org





## Our employees

The success of Nilorngruppen is directly linked to the ability to empower our employees to be ambassadors for our brand. Then we can work together to achieve new goals, and to do what we are good at, better and better.

In each of Nilorngruppens's offices there is a personnel handbook. Capacity building and training is arranged locally in each country, for example First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety training. Our next step will be to set a structure for capacity building across our locations. One area in which we will train and further inform employees is concerning sustainable materials.

It is important that our employees feel that they can develop as individuals and in their roles. All employees are offered annual performance reviews

#### DATA

- Sick leave 2,2%\*
- Number of work related injuries 8\*\*

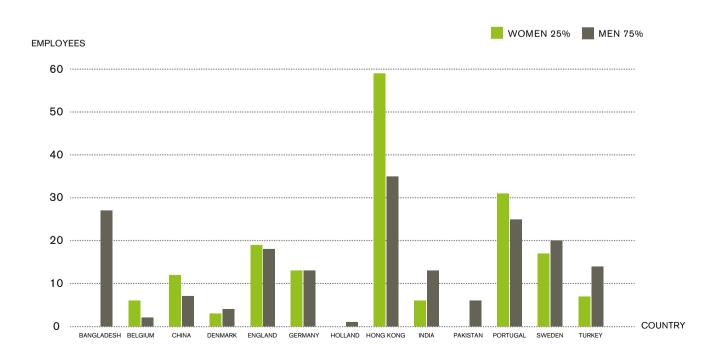
<sup>\*</sup> including Belgium, China, Denmark, England, Germany, Pakistan, Portugal and Sweden. \*\* including Belgium, China, England, Germany, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Portugal and Sweden.

#### **GENDER DISTRIBUTION**

#### Number of employees: 358



Employees - per country



# "The management style is very supportive, caring and has a large respect for people"

ERICA WONG, PRODUCTION MANAGER, NILORN EAST ASIA LTD

## Meet Erica Wong, our Production Manager at Nilorn East Asia

In March 2017 our new Sustainability Manager Anna-Karin Wårfors visited our office and production site in Hong Kong to learn more about our organisation and the sustainability work. There she met Erica Wong, our Production Manager, and talked about her role in managing the sustainability work of Nilorn in the regional context.

Erica began by saying "I started working here already in 1997, so this is actually my first job!" "My first position was in the customer service department and thereafter in product development" she continues.

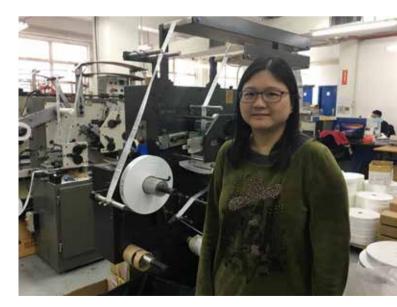
In 2010 Nilorn East Asia established and laser print was added to the existing production with thermo print. Erica Wong then became responsible for setting it up, together with assistant production manager Andy Chan. "Since then my focus is on the production. We are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace for all the people working here. It means everything from ensuring that fire drills are done to providing first-aid training and ensuring proper use of personal protective equipment".

"In my position, it is very important to keep up with legislation and regulation and learning about best practice, so I am now going through an extensive 9-month course focusing on Occupational Health and Safety", she continues.

But it is not only about meeting the legal requirements. The factory in Hong Kong has gone through SMETA/SEDEX audits, meeting social and environmental criteria which go beyond the legal requirements, OEKO-TEX® certified class 1. Since 2012, the factory has been certified to produce FSC-certified paper labels. "These initiatives were driven by a few customers, but we now see an increasing interest from other customers in both FSC and other eco-labels such as OEKO-TEX® ". In 2012, flexo print was added to production.

Erica is a good example of an employee who has developed a career within Nilorngruppen. "We have a very good management. The management style is very supportive, caring and has a large respect for people. This makes it a good working environment and is the main reason for me staying so long" she concludes.

Nilorngruppen is characterised by its international organisation, "I find that inspiring", says Erica, who has studied and speaks several languages as Japanese, English, Cantonese, Mandarin and also some French.





## Stakeholders

We know that our daily operations have effects on others in our surroundings. We aim to prioritise dialogue with different stakeholders as this is an instructive for us, to listen and to learn from others and it is necessary to allow all groups to cooperate for a more sustainable industry.

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	MEANS TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY	PRIORITISED AREAS
CUSTOMERS	Dialogue, meetings, magazine	IT-solutions, Code of Conduct, sustainable materials
EMPLOYEES	Meetings, trainings, Intranet	Sustainable materials, eco-labelling
INVESTORS	Reporting, meetings	Business ethics, reporting
SUPPLIERS	Meetings, fairs, events	Business relationship, buying process
NGOS	Initiatives, conferences	Raw material, labour, wages
INDUSTRY	Memberships, working groups	Chemicals, trade, social compliance

#### THE SWEDISH TEXTILE IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION

The Swedish Textile Importers associations is a valuable resource for us at Nilorngruppen. Through them we monitor the latest developments in trade policy issues. They help importers of textiles to keep track of everything that may be important to the business, such as customs duties, rules of origin, free trade agreements and CSR.

Topics recently covered in seminars have been product labelling, chemical issues, social codes of conduct and how to avoid mould in transport. The Textile Importers Association also drives policy issues that are of concern to its members.



#### LEEDS COLLEGE OF ART

## Inspiring the next Generation

Being a part of the fashion industry, we understand the vast scale of it and the value companies see in investing in their fashion branding. There is a continuous need for people who possess a wide variety of skills specific to this industry and fresh ideas – from knowledge and skill in graphic design, to marketing communications and an understanding of the fashion industry and how quickly it moves. We hope to contribute to making such skilled people continually available, by working with Leeds College of Art.

Nilorn UK has been working with Leeds College of Art for a number of years – taking on graduates, attending End of Year shows and delivering talks based on our industry – building a successful relationship.

We are proud to be have been involved with Leeds College of Art in collaborative projects for our concept collections – one in 2016 and another that is due to be launched later this year.

For both projects, we had the opportunity to meet and interact with a group of students - from the BA (Hons) Fashion Communication course - who submitted a variety of ideas and mood-boards for our briefs. The range of ideas and thought processes was clear to see and each mood board clearly portrayed each individual student's style.

The projects allow us to share our knowledge and understanding of the industry and we hope that the students we worked with and other students at the College found this experience valuable, as they begin their careers.

#### MUNICH FABRIC START

## Hightex Award

The Hightex Award is the innovation prize at Munich Fabric Start, an international textile trade show for textiles and accessories, taking place twice yearly, where more than 1000 international suppliers from 37 countries present some 1500 collections.

By setting up the Hightex Award, Munich Fabric Start has created a forum that caters to the rising demand for innovation and added value in the textile and fashion market.

The most innovative and future-oriented product developments for fabrics and additionals from exhibiting suppliers were evaluated and awarded in the fields of technology, smart fibres, sustainability, resource efficiency, finishing and functionality for the first time.

A waist badge in PES-Felt made of recycled PET-Bottles was selected and presented at KEYHOUSE, the innovation and competence centre for future-oriented and innovative trimmings, materials and solutions for the textile industry.

Nilorngruppen also presented sustainably produced concepts like the GENES and SOMEWHERE in the Organicselection at the Fabric fair.

## Our way forward

"2017 will be the year when we accelerate our sustainability work, on many levels. From improving the way we follow-up supplier performance to how we source materials fit for the future. From improving the quality of our environmental performance data to how we interact with clients to help them make the best choices"

Anna-Karin Wårfors, Sustainability Manager.

#### IN 2017 WE WILL FOCUS ON:

- Aligning our internal policies with Global Compact
- Implementing the Ethical business policy package with all employees through training
- Reviewing our strategies and targets in the light of the UN Sustainability Goals
- Chemical assessment in own production
- Improving the collection of sustainability data





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