



The Next UITIC Congress in 2010 will take place in Mexico

After having presented its candidature as organiser of the UITIC Congress over several years, the Mexican city of León (Guanajuato) has finally been selected as the venue for our next congress, following the last General Assembly held during the course of the 16th UITIC congress that took place in Elche in October 2008 and the subsequent vote of the Executive Committee. On this occasion the Mexican Technological Centre CIATEC will assume the organisation of the 17th UITIC Congress, which will take place in conjunction with the 32nd edition of the Calzatecnia congress.

New this time has been the fact that the initial formula of holding a Congress every two years has been taken up again, which means that on this occasion the UITIC-Calzatecnia Congress will take place from **7th to 9th October 2010**, and not in 2011 as was to be expected.

The footwear industry in Mexico represents an asset in the economy, because of its share in the total and manufacturing GDP, its generation of capital through exportation and the number of jobs it creates. Furthermore, this production line has a multiplying effect on other areas of national economy.

The main characteristic of the city of León is footwear manufacture. It has been producing footwear since 1645 and a guild was formed in 1808-1809. The footwear industry of León was consolidated at the start of the 20th century, through supplying military footwear for the USA. During the first half of the 20th century the industry

UITIC Awards

As notified to UITIC members, the call for UITIC Award nominations is open. The Awards will be presented during the next Congress to be held in Mexico in October.

The object of these Awards is to recognise, at an international level, the work of people who contribute particularly in the technological development in the footwear industries, whether it be for their activities in the actual footwear sector or in the related industries.

The Awards will be given for a particularly significant contribution in the sector, either in the present or past, or as recognition of the overall work carried out over a long period of time, in the following three categories:

- Technical
- Scientific
- Managerial

You are kindly request to submit your proposals to the President's office, including (on no more than a page) the candidate's CV and the reasons for nomination. In order to simplify this task, we recommend that you send it via e-mail, preferably before the end of May 2010, to the address: uitic@uitic.org.



started to take off, possibly because of the better opportunities generated by the expansion of the market, a result of the accelerated industrialisation and urbanisation of the country, and the arrival of technology. During the 1960s, a series of associations of footwear manufacturers were set up, parallel to the creation of new factories. As a result, production was strengthened. However, the sector has suffered several economic crises (1982, 1995 and 2008/9) which have forced many companies to close. In spite of this, León is currently the main footwear producing city.

From a global perspective, the global crisis that began in 2009 represented a forced change for companies, manifesting itself in an anxiety for survival, as their market is forcing them to adopt better ways to detect and interpret needs, to attract and retain customers; to develop products with high added value, different and better than those of the competition; to supply them faster and create more productive value chains. In other words, they need to innovate as a matter of survival. Innovation requires good ideas, creative and original approaches and knowledge that are the product of experience, research and experimentation.

It has been said that companies do not innovate alone, that ideas are developed and enhanced when people interact, therefore the main reason of this meeting will be to present and discuss success stories about Powerful Ideas in the Footwear Market.

Around this main theme the following thematic blocks will be developed:

▫ **Innovation process management in enterprises.** Management models are asked to monitor and prospect the market;

models to generate ideas and encourage invention, ingenuity and creativity; study cases where the organizational culture has successfully influenced staff so that they are involved in the innovation processes and the needed discipline to guide knowledge.

▫ **Success stories of innovative products.** Footwear with new attributes; footwear with diverse approaches: Biomechanical design, health, welfare, sustainability, ease of use; innovative footwear. Cases of successful adaptation to short product life cycles; successful ways in which better informed and more demanding consumers have been satisfied.

▫ **Innovation used in manufacturing processes and footwear equipment.** Solutions for reducing cycle times; technological advances in the shoe manufacturing process; equipment; installations and production chains models.

▫ **Innovative ways of doing business in the footwear market.** Success stories of shoe companies that have developed specific skills to activate markets or master the critical business processes; shoe companies that have been creating new customer needs.

The call for papers is currently open. Those interested in submitting an abstract for the Congress should send a proposal-summary before the 4th June 2010 to the following address:

CIATEC, A.C. Omega 201, Fracc. Industrial Delta. C.P. 37545, León, Gto., Mexico. Tel/Fax: (52) (477) 761.09.04 y 761.09.11

Email: calzatecnia@ciatec.mx

Detailed information about registration and hotels will soon be available on the website www.calzatecnia.com.mx or through uitic@uitic.org

RENEWAL OF UITIC's EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

During the last UITIC General Assembly, held in October 2008 in Elche (Spain), the new composition for the current period was approved, which was established as follows:

President:	César ORGILÉS	Spain
Vice-President:	Roger MAES	Belgium
Trasurer:	Enrique MONTIEL	Spain
General Secretary:	Esperanza ALMODÓVAR	Spain
Members:	Uwe THAMM	Germany
	Michele CANTELLA	Italy
	Demos PAPAKONSTANTINOU	Greece
	Françoise NICOLAS	France
	Leandro MELO	Portugal
	Malek KHELIL	Tunisia
	Luis G. TORREBLANCA	Mexico
	Ferenc SCHMEL	Hungary

As usual, these posts will be subject to the mandatory renewal during the next UITIC General Assembly to be held in the Mexico Congress.

NEW MEMBERS

The International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians has broadened its frontiers with new members.

The last members to join were: Mr Unni Louis (India), consultant for the footwear industry, and Mr Mohamed Hadouch (Morocco), footwear and leathergoods manufacturer. Both officially became UITIC members during the last General Assembly held in October 2008 in Elche (Spain).



Mr. Unni Louis

TECHNICAL MATERIAL FOR DISSEMINATION

The UITIC Secretariat has received a request for informative technical material to be published by the magazine SERMA, a publication specialised in the footwear and related industries, which for 25 years has been distributed to footwear factories, suppliers, retailers, sales agents, importers, representatives and sectoral associations in all Latin American countries and in different countries in the international market.

Through its content and intentions it disseminates varied information for practical use on different subjects, such as trends, markets, dates of fairs and events, as well as technical articles on the diverse manufacturing processes and the characteristics of materials and components used.

We now pass on this request to UITIC members so that you can make available technical information to its readers, with the objective of disseminating more information about footwear manufacture and keeping the industry updated.

Information about Serma's contact details can be requested through sending an email to our address: uitic@uitic.org.

