

## **Report Fipago Congress Trier Germany 2006**

### **German association joins Fipago**

The 50th. Fipago congress took place on September 8th., in Trier Germany. Delegates from 7 countries attended the meetings. Special attention was paid to the co-operation of the German association Fibepa with Fipago. After consultations during the year, in a joint meeting the German representatives informed the colleagues about their decision unanimously taken, to enter Fipago by the beginning of 2007. Board and members of Fipago expressed their appreciation for the confidence being put in the association and welcomed this major step which certainly will lead to strengthening the promotion of common interests of the gummed industry sector as a whole.

### **Market situation**

Delegates reported of the general economic and gummed paper tape markets in their countries. The general impression is that the economic recovery is widely spread, though the gummed tape markets differ from country to country. However, the view of stabilizing of markets as being reported in the previous year was confirmed. On the other hand, pressure on margins was felt, mainly caused by imports and increased paper prices. Customers in the different countries, especially operating in niche markets, are increasingly getting convinced of the advantages of gummed paper tape as the appropriate closing solution. Positive signals come from the development of new ranges of dispensers and case sealers as well, which will bring additional accelerations to the market.

### **Booming India**

Mr. Kamal Bhavnani informed the participants on the situation in the Far East, especially in India.

### **General situation**

The annual growth of the India GNP is approx. 8%. The country has a relative young population: 50% of the people are younger than 21. The population is growing: 18-20 million of inhabitants/year, which creates an absorption problem. Currently big infra-structure projects are being realised.

### **Gummed paper tape market**

Gummed paper tape is a niche product, except veneer tape for the construction industry. The total market is estimated 60-70 millions of square metres, of which 65% are used for packaging purposes. Only 1% is used for reinforced applications.

There are 12-15 producers, the greater part of them serve customers in the packaging area only. Driven by the general economic growth, despite possible loss of market share, the market is growing correspondingly. Exports take place to neighbour countries like Sri Lanka and Banglah Desh.

### **Beautiful Trier**

On invitation by Fibepa, participants enjoyed an excellent dinner as well as the city of Trier by visiting the ancient Roman sites like the "Kaiserthermen" and the Porta Nigra. A boat trip on the river Moselle completed the very pleasant stay in Germany.

### **Next Congress in France**

The date of the next congress was fixed on 26-27 April 2007 in Strasbourg France.