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## PREFACE

Dear colleagues and friends,

The Faculty of Textile Technology, University of Zagreb, has organised the 4<sup>th</sup> International Textile, Clothing and Design Conference in Dubrovnik, realising our wish for the conference (ITC&DC) to become a traditional one.

We started with 1<sup>st</sup> International Textile, Clothing and Design Conference 2002, on account of celebrating forty years of university education in textiles in the Republic of Croatia, and the beginning of systematic research in the field of textiles in Croatia. There were 129 papers presented on the first conference, by 239 authors, and the success of the conference inspired us to take the obligation of organising the conference under the same title biannually in Dubrovnik.

The four ITC&DC conferences organised until now have witnessed 697 papers by 1587 authors, all in all, which clearly indicates we have succeeded in forming our ITC&DC scientific family – the goal we dreamed about at the beginning. As every family we have, due to kind hospitality of the Centre for Advanced Academic Studies (CAAS), found a common meeting place.

From the papers received, the members of the International Reviewing Committee have accepted 195 papers for the 4<sup>th</sup> ITC&DC; all of them published in this Book of Proceedings. Which says clearly that the scientific research in the field of textiles is attractive, interesting, and a “cool” field.

I am sure everybody is eagerly looking forwards to meeting the old friends here in Dubrovnik, or just to see who would come. I am personally grateful to all the colleagues that attended the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ITC&DC for coming again to the beautiful town of Dubrovnik, but am also sincerely happy for those who are here in Dubrovnik and Croatia for the first time. In this sense, everybody is at home in Dubrovnik. Welcome home!

For a number of important reasons, the ITC&DC is organised in Dubrovnik. Historically speaking, at the time of the Dubrovnik Republic (from the early Middle Ages to the time of the Napoleonic Wars) the ships of the Republic sailed world-wide, and Dubrovnik even had its colonies (not many people know that Goya in India used to be a Dubrovnik colony). The part of the town called Pile, where our Conference is held, used to be the centre of textiles in the Dubrovnik Republic, and the peasants in the nearby Konavosko polje reared silkworms and produced silk until the mid-nineteenth century. Dubrovnik is also a city of exceptional cultural and historical monuments and is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is also a city with a millennium (or almost two millennia) history, where everybody can find his/her true self. *Those who seek paradise on Earth should come to Dubrovnik and see Dubrovnik*, as Bernard Shaw once said.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to all the participants for their valuable contribution and readiness to spend a part of their time in Dubrovnik, making the picture of the Magic World of Textiles more valuable and more real.

My gratitude also goes to the persons and institutions that have helped organising the 4<sup>th</sup> ITC&DC, especially to the Government of the Republic of Croatia, as well as to the international scientific associations that have accepted to be the patrons of the conference, proving it to be necessary, justified and useful.

Zvonko DRAGČEVIĆ



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