

## The 85th Anniversary of the GDYNIA COTTON ASSOCIATION

In 2020, the Gdynia Cotton Association celebrates the 85th anniversary of activity. Since 1935, our mission has been creation of economically and organisationally strong cotton sector in Poland and on the international arena – by means of supporting the work of our members as well as activities of all institutions and organisations interested in cotton. We are well recognised organisation, in Poland and worldwide, and our assets are most of all people who established the Association and who are supporting it now. Thanks to their work, dedication, kindness and profound understanding of the idea of associating, the Gdynia Cotton Association has gone down to the history of Polish and international cotton trade and processing.

The jubilee of the 85th anniversary of the GCA is an excellent opportunity to remind its activities, successes and difficult moments, but also to outline the prospects for development.

The idea to establish an institution which would take care of the interests of Polish cotton merchants was born in 1934, and the "founder fathers" were the then entrepreneurs, economic activists, and representatives of local and state authorities. The dynamic growth of the merchant marine port in Gdynia, which was reloading a vast volume of raw cotton for Polish mills as well as the intention to become independent of strong circles of merchants and cotton lobby gathered around the ports of Western Europe brought the thought that Gdynia was a perfect place for the institution which would supervise transport, warehousing, logistics, and control of cotton fibre.

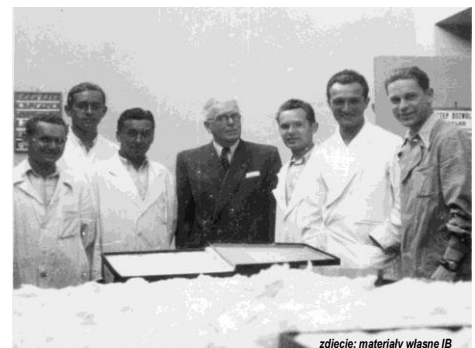
Therefore, in 1935, the decision was made on establishing the Gdynia Cotton Association. Although the Polish name was changed twice, the English one has always been the same. Since the onset, the Association was striving for being granted entitlement to carry international cotton evaluation and to settle quality and technical disputes referring to cotton, and the goal was achieved. In September 1938, cotton arbitration in Gdynia was officially commenced, and The Court of Arbitration at the Gdynia Cotton Association is the oldest, active court of arbitration in Poland.



During World War II, the GCA activities were suspended and the Cotton House was damaged in 75% when the Port of Gdynia was bombed in 1944. After the end of the War and after reconstruction of the building, the Gdynia Cotton Association resumed the function of the representative of trading and processing companies of the Polish textile industry.

Owing to great professionals, experts, and arbitrators, in 1948 the International Cotton Classification Courses were commenced. Until today, at 85 Courses, 642 cotton classers have been trained and they came from 29 countries around the world.

Recognising the high level of that training and of arbitrations which were carried out, in 1958 the American Cotton Shippers' Association and the US Department of Agriculture appointed the GCA the signatory of the Universal Cotton Standards Agreement, which are the quality standards for most countries in the world. A few years later, in the course of development of instrumental methods of cotton testing, the GCA Cotton Laboratory was established and in 1965 it was granted the authorisation to test cotton under arbitration procedure.



Since the very beginning, the Gdynia Cotton Association attempted to consolidate the Polish textile industry participants. Members of our Association are yarn, fabrics, knitted fabrics, apparel and household textile manufacturers, merchants, supervising and forwarding companies, but also higher schools and research and development scientific institutions. We cooperate with the state administration and chambers of commerce which are active in the textile sector (Polish Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Polish Textile Engineers, Polish Apparel and Textiles Federation, Polish Chamber of Flax and Hemp, Federation of Employers of Textile Industry).

We keep in close touch with many international cotton organisations, including The International Cotton Advisory Committee, Committee for International Cooperation Between Cotton Associations, International Cotton Association in Liverpool, or the EUROCOTON – European Federation of Cotton and Allied



Textile Industries of the EU in Brussels, and our members are in the governing bodies of this organisation.

The GCA representatives have the advisory voice and take part in national and international conferences regarding technical, technological and legal issues which serve the protection of our sector, popularisation of good trading practices, the idea of sustainable development of the whole chain of cotton supplies as well as promotion of cotton as an environment-friendly natural fibre.

In order to supply our members with up-to-date, reliable and trustworthy information we publish the weekly internet service (the Newsletter) and the quarterly GCA Bulletin in which we discuss and describe the world cotton market and market of allied fibres, the market of yarn, textiles and apparel as well as new technologies which are being implemented in the textile industry.

We support our members in acquiring financial resources from EU funds and together we take part in projects dedicated to the development of innovative solutions for the textile industry.

We organise specialised training on textile raw materials, their types, properties, shares in the world market, prices, and prospects for their use in the future, on the economy of sustainable development, environment protection, and programmes of certification of clothing-textile products.

On the occasion of this important Jubilee, the Board of Directors and the Management of the Gdynia Cotton Association would like to thank all Members, Friends, and Supporters for their many-year, selfless cooperation, care taken of the good name and prestige and for their efforts to promote universal ideas on which the safe cotton trade and processing are based.

We wish our Colleagues from the cotton family many professional and personal successes and that they find out pleasure and satisfaction in engaging in the work for our Organisation.



Yours faithfully,

The Board of Directors and Management  
of the Gdynia Cotton Association