

To the GPC Conference Presentation Travel Award (CPTA) Committee:

Travel Cycle – October 2019

Renowned self-development author, Brian Tracy once said, “It doesn’t matter where you are coming from. All that matters is where you are going.” I came to the University of Missouri (MU) to join the Department of Textile and Apparel Management (TAM) as a novice textile graduate and industry professional from Bangladesh with an appetite for research. After completing my master’s in TAM, I have finally begun to fathom the big picture of the burgeoning global textile and apparel supply chain and what role I could play to act upon the obstacles in this area that essentially evoked the desire of academic research in me. Therefore, to become absolutely committed to achieve this goal, I am pursuing my Ph.D. degree in the College of Human Environmental Sciences of MU emphasizing on Textile and Apparel Management.

I had one accepted poster under the “Humanity and Society” track in the Sustainability in Fashion Joint conference organized by International Textile and Apparel Association (ITAA)/Regent University London. I was the only student representative from my academic department at this conference. My research is focusing on the workplace improvement in the labor-intensive fast fashion global supply chain in a sustainable manner and how to educate the future workforce to incorporate the sustainability aspect in all stages of textile and apparel business. The poster was focused on examining the relationship between the power influence of foreign buyers on the psychologically defensive workplace behavior of suppliers from developing countries. This is a novel approach to dive into the buyer-supplier relationship and investigating the human aspects of existing supply chain related issues based on real-world scenarios. This research will be a cornerstone in developing a tangible measurement scale to understand the magnitude of the buyer-supplier relationship which will aid to educate future leaders whom will not only be economically prudent but also cognizant of their ethical and social responsibilities.

ITAA is the preeminent global organization in the textile and apparel industry. Each year, scholars from all over the world attend conferences hosted by ITAA and share novel research, thoughts, and ideas on how to transform this industry into a more sustainable one. This year they have hosted this unique joint conference with Regent University London focusing on Sustainability. As a second-year Ph.D. student, this was a perfect platform for me to connect with the leading academician, researchers, and industry professionals. It was also an excellent opportunity for me to showcase my own research with the outer world to get valuable feedback, criticism, and motivation. The corresponding feedbacks that I had received after presenting my poster will also help me to polish my own research which will eventually bolster my doctoral dissertation.

I hope by sharing my research activities and goals, I have been able to give you a glimpse into the person I am and what I hope to achieve. I feel grateful that I am given the opportunity to be awarded a travel scholarship to help fulfill my dream and I will prove that I do have what it takes to not only be a successful researcher but a contributing member of this community.

Sincerely,

Student’s Name

Ph.D. Student
Department of Textile & Apparel Management (TAM)
University of Missouri – Columbia