**Life Cycle Assessment of clothes and textiles – an emerging field of science**

Life Cycle Management 2013 was hosted by Chalmers University of Technology and the Swedish Life Cycle Centre from 26 to 28 August. Several MiFuFa members participated including Anna-Karin Jönbrink, Christina Jönsson, Sandra Roos, Gustav Sandin, Magdalena Svanström, Bahareh Zamani and I. This biannual event is a major gathering of sustainability specialists: 540 delegates travelled from 42 countries to take part. A third of the delegates were employed in industry, another third were from academia and the rest were from government, NGOs and other institutions. While some presentations had a methodological focus, the conference primarily represents a good summary of the world of applied sustainability thinking.

It was notable that in such large and distinguished company, so little was presented about the textile industry. There were also methodological contributions that were relevant to many industries, to do with water footprinting, biodiversity assessment and social life cycle assessment, to name three areas. But case studies in the textile industry were few – four or five contributions by my counting. (There were more contributions about seafood!) From an early focus on packaging, housing and consumer products, the life cycle assessment and life cycle management community has grown incredibly over the last 15 years to encompass most sectors of the economy outside the military. In approximate descending order, this conference was dominated by the food industry, industrial products, housing and chemicals sector. Food also dominated the recent LCA conference held on the other side of the planet in July by the NGO I used to chair (see conference.alcas.asn.au). It was noteworthy that at LCM2013, MISTRA Future Fashion members provided about half the input on textiles and fashion. Of course it is not surprising that MiFuFa presented such a large proportion, given the convenient location in Gothenburg, but it says something about the relative youthfulness of application of life cycle management in these fields that this major industry sector, that reaches out directly to everyone living in a consumer society on our planet, had disproportionately little to present here. This is one indicator that suggests our project is needed!

**Greg Peters**