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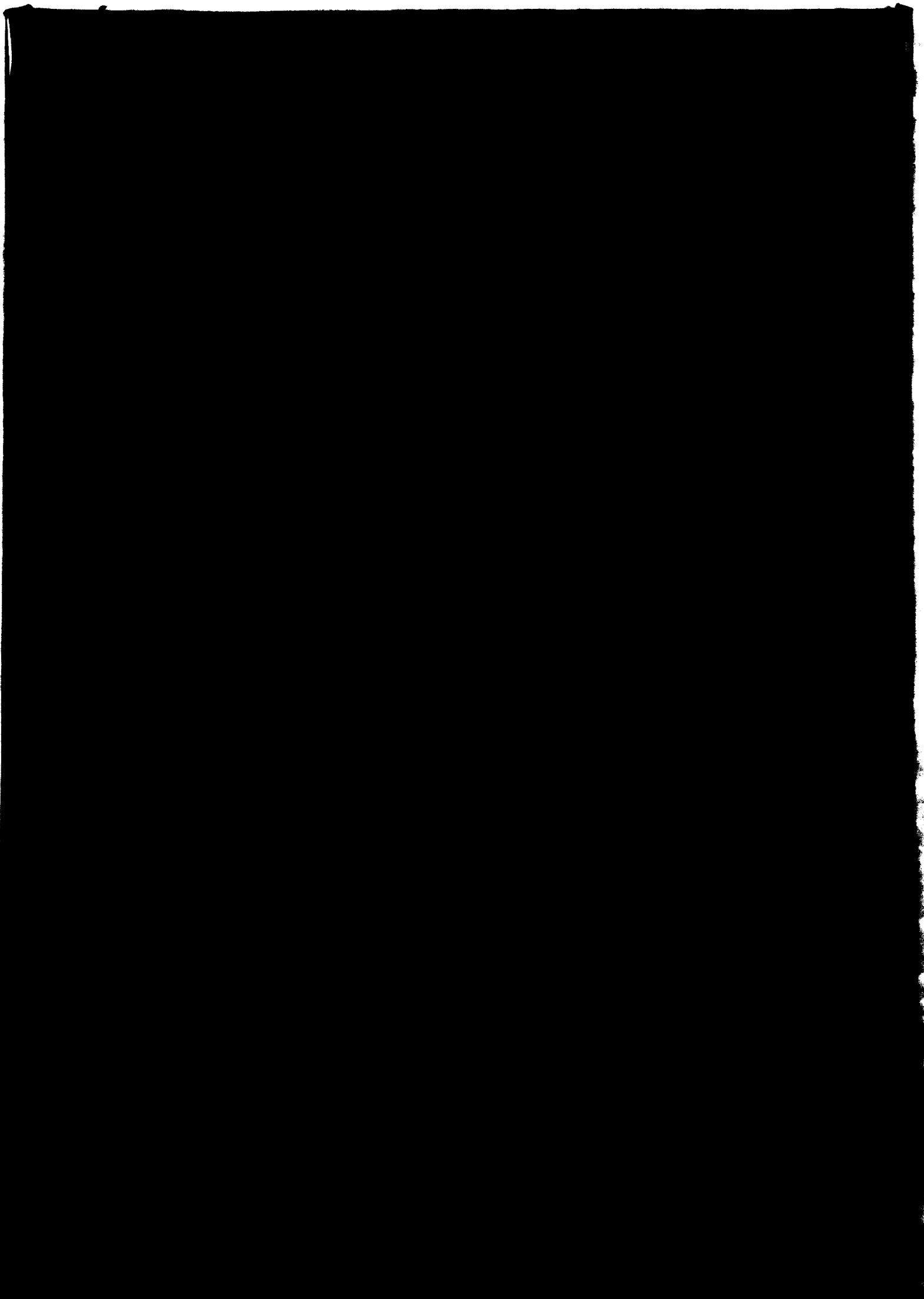
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06795



Dist.  
E/CONF/10  
E/CONF/10/217/6  
A/CONF/10/107/6  
Original: English

**United Nations Industrial Development Organization**

Second meeting of the Working Group on  
Amplification of the...  
Vienna, Austria, ...

CONFIDENTIAL  
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by  
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## 1. Historical Background

It was in 1959 that the first man-made fiber plant, The Mijin Chemical Fiber Co., began to manufacture polyvinyl alcohol fiber (vinylon).

As the demand for man-made fibers increased rapidly in the early 1960's, the first production facilities for nylon were established in 1963, and thereafter viscose rayon, acrylic fiber, polypropylene fiber, polyester, acetate etc., successively followed after nylon from 1966 to 1969.

On the other hand, increasing domestic and overseas demand for man-made fiber gave rise to strong competition and expansion of man-made fiber producing facilities.

As a result, production capacity per day expanded from 20.8 tons in 1966 to 668.2 tons in 1974, an increase of 32 times. Now man-made fiber industries

Production Capacity of Man-made Fibers

(Tons per day)

	Beginning	1965	1968	1970	1973	1974
Nylon (4)	1963	3.8	20.5	56.7	91.3	115.3
Acrylic (2)	1967		38.5	50.7	58.5	158.5
Polyester (7)	1968		6.0	46.7	78.0	291.0
Polypropylene(3)	1966		6.5	19.5	49.2	49.2
PVA(vinylon) (1)	1959	2.0	2.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Rayon (1)	1966	15.0	15.0	15.0	22.2	32.2
Acetate (1)	1969		7.5	7.5	7.5	15.0
		20.8	96.0	202.9	343.7	668.2

**SOURCE** : Korea Chemical Fiber Association.

**Note** : Figures in parentheses are numbers of plants.  
In case of polypropylene, the figure in parentheses indicates only the number of large-scale firms.

## 2. Present Status and Future Prospects

### A) Manufacturing Facilities and Future Prospects

Since the latter half of 1960's, manufacturing facilities for man-made fibers have continued to grow by more than 50 per cent a year. This growth rate is equivalent to about other industries.

Now the annual production of man-made fibers reaches 0.66 billion pounds, and most of them are nylon, polyester and acrylic fibers. Not only do the capacities of early 1960's stay to meet the domestic demand, the end of 1960's, and now two-thirds of production are exported to overseas markets, such as Asia, America, Africa and Europe.

Until now, export is supported by lower-labor cost, but the situation has been changed because labor cost has increased considerably.

Therefore, the major problem to be solved by every Korean man-made fiber company is the improvement of quality.

To achieve this, every company puts emphasis on the technical development by its own effort or importing foreign licenses, and this seems to be a continuing trend.

The existing manufacturing facilities and future plans by companies are shown in Table II.

(in tons per day, as of June, 1975)

- Acrylic fiber -

Hanil Synthetic Fiber Ind. Co., Ltd.

Staple : 153.5 ( - )

Tae Kwang Industrial Co., Ltd.

Staple : 50 ( - )

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Total acrylic Staple : 223.5 ( - )

- Nylon -

Korea Nylon Co., Ltd.

Filament : 42.6 (19.5)

Tong Yang Nylon Co., Ltd.

Filament : 52 (22)

Korea Hapsun Co., Ltd.

Filament : 20 (10)

Staple : 10 ( - )

Gorye Nylon

Filament : 1.3 (20)

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Total nylon Filament : 145.9 (71.5)

Staple : 10 ( - )

- Polyester -

Korea Polyester Incorporation

Filament : 32 (30)

Sun Kyung Textile Ltd.

Filament : 52.5 ( - )

Staple : 100 ( - )

Dee Man Synthetic Fiber Co., Ltd.

Filament : 4 ( - )

Staple : 8 (40)

Sun Yang Co., Ltd.

Filament : 1 ( - )

Staple : 42 (30)

**Tong Yang Polyester Co., Ltd.**

Filament : 30 ( - )

**Others**

Filament : 1.5 ( - )

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**Total Polyester**

Filament : 121 ( 30 )

Staple : 200 ( 90 )

**- Polypropylene -**

**Cheil Synthetic Textiles Co., Ltd.**

Filament : 5 ( - )

Staple : 6.5 ( - )

**Korea Hapsun Co., Ltd.**

Staple : 9.5 ( - )

**Kum Sung Synthetic Fiber Co., Ltd.**

Staple : 8 ( - )

**Others**

Filament : 9.7 ( - )

Staple : 14.6 ( - )

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**Total polypropylene**

Filament : 14.7 ( - )

Staple : 37.9 ( - )

**- Rayon -**

**Sejin Rayon Co., Ltd.**

Filament : 32.2 ( - )

Staple : - ( 27 )

**- Acetate -**

**Sun Kyung Teijin Ltd.**

Filament : 5.5 ( - )

Tow : 10 ( - )

- PVA (Vinylon) -

Dong Yang Vinylon Fiber Co., Ltd.

Filament . . . . . 7 ( - )

- Latex -

Sam Ki Industrial Co., Ltd.

Filament . . . . . 1.2 ( - )

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Total man-made fiber      Filament      809.7(218.5)  
   Staple

Note : Figures in parentheses indicate future expansion plans.

#### B) Raw Material Supply

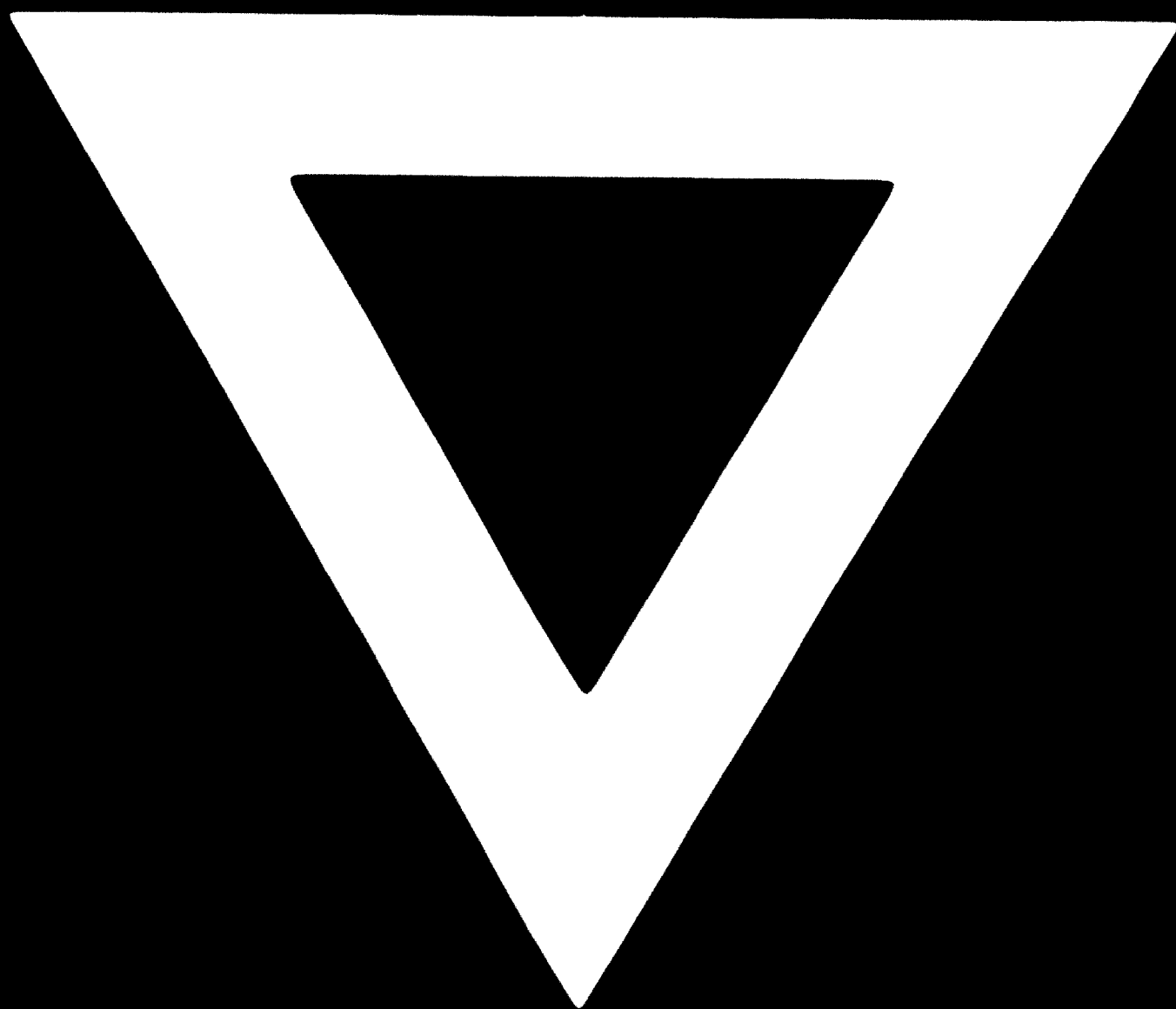
Most of the raw materials, including caprolactam, acrylonitrile monomer, polypropylene resins, etc., were previously imported from abroad, since Korea did not install the advanced petrochemical plants needed to supply these raw materials. However, the construction of the Ulsan Petrochemical Complex enabled domestic production of intermediate petrochemicals used as raw materials for synthetic fibers. As a result, imported raw materials have been gradually decreased since 1973. Domestic production of acrylonitrile monomer, one of the major raw materials, became sufficient to meet more than 80 per cent of domestic demand in 1973, and imported caprolactam has also been replaced to a great extent by domestic products since 1974.

The existing production capacities and future plans for raw material are shown in Table III.

TABLE III (1000 tons per year)

	Present	Future	Raw material
Sun Kyung Petrochemical	-	120	DMT (1976)
San Sung Petrochemical	-	100	TPA (1976)
Dong Sui Petrochemical	27	-	AN monomer
Korea Caprolactam	33	67	Caprolactam(1976)





**76.02.06**