Ensuring The Continued Success Of ProPak Asia

An interview with Rose Chitanuwat, Regional Portfolio Director - ASEAN at Informa Markets Thailand

How is ProPak Asia 2022 different from the past years?
The last physical exhibition we held was in 2020. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the focus of the show in the following year turned to the local market. It was during this period that the challenges faced by SMEs came into the spotlight: Food safety, hygiene and labour issues. So we have since worked to expand the focus to include SMEs. We try to develop solutions that are applicable for big and small markets. In the past, the scope of the show was larger. There was no separation between the needs of the larger corporations versus the smaller enterprises. The scope of past shows also did differentiate the international and local markets very clearly. Now, we are trying to be more focussed and specialised in our show offerings. For example, we are currently featuring digital and packaging solutions for the benefit of SMEs. This is also why we have the Innovation Stage and SME Clinic Consulting for this year’s show. There is also a more defined platform to differentiate how we can better meet the needs of the international versus the local markets.

Apart from sustainability, are there any other trends that we should focus on?
We are seeing a growing interest in future foods. That’s why it is important to introduce new technology to meet the changing demands for packaging and processing. For example, the widespread popularity of plant-based alternatives means that food manufacturers must be in tuned with what works to produce the best texture for plant-based alternatives to meat. E-commerce is also something that the packaging industry should focus on, as more and more people are shopping online.

Internally, we want to make sure that food distribution to different parts of the country are well taken care of. However, as Thailand is not only focussing on the domestic market, we are also paying attention to the rising cost of oil, as well as food safety and food security issues. These affect the export market too.

Overall, I would say that we are working within the framework of sustainability, as it is important for entrepreneurs to understand the importance of reducing waste in terms of food and packaging.

Any feedback from this year's exhibitors?
Overall, they are happy. The re-booking for ProPak Asia 2022 is nearly full, as exhibitors are keen to return upon seeing the positive turnout for ProPak Asia 2022. New business opportunities have been discovered, and the physical networking has generated promising connections.

What are your plans for next year's show?
Based on feedback from this year’s participants, we are looking to focus on these areas: Packaging solutions, technology for future food production and post-harvest technology to reduce agricultural waste.

I would end off by saying that physical exhibitions are finally back and will be here to stay. We will ensure that ProPak Asia continues to be a trusted platform for spurring innovation and exchanging knowledge among industry players.
ProPak Gourmet – Meat Edition

Demonstration and training for meat processing technology by King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL) and Food Process Technology Co Ltd (FPT)

ProPak Gourmet is a four-day live workshop that highlights technology related to meat processing. Thailand and the rest of the ASEAN countries are the key producers and consumers of meat. For this four-day event, we will present the new technologies for meat processing. The demonstration will cover the process of making sausages, pork knuckles, steaks, nuggets and hamburgers, and cutting meat to reduce wastage in the production process. There will also be networking opportunities.

10.00 am  Clean Label Chicken Sausage (emulsion)
1.00 pm   Flexitarian Sausage (coarse ground)
3.00 pm   Vegan Sausage (emulsion)

Idea Theatre

Success stories from start-up entrepreneurs, celebrities and leading professionals in the industry

Be inspired and get fresh ideas to build your brand. The Idea Theatre is an event where sharing of ideas takes place. There will be a focus on how to build a sustainable business model, as well as inspiring insights that will be useful for SMEs and start-up enterprises.

PREP: Ideas for beginners
PROCESS: Guides for growth
PRODUCTIVE: Business innovation
SUSTAINABILITY: Adapting for sustainability

TODAY’S PROGRAMME

11.15 – 11.45 am  Surviving The COVID-19 Crisis | by Prikka Spicy Coffee
12.30 – 13.00 pm  Innovating For Sustainability And Future Food | by More Meat
14.00 – 14.30 pm  PDPA for Digital Transformation | by OKR Training

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Making New Connections, Exploring Sustainable Solutions

The Show Daily team caught up with Gericke to gain some insights into market trends, as well as the positive effects of reconnecting physically again at ProPak Asia.

William Tan, Head of Sales, notes that participants are keen to physically meet up, as this leads to a greater chance of creating new networks and opportunities. This is evidenced by a greater number of participants who have expressed interest in their products as compared to the pre-COVID days.

Two trends that William observed: Firstly, there is a decrease in demand for infant formula (which William attributes to more mothers breastfeeding due to remote working policies). However, there is an increase in demand for convenience products such as instant noodles and instant coffee, as well as pet food. This has led to a greater demand for Gericke’s machines. Gericke has remained positive during the downtime caused by COVID-19, as there are opportunities that can be gleaned from the pandemic, such as the increase in demand for convenience food and pet food. This can be seen as a silver lining.

Some features of Gericke's solutions:
- Easy dry cleaning to reduce downtime, leading to less energy consumption and greater efficiency. This means a lower carbon footprint.
- Processes and materials adopted are environmentally friendly.
- Gericke’s machines are inherently efficient and uses less energy to operate, leading to lower operational costs.

What Does igus Hope To Achieve At ProPak Asia 2022?

The theme of sustainability at ProPak Asia 2022 is very well aligned with igus’ corporate goal, which is to achieve a neutral CO2 footprint by 2025. We are convinced that our light weight, high performance product solution, which does not require any lubricant, are again attracting many customers and potentials who would like to improve on what moves on their machines. Our online configurators allow them to choose the cheapest solution that works for their intended application. They are not only unique but are easy to use. They draw their data from millions of performance tests that were conducted in our inhouse laboratory.

igus continues its drive for Cost Down, Tech Up, with extended product ranges as well as completely recycled series, supporting the circular economy and the world for generations to come.

We are looking forward for the audience to experience our drive for low cost automation inclusive gantry systems and robot arms, all geared to delight the visitors with investment costs they likely could not imagine to be possible. Our team at the Singapore Pavilion Hall 101, booth BE22 is ready to welcome the guests.

Could you tell us more about the products igus will be showcasing?

At igus, we have been developing various innovations within “lubrication-free” concepts. We believe that our products are the perfect match for the packaging industry due to their lubrication-free abilities and calculatable lifetime. The key products we would like to present at ProPak Asia 2022 are:

- iglidur® A160: Plain bearing made from iglidur® A160 material can be operated without lubricating grease. FDA certified, resistant to moisture and chemicals. Safe use in food and beverage industry.
- igubal® Insert bearing: An alternative bearing from igus® made from polymer material. More than 40% cost savings, 80% lighter weight, Lubrication-free and Maintenance-free. Reduces the risk of contamination and eliminates the problem of dirt particles that get stuck in the bearing due to the viscosity of the grease.
- e-chain®: Cable carrier that you can easily modify internal wires, quiet operation, longer life, with a warranty of up to 36 months.
- drylin® Delta robot: Based on a modular system, users can choose between a compact self-assembly modular kit or have it pre-assembled in a transport frame. Alternatively, build it yourself in 30 minutes. It will then be ready to connect with stepper motors and dryve D1 motor control system.
- drylin® ZLW 7th axis: The linear axis allows robots to move flexibly in their applications. This is an optional integration into the UR CAP.
- Gericke’s machines: Inherently efficient and use less energy to operate, leading to lower operational costs.

How are trends in the region affecting igus?

We can’t deny that in this modern times, if we want to be the leader in the industry, we cannot stick to the old ways. We need to innovate and automate. Igus’ "Low Cost Automation" innovations can meet the needs of the market.

LCA: Our Low Cost Automation is easy to figure out with free iRC software, suitable for packaging industry.

As Gericke is part of the EcoVadis network, it shows their commitment to embracing sustainability. EcoVadis is a trusted ratings platform that assesses corporate social responsibility and sustainable procurement. Some of the major brands that have been rated by EcoVadis include Nestle, Schneider Electric and Johnson & Johnson.

William observed that ProPak participants, including himself, were at first sceptical about rejoining physical exhibitions. However, every one is heartened by the greater-than-expected turnout at ProPak Asia 2022. Gericke is glad that they are able to participate physically in ProPak Asia again after a hiatus of more than two years.
Educating The Public On Recycling Plastics

As the world gets increasingly conscious of our impact on the environment, things look set to change in the Asia Pacific region, which currently lags behind Europe and the US in terms of pushing for recycling plastics. There is a general consensus that sustainable practices, such as recycling plastics, are costly and inviable. However, Dr Looi, Chief Technology Officer for Aegis, feels that we should be fair when assessing the practicality of sustainable practices. As we are still at the beginning stages of recycling plastics, Dr Looi believes that there are undiscovered opportunities to improve its viability.

The packaging industry is seeing a move towards the creation of monomaterial plastic packaging. Aegis is featuring its OX, a sustainable packaging solution that provides an effective barrier against oxygen, one of the biggest culprits that leads to food spoilage. As the makeup of OX consists only of one type of plastic, which is Polypropylene (PP), the packaging may be reused after serving its initial purpose.

Mardianto Adiguno, Business Development Manager for Aegis, shares that while the packaging industry is working hard at embracing sustainability, it is important for the public to be aware of what can be recycled. He and Dr Looi provide a brief lesson on recycling plastics:

In order for plastics to be recyclable, it should not be mixed with different types of plastics. Recyclable plastic products are typically labelled with a number surrounded by the recycling symbol. The table below shows what each of the symbols mean.

### TYPE OF PLASTIC

| PLASTIC #1 | Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) |
| PLASTIC #2 | High density polyethylene (HDPE) |
| PLASTIC #3 | Polyvinyl chloride (PVC or V) |
| PLASTIC #4 | Low density polyethylene (LDPE) |
| PLASTIC #5 | Polypropylene (PP) |
| PLASTIC #6 | Polystyrene (PS) |
| PLASTIC #7 | Mixed (other) |

**PET** is recycled into: new bottles, polyester for fabrics and carpet, fill for bumper cars and fibrefill for sleeping bags and jacket.

Clear HDPE containers are easily recycled back into new containers. Coloured HDPE are converted into lawn and garden edging, pipes, rope, and toys.

PVC is one of the least recyclable plastics due to additives. Potentially harmful substances are also created by its disposal.

A flexible plastic with various applications. It is seldom recycled.

PP is not easily recycled. Differences in the varieties of type and grade, mean achieving consistent quality during recycling is difficult.

Recycling PS is possible, but not normally economically viable.

Mixed plastics are difficult, if not impossible, to recycle.

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Trends Are Opportunities To Develop Something Better

Wolf sees Propak Asia Thailand as a great opportunity to showcase its automated solutions. Specially catered for the Asian market, the packaging machines that are being showcased offers the following features:

- Stick packaging and counting machines specially catered for the Asian market. The counting machine accurately allocates stick packs into individual packages.

- Horizontal form-fill-seal machines for improved aesthetics, and for packaging bags that would work better when produced by a horizontal form-fill-seal machine.

- Easy-to-clean. No dismantling required.

- Integrated machine solutions for greater efficiency.

**Wolf notes the following trends:**

- On the push towards sustainability, it drives innovation to create products that are not only environmentally friendly, but also meets consumer demands.

Wolf sees trends as opportunities to develop something better, and looks forward to continuously improve its packaging technology.
Putting Technology In Motion

Efficient. Safe. Reliable. These are the qualities that Sweco emphasises for their product offerings. According to Sweco’s Area Manager, Steven Ho, their industrial sieving machines are designed to simply ‘plug and play’, and they are easy to use. Their unique vibration technology screens and conveys material efficiently and safely. From instant coffee powders, sugar granules to infant formula powder, the speed and spiral patterns of the material that go over the screen cloth can be customised for optimum throughput and screening efficiency for any screenable product. In addition, with an intense focus on food safety issues, the screens are approved by the FDA in the US.

As a prominent provider of solutions that make separation simple, Sweco is keen to reconnect with ProPak participants physically to help with improving efficiency and safety standards. Its efficient and safe machines mean less energy consumption and strict compliance with safety regulations. With more than 100 years under its belt and counting, Sweco aims to stay true to its slogan: We Put Technology In Motion, in ways that will benefit both the environment and the end users.

Lantech’s David Fullerton and Vincent Kwa shares how machines can help us work towards less waste and safer loads, which are key for manufacturers to achieve sustainability. The main issues faced by the packaging industry include:

- Labour shortages
- The need to keep costs low
- The need to reduce wastage
- Increased demand for stretch wrapping due to the popularity of online shopping.

At this year’s ProPak Asia, Lantech is featuring its automatic stretch wrapping equipment and case erectors to meet industry and consumer demands. Designed to reduce damage that occurs along the supply chain, Lantech’s solutions use less plastic as well, since the packaging material is stretchable.

Sweco Singapore Pavillion Hall 101 AX09

Lantech Hall 98 AF11
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Highlights From The Singapore And Japanese Pavilions

“ProPak Asia is an important exhibition to us. It allows us to connect with various participants from different parts of the world. The turnout for this year’s show is good, and we are glad that we are part of ProPak Asia 2022. Japan also focuses on sustainability, supply chain challenges, productivity, food safety and food wastage issues. One of the main objectives of the JPMA is to promote the general development of Japan’s packaging machinery industries, and we are happy to be here with the following Japanese companies: Furukawa Mfg, Nika Denso, Nitto Pack, Omori Machinery, Reformo, Rheon Automatic Machinery and Yamato Scale.”

Masahiro Abe
Deputy Secretary General
Japan Packaging Machinery Manufacturers Association (JPMA)

“At the start, we were worried about the turnout for the exhibition. However, we are very happy and surprised to see that there were more people than three years ago. We are further upstream along the supply chain, so sustainability for us means trying to reduce food wastage. Of course, food safety has also always been very important to us. Essentially, we are happy to be part of ProPak Asia 2022, as it allows us to make new connections to deepen our business ties with Thailand.”

Eiji Kawauchi
Manager, Business Division,
Business Department
The Japan Food Machinery Manufacturers’ Association (FOOMA)

“This is our first major exhibition. We are excited to be here as this is a very good opportunity for us to get our name out there. In short, we specialise in inventory optimisation. We started out in the Netherlands in 1993, so ProPak Asia is a great platform for us to introduce this digital solution to the Asia Pacific region, where there is an increasing awareness for the need to prioritise inventory management. Slimstock offers an easy-to-use interface that allows businesses to digitise inventory management. We provide training programmes as well to ensure knowledge transfer, so that information is never lost when handing over from one person to the next. It is also important to note that there is a shift from ‘just-in-time planning to ‘just-in-case planning’. Pre-COVID, the industry relied on predictable factors. Demand was constant, and there were no supply chain disruptions. But now, it is not feasible to rely on the old ways. Businesses must adapt in order to plan for the future. There is a need to respond accordingly to market trends. This is where we come in, to help businesses deal with unpredictability.”

Katayoun Mossafayan
Marketing Executive
Slimstock
Snapshots

Networking on the show floor.

Powered by the return of ProPak Asia 2022, the gears of the processing and packaging industries are spinning once again.

ProPak Bar – Participants got to learn about the four main characteristics of beer. At the same time, they enjoyed an unforgettable beer tasting experience. Hall 9B, Booth C41

We are honoured to welcome local and overseas groups from various industries.

Food ingredients Asia, the leading food and beverage ingredients exhibition, launched the F&B Innovative Product Competition.
The 30th International Processing and Packaging Exhibition for Asia

PROPAK ASIA

14-17 JUNE 2023

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Mark your calendar! See you in June 2023

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