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## JAPAN: Business as usual for leather goods firms

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Japanese footwear, belt and bag manufacturers say business is continuing as usual after a massive earthquake and tsunami struck the Tohoku region in the north east of Japan earlier this month.

"The main production areas in Japan for leather and leather products are Tokyo and the Kansai region in western Japan, and production in these areas is continuing smoothly," Mr Mitsunobu Sugimoto, president of bag and belt maker Maple Co Ltd, told just-style.

"For a few days after the earthquake hit, its impact was felt even in Tokyo, for example trains weren't running. However at present, while striving to conserve energy, people are continuing on with their lives."

His comments came on the opening day of the Fashion Access trade show taking place at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. None of the 17 companies who make up the Japan Pavilion cancelled their visit as a result of events taking place in their home country.

Fashion Access runs alongside Materials Manufacturing & Technology (MM&T), with the two exhibitions showcasing leather and synthetic fabrics used in fashion, leather and accessories, as well as finished products. Also taking place in Hong Kong this week is Prime Source Forum, the annual meeting of apparel industry executives.

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