

*For Immediate Release*

### **The Future of Innovation Insights Sharing for Future Innovation at HKRITA Symposium**

Hong Kong, 26th September 2013 –The Innovation and Technology Symposium organised by The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) was held today at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The symposium fosters the discussion of technology development, serving as a platform for the industry exchange.

With the theme of “The Future of Innovation”, the symposium invited a number of speakers to shed light on topics that concerned the textiles and clothing industry. It not only serves as an interactive platform among the industry players, researchers and scholars, but also paves the way for new solutions to challenges. As Dr Harry Lee, Chairman of HKRITA, said, the symposium today “will not only be a day of technical discussions, but also a strategic look at the way forward.” HKRITA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fiber Innovation Incubator of Shinshu University. The university is a well-known research institutes in textiles and clothing. The MOU fosters further cooperation between academia and industry professionals.

During the event, the textiles and clothing industry renewed its support for sustainable development. Mr Arthur C Huang, the Founder and Managing Director of MINIWIZ Sustainable Energy Development Limited shared his insights on executable eco-solutions to solve urban waste problem, explaining the possibility of sustainable economic growth based on renewable resources. Sharing with similar vision, HKRITA also provides production alternatives on energy saving measures and sustainable development practices in terms of new technologies.

Mr Frazer Mead, Head of Innovation and Quality, Far East, Marks and Spencer (Asia Pacific) Limited presented the topic of “Innovation – Perspective from a Global Brand”. The presentation explored the world of innovation from a global perspective across a wide variety of industries. HKRITA is dedicated to developing advanced technologies that are applicable to different aspects of the society, similar to the speaker’s idea on innovation which transcends the boundaries of industries.

Continuing to look into the future, polymer-rich functional nanocomposite fiber material was discussed as one of the most important strategic materials for the economy and people’s livelihood. Professor Zhu Meifang, Dean of College of Material Science and Engineering, Dong Hua University, introduced the development process, applications and research directions of the material. Since the material has a wide application, such as military industry, aerospace industry, electronic industry and architecture industry, more studies on this issue are found recently. In the light of future development, Professor Zhu encouraged the government to give more resources to relevant research programme and training for researchers. The industry should also seize every opportunity to understand relevant technology development.

HKRITA announced the first RITA Award in the Symposium to acknowledge the hard works and ideas of researchers, and their contributions to research development and technology advancement in the textiles and apparel industry. There are three categories, namely, 1) Application Excellence which recognises useful and innovative projects that contributed high commercial value, 2) Innovation which honours the project that benefits Hong Kong society and the industry; 3) Partners in Progress which praises the outstanding performance of research teams in project management. The respective awardees were Prof Tao Xiaoming, Chair Professor of Textile Technology of Institute of Textiles and Clothing, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Prof Li Yi, Institute of Textiles and Clothing, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Prof John H Xin, Lee Family Endowed Professorship in Fashion and Textiles, Head and Chair Professor of Textile Chemistry, Institute of Textiles and Clothing, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Apart from the keynote presentations delivered in the morning session, the symposium further extended the discussion to other aspects. Five breakout sessions in the afternoon covered the topics of Smart and Advanced Evaluation Technology, Sustainability Development, Advanced Technology for Social Benefits,

RFID and Information Systems, and Technology Advancement for Intimate Apparel respectively. In the session with the topic of “Advanced Technology for Social Benefits”, Mr Edwin Keh, Chief Executive Officer of HKRITA introduced a number of projects that are applicable to every aspect of the society. For instance, Better Quality Community Care of the Elderly which is a security alert system specially designed for elderly centres which take care of people with dementia; Intelligent Footwear System Embedded with Fabric Pressure Sensor which helps diabetic patients avoid foot damage. Another session themed on Sustainability Development chaired by Prof Philip Yeung, Executive Director of Clothing Industry Training Authority, explained that activity-based carbon footprint modelling of the manufacturing processes of intimate apparel products, another HKRITA’s project further fostered the sustainable development of the textile and clothing industry.

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Dr Harry Lee, Chairman of HKRITA(right) and Prof Kunihiro Hamada, Director of Fiber Innovation Incubator, Shinshu University sign a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the two organisations



Mr Arthur C Huang details recycling approach to turn urban waste to valuable materials



Awardees of RITA Award pose with guests of honours



Mr Edwin Keh gives an account of a number of HKRITA’s projects that are applicable to every aspect of the society



Research deliverables display in the technology showcase of the Symposium

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