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A Breakthrough of HKRITA in the International Exhibition of Inventions Geneva

The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) won two gold medals and three silver medals in the 43rd International Exhibition of Inventions Geneva on 15-19th April 2015. The two gold medals are entered under HKRITA's name as a research institution for the first time in the exhibition.

Mr Edwin Keh, HKRITA's CEO, remarked that "innovation requires risk taking. It is encouraging that our first attempt has seen such good results in the exhibition. HKRITA started adopting a proactive approach in carrying out centre-owned projects in late 2014. We shall continue to carry out projects that keep us on the cutting edge of the industry while at the same time extending its sustainability and building a better society through technology innovation."

The first gold medal with jury's commendation is for "Low Cost Degradable Polyester Fibres". This project makes use of natural wastes such as scrap metal residues and soap to produce low cost and effective degradable additives. By applying these additives to the polyester resin, degradable fibres are produced. These can then be used in disposable and degradable products such as hairnets, masks and isolation gowns. It can alleviate the burden of wastage disposal.

The second gold medal went to "Functional Treatment on Knitwear by Plasma Technology". This provides a dry and pollution free solution to minimise pilling of wool and cashmere knitwear. One of the key breakthroughs here is its systems engineering which allows whole garment to be treated. Current systems available in the market are for fabric treatment only. These projects were done in partnership with the Hong Kong Productivity Council.

3 other projects won Silver Medals. These are:

"O-blanket: Phototherapy Device for the treatment of Neonatal Jaundice": This is a soft and air-permeable blanket made of side-emitting polymer optical fibre and yarns which provides whole-body treatment for neonatal jaundice. The project also received a China Delegation award.

"Durable, Washable and High Performance Conductive Textiles": This is a modified textile surface with a negatively-charged polyelectrolyte poly(methacrylic acid sodium salt) (PMANa) and poly(acrylic acid sodium salt) (PAANa) by in-situ free radical polymerization, followed with electroless metal deposition on the textile surface.

"Intelligent Condition-based Key Machinery Assets Maintenance Management Platform": This uses artificial intelligence and smart sensor techniques to detect anomalies, report potential problems, take remedial measures for optimising maintenance schedules, and ultimately, improve total business performance. These projects were carried out in collaboration with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

The International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva is regarded as one of the biggest events in the world to be exclusively devoted to inventions. HKRITA has taken part in this international event since 2010 and has received seven gold medals and seven silver medals in total.

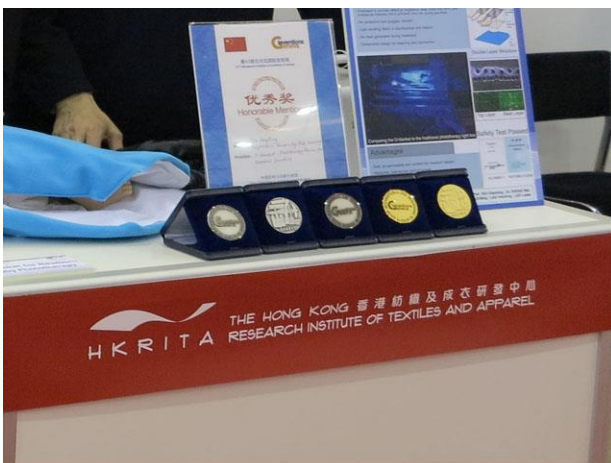
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Mr Edwin Keh, HKRITA's CEO, introduces the project functions to the participants



Technology of bio-degradable fibres, a hot environmental topic, attracts the attention of many visitors



High yielding results



Download project video of Low Cost Degradable Polyester Fibres



Download project video of Functional Treatment on Knitwear by Plasma Technology

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