

The Competitive Advantage of Innovation

The Innovation and Technology Symposium organized by The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) and co-organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council was held today at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. It stimulated a series of interactive discussions on upgrading technologies and innovative possibilities.

Innovation has no boundary. Dr David Ireland, General Manager, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) shared in keynote presentation the experiences of CSIRO which work on multidisciplinary projects and give a paradigm shift in manufacturing. Their projects have proved a positive impact on industries, people, and the environment. As one of the leading researchers on intelligent fibrous materials, Prof Xiao-ming Tao, Chair Professor of Textile Technology of the Institute of Textiles and Clothing in The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, showed the success of smart textiles in wearable electronic and enlightened the floor their possible applications across sectors. Mr Jong Lee, Chief Executive Officer of Bonham Strand Limited drew on its experience with the tailoring social enterprise, highlighted how bespoke innovation changes the textiles and clothing industry.

Another highlight of the Symposium was a Memorandum Signing Ceremony which demonstrated the importance of synergies through collaboration. HKRITA signed memorandum of understanding with three partners, namely CSIRO, University of Oregon and Wuhan Textile University. The partnership will delve on research collaboration on areas like fibre optimization, sports management and high-performance sportswear development.

The second RITA Awards Presentation was held to acknowledge enthusiastic partners to the research and technology development in the textiles and apparel industry during the Symposium. This year, there are two awards. The first award "Innovation Application" went to Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) to recognise their on-going commitment to carry out trials on the innovative application of R&D results. HKRITA and TWGHs has worked on projects like wearable electronics for the security of elderly centre and intelligent impact protective pants to avoid injury from falling. Ms Rosana Ho, District Co-ordinator (KC/YMT/KT) of TWGHs, expected to explore more research products that are suitable for the elderly and make their life better.

Another award was "Partners in Progress" which went to the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) to acknowledge their sustained participation to trial project scheme which facilitates and promotes the realisation and commercialisation of R&D results. HKRITA and HKSI has joined hands to develop high performance sportswear such as rowing suits and cycling wear. Dr Raymond So, Director of Elite Training Science & Technology of HKSI noted that recent collaboration between the two organisations has a positive effect on their sports achievements and R&D has helped their athletes better adapt to the sports environment and competition needs.

The exchange of the symposium was further extended to the afternoon sessions. Industry players, HKRITA's research partners and users shed lights on six topics: Multi-functional Textiles and Apparel, Wearable Technology, Advanced Technology for Higher Efficiency in Quality and Production Management, Advancement in Automation, New Solutions for Elderly Care and Novel Technology for Sustainability.

A technology showcase featuring technologies in the themes of sustainability, industry advantage and community benefits was held concurrently with the presentation sessions. A number of

HKRITA awarded projects such as bio-degradable synthetic fibres, washable and high-performance conductive textiles and assets maintenance management system were showcased.

These platforms provided good opportunities for industry counterparts and participants to make fruitful exchanges. As emphasised by Dr Harry Lee, HKRITA's Chairman, it is important to sharpen our gear with brilliant ideas and technology in order to retain our cutting edge in the market. This is the objective the Symposium.

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Dr David Ireland raises some sample of the innovations developed by CSIRO that have positive impact to the society.



Prof Tao suggests a great varieties of wearable electronics application



Mr Jong Lee explores the notion how business can be benefited by embracing new concepts.



Dr Raymond So (left) received the Partners in Progress award on behalf of HKSI from Mr Johanne Wong, Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and Technology of HKSA



Mr Lawrence Leung, BOD member of HKRITA presented the Innovation Application award to Ms Rosana Ho of TWGHs.



The Hong Kong Rowing Team attends the symposium to show their support.

Please click below links to download the photos:

http://www.hkrita.com/Symposium2015/press_release_photo.zip