

For Immediate Release

HKRITA showcases its achievements in the 45th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, demonstrating the benefits of these projects to the community of Hong Kong

12 April 2017, Hong Kong – The delegation of The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) to the 45th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva has made a triumphant achievement with a total of 9 awards from the 7 entries this year. HKRITA was honoured to demonstrate all the winning entries today, specifically including the two gold medal achievers with the jury’s commendations. One of these is the New Functional Textiles from Bio-based and Degradable Fibres, and the other is the Fine Worsted Yak Yarns and Fabrics. The outstanding achievement of HKRITA at the Geneva exhibition is a clear testimony to the high level of capability of our local professionals and young talent for their innovative use of technology in integrating textiles and apparel, fulfilling the needs of the community and enhancing the quality of living.

Mr Nicholas Yang Wei-hsiung, JP, Secretary for Innovation and Technology, HKSAR Government, said, “The results achieved by HKRITA serve to recognise local researchers’ excellent work and highlight the government’s efforts in promoting a policy of fostering a scientific research environment. These efforts and initiatives will be further strengthened by a close collaboration between the government, industry, academia and the research sector, which will give new impetus to Hong Kong’s developments in innovation and technology.”

Mr Edwin Keh, Chief Executive Officer of The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, said during his congratulatory message, “HKRITA has played a vital role in supporting and promoting textile and apparel development in Hong Kong since 2006. We are delighted to have been the recipient of 9 awards this year, which is evidence of our strength and progress in R&D in this industry. Going forward, HKRITA will continue to encourage and support such innovative projects, enabled by our disruptive technologies which set a new paradigm for innovative production, and will continue to liaise with potential business partners in order to stimulate more R&D for textile and apparel development in Hong Kong.

In the 45th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, HKRITA earned high praise, with its 7 winning entries, including two gold medals with the jury’s commendations, an additional gold medal and four silver medals, as well as two special awards.

One of the winners of the gold medal with the jury’s commendation, which developed green production technology by using bio-based and degradable PHBV/PLA fibres, also earned the Special Award by the Scientific Community of Romania. The functional textile created is environmentally-beneficial as the products are naturally anti-bacterial and mite-resistant without having any chemical agents added to the fibres or in the textile finishing. Another gold medal with the jury’s commendation features fine worsted yak yarns and fabrics in the products. With these kinds of materials, the softness and uniformity as well as the air permeability of the materials are greatly improved, which introduce new elements to the development of textiles and apparel in Hong Kong. The third gold medal, the “Sleeping Thermal Comfort Assessment System”, is capable of evaluating the performance of bedding products in order to improve the quality of sleep for users. With these outstanding winning entries, the development of textiles and apparel has progressed to the next level of success.

HKRITA is dedicated to serving as a specialist platform for local professionals and young talent to engage in the R&D development of textiles and apparel in Hong Kong. A previous successful case of commercialisation of winning projects was the “Imaging Colour Measurement (ICM) System” a gold medal winner in 2013, illustrating the great potential of textiles and apparel projects in Hong Kong. The

prototype of the ICM II was sold to one of the largest cotton yarn spinning groups in the world, which demonstrated its business potential and attractiveness to the industry. By late February 2017, HKRITA had signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with a project sponsor to commercialise the latest version of the system. The team behind the Sleeping Thermal Comfort Assessment System, one of this year's winning entries, has also been successful in introducing their product to a bedding product company in Hong Kong for product evaluation. In this way, HKRITA continues to demonstrate its value in accelerating textile and apparel development and in creating business opportunities for projects with high potential.

The 45th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, which is arranged under the patronage of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Swiss Government, and the City of Geneva, showcases innovations and inventions from around the globe. Running from 29 March through 2 April, it attracted 700 exhibitors from 40 countries and featured 1,000 new innovations and inventions this year.

About The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA)

Established in 2006, HKRITA is funded by the Innovation and Technology Commission, HKSAR Government and hosted by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. HKRITA engages in applied research to support the textile and apparel industries, and to drive sustainable improvements and to bring benefits for society. By providing one-stop services for applied research, technology transfer and commercialisation, HKRITA makes sustained efforts to promote successful projects for industry application.

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