

Press – For Immediate Release

Hong Kong's Largest Fashion Summit Aims to Effect Tangible Change To Make The Fashion Industry More Sustainable

Hong Kong to Play a Critical Role in Driving Sustainability in the Fashion Industry

(August 29 2017, Hong Kong) - The most influential decision makers in the Hong Kong fashion industry came together today to officially announce the region's largest sustainable conference dedicated to driving positive and sustainable change in the global fashion industry. Fashion Summit (HK), the largest two-day conference on driving sustainable fashion initiatives will be held on 7-8th September at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre under the theme "Fashion Summit (HK) – Zero Impact". The conference aims to raise understanding and awareness on the role of the Hong Kong fashion industry in leading the charge for revolutionary change, and the critical role Hong Kong can play in driving sustainability. The launch of the Fashion Future Challenge Award was also announced, which is targeted at local university students and is set to commence in September this year.

Fashion Summit (HK) hopes to tackle the pertinent issues facing the industry in terms of driving sustainable outcomes at each point in the fashion loop cycle as well as foster the spirit of collaboration for fabric makers, manufacturers, brands and academia, bringing them together to effect real, impactful change. In conjunction, the Fashion Future Challenge Award aims to recruit young talents into the cause.

The Fashion Industry's Impact On The Environment

Fast fashion and a throwaway consumer culture are the main culprits when it comes to fashion waste, causing overproduction, overconsumption and excessive refuse. The fashion industry is said to be the fifth most polluting industry in the world after oil, with global consumption of clothing and footwear expected to increase by 63 per cent by 2030, from 62 million tonnes today to 102 million in 2030¹. With 150 billion new garments are produced every year, 15 per cent of textiles intended for clothing end up on the cutting room floor².

Closer to home, Hongkongers spend an estimated total of HK\$25 billion a year on clothes, with the average Hongkonger spending around HK\$10,000 a year on clothes³. Furthermore, textile garment waste amounts to 110,000 tonnes each year⁴. Shockingly, approximately 20 per cent of industrial water pollution comes from textile dyeing and treatment in China⁵. And in HK, around 12,000 garments enter our landfills every hour⁶.

¹ A Call To Action For A Circular Fashion System (https://www.copenhagenfashionsummit.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/GFA17_Call-to-action_Poluc-brief_FINAL_9May.pdf) Last access date: 25 August 2017

² Redress Founder Combats Waste in the Fashion Industry (<https://www.theloophk.com/hong-kong-city-guide-bio-hot-seat-redress-founder-on-textile-waste-in-the-fashion-industry/>) Last access date: 25 August 2017

³ Hong Kong people spend HK\$25 billion on clothes a year (<http://www.greenpeace.org/eastasia/press/releases/toxics/2017/ovc-hk-spending-25-billion/>) Last access date: 25 August 2017

⁴ Greenpeace urges Hong Kong to join 'Buy Nothing Day' and stop over-consumption (<http://www.greenpeace.org/eastasia/press/releases/toxics/2015/buy-nothing-day/>) Last access date: 25 August 2017

⁵ Wall of Waste (<https://www.redress.com.hk/updates/2018/2/6/wall-of-waste>) Last access date: 25 August 2017

⁶ Fashion's New Cycle (<http://chinawaterrisk.org/opinions/fashions-new-cycle/>) Last access date: 25 August 2017



These alarming figures have urged Hong Kong based manufacturers and global industry players to address key issues such as limiting waste, driving more efficiency in the supply chain and encouraging the use of more sustainable materials.

Hong Kong As A Super Sourcing Hub

With many manufacturing operations based out of the S.A.R, Hong Kong is well poised to become Asia's knowledge base for sustainable development practices and serve as a bridge between manufacturing operations in China and the region with global brand owners, providing information and resources to try to close the gap between all parts of the supply chain in the fashion industry.

Felix Chung Kwok-pan, Member of the Legislative Council for the Textiles and Garment Constituency and Chairman of the Steering Committee, Fashion Summit (HK) said: "The textile industry fully recognises the importance of fostering a sustainable fashion future and is therefore extremely supportive of the sustainability initiatives of the fashion industry in hopes to build a better and more sustainable fashion industry."

Edwin Keh, Chief Executive Officer of The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel emphasised that progress was already underway: "Over the past year, we have been working on a range of green and sustainable projects with the Clothing Industry Training Authority, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and other organisations. We are very excited and honoured to have the opportunity to speak at the Fashion Summit (HK) in September, where we can shed light on the latest market trends and share functional solutions with industry players."

Hong Kong has the potential to play a critical role in influencing leading lifestyle and fashion brands through upcycling and recycling to drive sustainability efforts. Peter Cornthwaite, Chief Executive Officer of WWF-Hong Kong commented: "Nowadays everyone is talking about the importance of sustainable fashion. But many industry players do not know how to put this into practice. With the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) and Low Carbon Manufacturing Programme (LCMP), WWF facilitates industry players to make a positive impact across the supply chain. I believe that the Fashion Summit (HK) will play an important role in inspiring industry professionals to adopt viable solutions to bring about a more sustainable fashion future. We are excited to share some practical examples in this respect in early September, including how we can turn 'waste' into high fashion and reduce our ecological footprint."

Fashion Summit (HK) Underscores 'Zero Impact'

Jointly organised by seven associations, environmental NGOs and academic institutions, the two-day conference will be held on 7-8th September 2017 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The theme of the Fashion Summit (HK) will focus on 'Zero Impact' and will include a formal on-stage programme of speakers across the environmental and industry arenas, as well as high-calibre social events, enabling attendees to make the most of their time through learning, participating and expanding their network. Confirmed speakers include Mr Wong Kam-sing, the Secretary for the Environment of HKSAR Government; the Vice Chairman of China National Textile and Apparel Council; Nan Fung Group; Kering Group; H&M Foundation; PVH; C&A Foundation; Patagonia, as well as the heads of several leading

global apparel manufacturers among others. Fashion Summit (HK) will explore the new technology and solutions for the future of the fashion industry via this international platform.

Fashion Future Challenge Award

In its inaugural year, the Fashion Future Challenge Award is open to all local university students and hopes to offer the younger generation an opportunity to combine their multidisciplinary knowledge and submit a proposal for tackling the fashion challenges in the next five to ten years. The scheme will commence in September through to November 2017. Shortlisted candidates will be announced in December 2017 and the winner will be revealed in January 2018 during Fashion Week.

Co-organisers, Sponsors, Strategic Partners:

Co-organisers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing Industry Training Authority • Office of the Hon Felix CHUNG Kwok-pan, Member of the Legislative Council • Hong Kong Design Institute • Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel • Redress • Sustainable Fashion Business Consortium • World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong
Major Sponsor:	Create Hong Kong
Strategic Partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hong Kong Trade Development Council • The Mills

For more details on Fashion Summit (HK) 2017, please visit <http://fashionsummit.hk/>



Photo 1: Felix Chung Kwok-pan, Member of the Legislative Council (Textiles and Garment Sector); Chairman of the Steering Committee, Fashion Summit attended the Fashion Summit Press Conference 2017

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Photo 2: Edwin Keh, CEO, HKRITA attended the Fashion Summit Press Conference 2017



Photo 3: (1st from the left) Anderson Lee, Fashion Summit Steering Committee Member; (2nd from the left) Michael Chan Sze Wah, Associate Academic Director (Design), HKDI; (3rd from the left) Karen Ho, Business Engagement Leader, Climate, WWF-Hong Kong; (4th from the left) Jerry Liu, Head, Create Hong Kong; (3rd from the right) Felix Chung Kwok-pan, Member of the Legislative Council (Textiles and Garment Sector); Chairman of the Steering Committee, Fashion Summit; (2nd from the right) Christina Dean, Founder and Board Chair, Redress; (1st from the right) Edwin Keh, CEO, HKRITA

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Photo 4: Manequins showcasing items that are made from recycled materials to promote a more sustainable fashion future

(Photo link: <https://ogilvy.egnyte.com/dl/i1M7YgctHP>)

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About Fashion Summit (HK)

Fashion Summit (HK) is the largest conference focusing on sustainable fashion in Asia, consisting of a two-day conference and a Fashion Future Challenge Award. It is jointly organized by seven associations, environmental NGOs and academic institutions. The summit plays a vital role in the development of sustainable fashion, bringing together leading academics, key players from the fashion industry, NGOs, media, decision makers and leaders to exchange insights on the latest sustainable fashion trends, technology, best practice, solutions and opportunities. Fashion Summit (HK) also plays an important role in inspiring and nurturing the young generation to have a sustainable fashion mind-set.

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