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Making a difference by Innovation & Technology

The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) held its annual Innovation and Technology Symposium at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in the afternoon on 7 and 8 September. The symposium attracted over 600 industry partners, research experts, and association representatives to participate.

We were honoured to have Dr David Chung, JP, Acting Secretary for Innovation and Technology of The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to speak in the kick-off ceremony. Dr Chung stated that, in facing the growing demand on green-consciousness, more and more industry players are now focusing on the sustainability of their products, and research projects of HKRITA “would be conducive to textile waste reduction and facilitating the re-industrialisation of Hong Kong”.

The two half-day event invited representatives of international fashion enterprises, distinguish research institutes and sustainable communities to explore the innovations to make a difference for the textile and fashion industry as well as the society.

The keynote sessions focused on sustainable strategies by innovations from different perspectives. Dr Carlo Imò, President of Kering Asia Pacific Limited, shared the company’s experience on the development of a sustainable supply chain for the luxury market. Prof. Xiangwu Zhang, Professor and Associate Dean for Research at the College of Textiles of North Carolina State University, gave an account of the institute’s advanced research strength which the innovations can improve our everyday life.

Prof Debera Johnson, Executive Director, Center for Sustainable Design Strategies at Pratt Institute / Brooklyn Fashion + Design Accelerator, discussed sustainable fashion design strategies where innovation gives new life to post-consumer textiles and creative concepts improve traditional practices. Dr Sven Herrmann, Lead of Circular Fibres Initiative of Ellen MacArthur Foundation addressed the features of a circular economy for textiles which are restorative and regenerative by design, provide benefits for business, society and our environment.

The dialogues were further extended to a number of panel discussions. Speakers shed light on the formation of closed-loop textiles, initiatives fostering environment and business sustainability and new format for a sustainable era.

The RITA Award 2017 Presentation was also held during the Symposium. This year, the award “Innovation” went to Dr Kanji Kajiwara of Shinshu University to recognise his research contributions to the overall benefits of the industry and its impact to the society. Specialising in textile fibres and textiles chemistry, Dr Kajiwara has worked with HKRITA over recycling research projects.

These exchanges in the symposium strengthening the global knowledge networks offered the industry and society ideas and solutions for sustainable development. Mr Edwin Keh, CEO of HKRITA, believed that these ideas would be transformed into actions in the future and would make a difference to enhance our industry competitiveness, contribute to our community and make our environment better.

The Innovation and Technology Symposium 2017 is one of the key sessions of the Fashion Summit (HK) 2017. Fashion Summit (HK) 2017, themed as "Zero Impact", is one of the first Asian largest conferences held in Hong Kong, China to discuss sustainability solutions for fashion industry.

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Event photos :

	<p>Mr Keh states that making a difference is the choice of how we spend our time and use our resources, and the challenge is how to make it good</p>
	<p>Dr Harry Lee(right), Chairman of HKRITA present the RITA Award to Dr Kajiwaru</p>
	<p>Keynote speaker, Dr Carlo Imò of Kering Asia Pacific Limited</p>
	<p>Keynote speaker, Prof Xiangwu Zhang of North Carolina State University</p>
	<p>Keynote speaker, Prof Debera Johnson of Center for Sustainable Design Strategies at Pratt Institute / Brooklyn Fashion + Design Accelerator</p>

	<p>Keynote speaker, Dr Sven Herrmann of Circular Fibres Initiative of Ellen MacArthur Foundation</p>
	<p>Panel discussion: Who is responsible for closing the loop: (from left) Mr Edwin Keh, Mr Erik Bang of H&M foundation, Dr Kajiwara, Mr Alex Young of TexRay Industrial Company Limited and Mr Robert van de Kerkhof of Lenzing Aktiengesellschaft</p>
	<p>Panel discussion: New initiatives help environment and business simultaneously: (from left) Mr Barry McGeough of PVH, Ms Janice Wang of Alvanon HK, Ltd, Dr Sven Herrmann and Prof Debera Johnson</p>
	<p>Panel discussion: New Format for Sustainable Era: (from left) Ms Janice Wang, Ms Carol Chyau of SHOKAY, Ms Dawn McGregor of China Water Risk, Mr Desmond Ko of LeatherTeq Limited and Dr Li Li of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University</p>
	<p>Enthusiastic exchange from the floor</p>
	<p>Networking opportunities</p>

To download photos, please click:

http://www.hkrita.com/marketing/PressRelease/20170913_Innovation_&Technology_Symposium/photo.zip