

For Immediate Release

## **HKRITA Showcases its Achievements in the 46th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva**

### **Helping boost the sustainability of the textile industry and benefit society**

**19 April 2018, Hong Kong** – The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) achieved a triumphant showing in the 46th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva. HKRITA was pleased to showcase all of its six entries today, which won a total of seven awards including five gold medals and one silver medal this year. Among the entries, the project “AI-based Production Order Prediction Algorithm for Fashion Colour” also received a special prize from The National Research Council of Thailand. This outstanding success is attributed to the continued contribution by local R&D talent in driving the sustainable development of the textile industry, and joining forces with the industry to address the challenges in today’s competitive market, in order to enhance the quality of life in our society.

**Mr Nicholas W Yang, GBS, JP, Secretary for Innovation and Technology, HKSAR Government**, joined today’s media briefing to show his support for local R&D. Mr Yang said, “These revolutionary ideas have laid a good foundation to facilitate the sustainable development of the textile industry in Hong Kong. I look forward soon to seeing these textile recycling technologies widely applied in the market for better resource recycling, improving environmental protection while also driving re-industrialisation in Hong Kong’s textile industry.”

**Mr Edwin Keh, Chief Executive Officer of The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel**, said during his congratulatory message, “Since 2006, HKRITA has been committed to developing R&D technologies to drive the sustainable development of the textile industry and for the benefit of various sectors in the community. We are delighted to have won seven awards this year with our six entries, around the theme of environmental protection. This international recognition is yet more evidence of our R&D achievements in this industry. Moving forward, HKRITA will closely cooperate with industry partners to develop R&D technologies with potential and practicality for textiles and apparel, enhancing the competitiveness of the industry as a whole.”

**H&M Foundation** is the sponsor of two of this year’s gold medal-winning technologies – “Post-consumer Blended Textile Separation and Recycling by Hydrothermal Treatment” and “Textile Waste Recycling by Biological Methods”. **Erik Bang, Innovation Lead** of H&M Foundation, said, “Our society is facing the toughest challenge ever in how to provide goods, services and economic growth to a growing population while protecting the planet. The groundbreaking work done by HKRITA to be able to fully recycle post-consumer textiles is on the verge of making a significant contribution, allowing the fashion industry and beyond to operate within the planetary boundaries. H&M Foundation is a proud partner to HKRITA on this journey, and we are excited that our efforts are recognised by the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva.”

In the 46th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, HKRITA earned high praise, including five gold medals and one silver medal, as well as one special award, among its six participating entries. The project “**AI-based Production Order Prediction Algorithm for Fashion Colour**” additionally received a special prize from The National Research Council of Thailand. The colour prediction model makes great use of fashion colour-related posts from fashion brands, magazines, designers and key opinion

leaders in Facebook and Weibo, as well as product prices, market events and brand positioning, to predict future sales of fashion items of different colours. Natural Language Processing (NLP) is used to identify authentic fashion posts relating to colours. Also, advanced machine-learning methods are applied to enhance the accuracy of fashion colour prediction. With these advanced R&D technologies, the local textile industry can continue developing and improving at a rapid rate in the highly competitive global market.

Running from 11 to 15 April, the 46th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva, arranged under the patronage of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Swiss Government and the City of Geneva, showcased innovations and inventions from around the globe. The exhibition is an important annual invention showcase, attracting over 700 exhibitors from 40 countries.

Please click [here](#) for awarded projects' introduction.

### **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 in order to boost their overall competitiveness, and to drive sustainable improvements and 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.

**Photo Captions:**

**Photo 1:**



Mr Nicholas W Yang, GBS, JP, Secretary for Innovation and Technology, HKSAR Government says that “These revolutionary ideas have laid a good foundation to facilitate the sustainable development of the textile industry in Hong Kong.”

**Photo 2:**



Mr Edwin Keh, Chief Executive Officer of The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, remarks that, “We are delighted to have won seven awards this year with our six entries, around the theme of environmental protection. This international recognition is yet more evidence of our R&D achievements in this industry.”

**Photo 3:**



Mr Nicholas W. Yang, GBS, JP, Secretary for Innovation and Technology (6th, right), Dr Harry Lee, Chairman of The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (5th, right), Dr Miranda Lou, Executive Vice President, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (6th, left) and Mr Edwin Keh, Chief Executive Officer of The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (4th, left) in a group picture with other key attending guests at the press briefing on HKRITA's Winning Entries at the 46th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva.

**Photo 4:**



HKRITA displays a total of 6 winning entries of the 46th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva this year, sharing its technologies on R&D of textiles and apparel development with media representatives.

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