

*For Immediate Release*

## **Legacy Shaping Tomorrow's Breakthroughs** Innovation and Technology Symposium 2018

**7 September 2018, Hong Kong** —The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel (HKRITA) held its Innovation and Technology Symposium at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre today to foster dialogue on future directions in the textile, apparel and fashion industries. Taking the theme “The Re-imagination of Our Industry – Building on Our Heritage for Tomorrow’s Breakthroughs”, the Symposium inspired wide-ranging discussions and high-level exchanges of ideas among influential leaders in technology, senior managers of international brands and members of the sustainability community from around the world.

Mr Nicholas W. Yang, Secretary for Innovation and Technology kicked off today's Symposium. In his welcome remarks, Mr Yang said that the Symposium provides an excellent platform for industry experts to get together and deliberate on the opportunities and challenges ahead. “With innovation and technology, we can always turn challenges into opportunities, and opportunities into business. We need collaboration from industry partners to achieve the multiplier effect and put the innovative technology into practice. Our industry, academia, research sector and the community must work together to reap the benefits,” Mr Yang added.

Opening remarks were given by Mr Edwin Keh, Chief Executive Officer of HKRITA and Mr Karl-Johan Persson, CEO of H & M Hennes & Mauritz AB and Board Member of H&M Foundation. Our distinguished speakers shed light on a range of innovations: technological innovation that provides ways of closing the sustainability loop, smart technologies that will lead the future of manufacturing and cutting-edge start-ups that bring energy and vision to the industry ecosystem.

Ms Katrin Ley, Managing Director of Fashion for Good, delivered a keynote speech on catalyzing collaborative innovation. She introduced solutions along the fashion value chain which will drive systemic change through innovation and collaboration: from waste conversion into useful materials, through revolutionary production processes to efficient packaging and sustainable waste management.

Another keynote speaker was Dr David Bell, Former Chaired Professor of Marketing at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, who is also President and Founding Partner of Idea Farm Ventures. Speaking on the topic of “Wining in the Digital Economy”, Dr Bell gave an account of the creation of positive consumption experiences through the application of digital technologies.

The discussions extended to three panel sessions on the topics of closing the sustainability loop, using smart technology in future manufacturing and operating innovative fashion start-ups. Speakers and representatives from different industries exchanged insights on future directions in the textile, apparel and fashion industries. These dynamic exchanges created synergies between innovation and collaboration which will enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the industries.

Please click [here](#) for high-resolution photos.

### 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 to society. By providing a one-stop service for applied research, technology transfer and commercialisation, HKRITA makes sustained efforts to promote successful projects for industry application.

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Photo captions

Photo 1



(From left) Hon Felix Chung Kwok-pan, member of Legislative Council (Functional Constituency - Textiles and Garment), Dr Harry Lee, Chairman of HKRITA, Mr Nicholas Yang, Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Karl-Johan Persson, CEO of H&M Hennes & Mauritz and Board Member of H&M Foundation and Mr Edwin Keh, Chief Executive Officer of HKRITA.

Photo 2



Mr Nicholas Yang, Secretary for Innovation and Technology gives a welcome speech.

Photo 3



Mr Karl-Johan Persson, CEO of H&M Hennes & Mauritz AB and Board Member of H&M Foundation delivers his opening remarks.

Photo 4



Dr David Bell, President and Founding Partner of Idea Farm Ventures, gives an account on Winning in the Digital Economy in the keynote speech.

Photo 5



Keynote speaker, Ms Katrin Ley, Managing Director of Fashion for Good presents a keynote talk on catalyzing collaborative innovation.

Photo 6



The Symposium provides networking opportunities to the participants.