

For Immediate Release

26 Apr 2023

**In Pursuit of Technological Excellence:
HKRITA signs MOUs with Shinshu University and Seiko Epson Corporation**

The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel Limited (HKRITA) is proud to announce that in March it signed separate Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with two major research and industry partners: Shinshu University and Seiko Epson Corporation. The agreements will promote creative research partnerships to develop technologies that are both useful to industry and beneficial to society.

HKRITA's relationship with Shinshu University dates back to 2013 with the signing of the first MOU with the University's Fiber Innovation Incubator (Fii). A second MOU was signed in 2018 to continue successful collaboration in a series of research projects in the areas of evaluation systems, material science and recycling technologies.

The MOU between HKRITA and Seiko Epson Corporation will promote R&D collaboration in material recycling. Research projects will be carried out by professionals of both parties who have strong industry and research backgrounds in the areas of textiles, mechanics, electronics and digital technologies.

Mr Edwin Keh, CEO of HKRITA said, "I am excited about this exceptional and unprecedented collaboration. Shinshu University is a long-term research partner, while Seiko Epson is one of our valuable international partners that is not part of the textile and clothing industries. The two memoranda bring us together to pursue international exchange and collaboration, striving for technology breakthroughs across a range of industries while at the same time applying research results to benefit society."

Prof Hideaki Morikawa, Dean of Faculty of Textile Science and Technology, Shinshu University said, "In the Anthropocene Epoch, we are at the very moment when we must seriously consider the future of the textile and apparel industry. It is important for like-minded people across borders to work together systematically to address the challenges in the areas of science and technology, business and markets. The collaboration between HKRITA and Fii will be a close partnership in this spirit, and we hope that it will shape our industry as we move towards a sustainable future."

Mr Satoru Hosono, Deputy General Administrative Manager of Epson's Technology Development Division said, "Epson aims to become carbon negative and eliminate the use of non-renewable underground resources by 2050, and to realise a society that is both sustainable and enriched. As part of this, we hope that our collaboration with HKRITA and its excellent textile recycling technology will help us to create an industrial structure with low environmental impact in terms of both CO2 emissions and use of underground resources."

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

Established in 2006, HKRITA is funded by the Innovation and Technology Commission of the HKSAR Government and hosted by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. HKRITA engages in applied research to support the textile and apparel industry in order to boost its overall competitiveness, and

to drive sustainable improvements and bring benefits to society. By providing one-stop services for applied research, technology transfer and commercialisation, HKRITA makes sustained efforts to promote successful projects for industry application.

About Fiber Innovation Incubator (Fii)

The Fiber Innovation Incubator (Fii) under the Faculty of Textile Science and Technology of Shinshu University offers state-of-the-art fiber engineering equipment with functions ranging from prototype production to performance evaluation. Also, highly experienced coordinators with extensive industry networks are always available to provide detailed support in response to the diverse needs of corporations and to act as intermediaries between university researchers and those outside the industry. We strive to further enhance human resources through our domestic and overseas network of fiber-related universities and research institutions. We generate information that is both abundant and current, and of course, we develop leading-edge fiber technology.

About Epson (Seiko Epson Corporation)

Epson is a global technology leader whose philosophy of efficient, compact and precise innovation enriches lives and helps create a better world. The company is focused on solving societal issues through innovations in home and office printing, commercial and industrial printing, manufacturing, visual and lifestyle. Epson's goal is to become carbon negative and eliminate use of exhaustible underground resources such as oil and metal by 2050.

Led by the Japan-based Seiko Epson Corporation, the worldwide Epson Group generates annual sales of more than JPY 1 trillion. (<https://corporate.epson/en/>)

Photo:

	<p>Ms Teresa Yang, Chairman of HKRITA and Prof Hideaki Morikawa, Dean of Faculty of Textile Science and Technology, Shinshu University sign the MOU on behalf of the two parties.</p>
	<p>Mr Edwin Keh (right) CEO of HKRITA and Mr Satoru Hosono, Deputy General Administrative Manager of Technology Development Division, Seiko Epson Corporation pose a photo after signing the MOU.</p>

Please click below link to download the photos: <https://bit.ly/41oqAXc>

– End –

For media enquiries, please contact S C KU [(852) 2627 8112; scku@hkrita.com]