



Sustainable Fashion Business Consortium

Newsletter

Weaving a Sustainable future

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SFBC Luncheon

31st August 2016

We were pleased to invite Ms. Tracy Nilsson, the Senior Director Social Environmental Affairs for Adidas Sourcing Limited to be the luncheon speaker on 31st August 2016. She introduced Adidas and the environmental team including a basket of environmental milestones achieved since the team established. Moreover, she further explained the relationship between values of sport and the environment. The new sustainability strategy of Adidas is to concern product priority and people priority in all businesses including manufacturing and retailing because each part of the supply chain can affect each other. New innovation and product by using trash and plastic from the ocean was also shown by Tracy.



TESTEX has been engaged in testing and certification since 1846. With its state-of-the-art infrastructure, technical know-how and reliability, the Swiss textile testing institute has also been held in high regard internationally for many years. www.testex.com



TESTEX®

green since 1846

Sustainable Apparel Coalition Manufacturer Forum Hong Kong

5th to 6th October 2016

SAC Manufacturer Forum was held in October 2016 and this was 2nd year for this event hosted at CITA. It aimed to engage non-SAC member manufacturers to participate and gave some updated information to all participants. The agenda was oriented toward manufacturers and focus on Higg Index and verification, Social & Labour Convergence project and best practices sharing.

Over a hundred of manufacturers and brand representatives, who came from China and other Asia regions such as Korea, India, Vietnam and Bangladesh etc., registered and attended this event. Each of them was active to ask questions, express their comments on future version of Higg Index.

Beside this, SAC also provided an opportunity to participants in Day 1 to participate a game called “SIX Simulation” which is about getting people out of their seats to work together to overcome real-life challenges like resource scarcity, climate change, and labor disruptions. SIX players will gain an understanding of industry tools, data, and real-world innovations that would shape the industry’s future.

This was a successful event and SAC can get much feedback from manufacturer side for further improvement on the Facility Module of Higg Index. Then, SAC agreed that it was a good in-person meeting with every user in the web tool and will organize this kind of manufacturer summit every year. So, the next year Manufacturer Forum will be held in India in May 2017.



“OEKO-TEX® - Confidence in Textiles”

OEKO-TEX® Association has now, through the continuous further development and expansion of their portfolio, established itself as a full-service provider for independent certifications and services for greater sustainability along the textile value-creation chain.



Fig. 1 - New umbrella logo of OEKO-TEX®

OEKO-TEX® is now also taking account of this strategic change from niche provider for human-ecological product safety to a global system solution for brands, retailers and manufacturers with new brand architecture. The focus is on the OEKO-TEX® logo and the claim “Confidence in Textiles”, which over the past almost 25 years has become known across the industry – an international synonym for effective consumer protection, responsible handling of chemicals and the use of environmentally friendly production technologies and compliance with fair working conditions.

With their product portfolio OEKO-TEX® is able to provide wider range assistance and offer practical tools that the company can use to successfully overcome the varied requirements at all operational levels.

Beginning in autumn 2016, companies with the OEKO-TEX® certificate can also use the new STANDARD 100 label for product labelling and other commercial purposes. The OEKO-TEX® partner companies will receive more detailed information over the course of the year or contact the HK office at 2368 1718.

Editorial Department of SFBC Newsletter

We are welcome anyone to submit articles or activities of their companies for publication. Contributions are not more than 300 words. Please direct email to Ms Kit Li, info@sfbc.org.hk

New Opportunities to Recycle Fabric Wastes

Since the concept of “Sustainable Fashion” has been developed, increasing numbers of fashion brands and garment manufacturers are using recycling materials in their products. However, during their manufacturing process, significant amounts of fabric wastes are still induced. Fortunately, there are always volunteers working on solutions to these problems.



The Chief Project, a local business in Hong Kong, aims at manufacturing products which are 100 percent sustainable from start to finish. Since April 2016, it has been collecting fabric leftovers from textile manufacturers to produce handmade handkerchiefs made from biodegradable cotton. So far, more than 500 handkerchiefs are produced by recycling fabric wastes from factories in Mainland China. Read more about “The Chief Project” at www.thechiefproject.com

Besides collecting fabric wastes from mainland manufacturers, there is also a global online marketplace which encourages fashion brands and designers to buy textile leftovers from garment manufacturers to produce new clothes. Such online platform is created by Reverse Resources with targets of combining sustainability concepts with economic advantages in the fashion industry. Ms. Ann Runnel, the Founder of Reverse Resources, will share her experiences on “the unexplored business potential of leftovers from garment production” in the next SFBC Luncheon (scheduled on 28 November 2016). To learn more about “Reverse Resources”, visit their website at reverseresources.net

By using cotton fabric wastes, the Lenzing Group (an Austrian-based manufacturer of man-made fibre) has recently produced a new TENCEL® fibre which is suitable for manufacturing of ‘tarantula blue’ textiles. This new innovation is already used by Patagonia. Visit www.lenzing-fibers.com/en/tencel/ for details of TENCEL® fibre.

