



Press Release

**The Launching of Sustainable Fashion Business Consortium**  
***The ever-first Hong Kong based Organization***  
***aimed to promote the Concept of Sustainability in the Fashion Industry***

(22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2008, Hong Kong) The Clothing Industry Training Authority (CITA), that has been continuously offering enormous efforts in promoting the importance of sustainable development in the fashion industry, recognized the rapid growth and changing trend of the industry, thus taking the initiative to form the first organization that aimed to promote environmental issues and the concept of sustainability in the fashion industry in Hong Kong. In 22<sup>nd</sup> April, under the witnesses of **Mr. Roy Tang, JP, Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Environment Bureau** and **Dr. Christine Loh, Chief Executive Officer of Civic Exchange and the former Legislative Council Member**, CITA formally announced the official launch of the Sustainable Fashion Business Consortium (SFBC). Together with its Founding Members that are all conscious of their corporate social responsibility to the industry, SFBC aimed to promote and increase the use of sustainable practices, at the same time arousing more awareness towards the issue of environmental protection across the fashion supply chain.

“The formation of the SFBC marks to coming together of the textile and apparel industry to tackle together this complex issue of sustainability.” Mr. Pat-Nie Woo, Chairman of Sustainable Fashion Business Consortium said. “As the issue of sustainable development is very complex, it needs everyone’s input,”

‘Given the pressing issue of climate change, air and water pollution together with the ever increasing demand for waste disposal facilities, how societies can become environmentally sustainable is a clear and present challenge. I appreciate the vision of the SFBC for the textile, garments and fashion industry to meet that challenge, and will do what I can to assist them to develop strategies for best practices.’ Dr. Christine Loh, Chief Executive Officer of Civic Exchange and the former Legislative Council Member suggested.

Being the platform in bringing information and know-how from different focusing areas, including the increase of use of sustainable raw materials, reduce of energy consumption and impact of waste and chemicals, SFBC has started to discuss a number of projects with the Hong Kong Government, with such organizations as the Project Blue sky of Hong Kong Productivity Council as well as The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, to encourage textile and apparels companies to adopt sustainable practices.

What’s more, in order to define best practices, SFBC’s member companies will also be systematically monitoring their own operations, and setting measurable goals to improve their practices to be more sustainable on an ongoing basis. SFBC believes that continuous improvement plays a critical role in developing sustainable practices.

With its open architecture, SFBC will be sharing their findings with the rest of the industry by running seminars and workshops to be organized by CITA. These seminars and workshops will aim to better disseminate and educate other industry-players the connection between competitive advantages and the need to use new technologies and sustainable practices across the fashion supply chain.

SFBC’s vision is to work together with not only companies in the textile and apparel industry, but also to cooperation and dialogue with other organizations such as retailers/brands and NGOs.. By joining hands with other groups such as the RITE Group and WWF Hong Kong, SFBC targets to develop a clear roadmap for sustainable textiles and garments going forward.

One project that involves the expertise of WWF Hong Kong will be to develop a global standard for carbon footprint calculation for the textile and apparel industry. This project will lead to the future of carbon labeling for clothing as well as carbon trading for energy efficient manufacturers in the supply chain.

SFBC is also already in discussion with the RITE group to jointly host a Global Sustainable Textile conference in Hong Kong in 2009. "The connection with the RITE group has brought about the long awaited dialogue between retailers/brands and manufacturers to pave the way forward for sustainability." Mr Pat-Nie Woo said. "The proposed 2009 conference, although still in early stage, will definitely put Hong Kong at the forefront of sustainable development in our industry."

By launching SFBC on the Earth Day, SFBC highlights the importance of reduction of impact of the industry on the environment, thus signifying their concern and determination in taking lead as industrialists. 'The launching of SFBC is the beginning of an industry-wide transformation, not only benefiting our members, their customers and suppliers, but also for best practices to filter down to small and medium enterprises in Hong Kong and China, thus forming a role model on sustainability, to make the dream of low-impact clothing a reality.' Mr. Pat-Nie Woo said.

The launch of SFBC is only the start of the long path in striking for a year on year improvements in adopting sustainable practices in major areas of the supply chain, as the forerunner of the industry; SFBC will be initiating numerous demonstration projects to further promote the adoption of sustainable practices. 'I hope to see SFBC becoming an agent of change in the future, initiating changes to make the industry more conscious on environmental issues.' Mr. Pat-Nie Woo concluded.

~ End ~

### **About Sustainable Fashion Business Consortium (SFBC)**

SFBC is a group of Hong Kong based companies in the textile and apparel sector committed to promoting and increasing the use of sustainable practices across the supply chain. With the pressing issue of global warming, air and water pollution, and the ever increase of waste disposal pits, SFBC has a vision to create a platform to continuously improve textile and apparels manufacturing processes and procedures throughout the supply chain in order to minimize the industry's impact on the environment.

The Founding Members of SFBC includes,

Mr. Andrew Sia, Chairman and CEO of Ace Style Group

Mr. Pat-Nie Woo, Director of Central Textiles (HK) Limited

Prof. K.W. Yeung, Executive Director of Clothing Industry Training Authority

Mr. Kenneth Lo, Chairman of Crystal Group

Dr. Gordon Yen, Executive Director of Fountain Set (Holdings) Limited

Mr. Yeung Chun Fan, Vice-chairman and General Manager of Glorious Sun Enterprises Limited

Mr. Stanford Kuo, Managing Director of Gunzetal Limited

Mr. Lam Foo Wah, Chairman of High Fashion International Management Limited

Ms. Johanna Ho, Creative Director of I Limited

Mr. Stanley Szeto, Chairman and CEO of Lever Style Inc.

Mr. Patrick Yeung, Technical Director of Sun Hing Industries Holdings Limited, and

Dr. Harry Lee, Managing Director of TAL Apparel Limited

This Press Release is issued by SCC on behalf of Clothing Industry Training Authority.  
For Further enquiry, please contact

**Strategic Communications Consultants Limited**

Ezena Tang

Contact No : (852) 2114 4993

Mobile : (852) 9885 6098

Fax : (852) 2114 0880

Email : [ezena.tang@sprg.com.hk](mailto:ezena.tang@sprg.com.hk)

Veronica Li

Contact No : (852)2114 4945

Mobile : (852)9414 2862

Fax : (852) 2114 0880

Email : [veronica.li@sprg.com.hk](mailto:veronica.li@sprg.com.hk)