RGC Ref. No.: UGC/IIDS25/B01/22 (please insert ref. above)

# RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING SCHEMES FOR THE LOCAL SELF-FINANCING DEGREE SECTOR

# **INTER-INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (IIDS)**

# **Completion Report**

(for completed projects only)

Submission Deadlines:	1.	The unspent balance, if applicable, and auditor's report: within		
		six months of the approved project completion date.		
	2.	Completion report: within <u>12</u> months of the approved project		
		completion date.		

# **Part A:** The Project and Investigator(s)

# 1. Project Title

International Forum on Circular Fashion and UNSDGs in the fashion and textile industry

# 2. Investigator(s) and Academic Department(s) / Unit(s) Involved

Research Team	Name / Post	Unit / Department / Institution
Principal Investigator	Ms. CHENG Hiu / Assistant Professor	Department of Fashion Design, Faculty of Design and Environment, Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong
Co-Principal Investigator(s)	Dr. CHAN Man Hin Eve / Assistant Professor	Department of Fashion Design, Faculty of Design and Environment, Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong
Co-Investigator(s)	Dr. YEUNG Mo Ching, Shirley / Associate Professor	School of Business, Gratia Christian College
Co-Investigator(s)	Dr. LEE Liane Wai-ying / Assistant Professor	Department of Management The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
Co-Investigator(s)	Ir. Dr. WONG Yin Cheung Eugene / Assistant Professor	Department of Supply Chain and Information Management/ Hang Seng University

# 3. **Project Duration**

	Original	Revised	Date of RGC / Institution Approval (must be quoted)
Project Start Date	1 January 2023	N/A	N/A
Project Completion Date	31 December 2023	N/A	N/A
Duration (in month)	12 months	N/A	N/A
Deadline for Submission of Completion Report	31 December 2024	N/A	N/A

4.4 Please attach photo(s) of acknowledgement of RGC-funded activities.



The event is supported by a grant from the Research Grants Council of the Hong Kong SAR, China (Project Ref. No. UGC/IIDS25/B01/22)

Event Flyer



# Event poster



HOME AGENDA SPEAKER RECORDING THE TEAM LOCATION **International Forum on Circular Fashion** and UNSDGs in the fashion and textile industry 26-28 July 2023 2 - 6 p.m. (GMT + 8) Thei n Hall, G/F al and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEI) Tai Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong 133 Shine al. 📰 English with live stream

Event webpage

# Part B: The Final Report

5.	Collaboration	with Other	Self-Finan	cing Degree	e-Awarding	Institutions
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	Name of Institution(s)	% of Participation	Distinctive <u>Element(s)</u> of the Institution in Responsible Project
Applying Institution	Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong	60%	<ul> <li>Oversee the progress of the entire project and budget use</li> <li>Supervise the research assistant</li> <li>Host the event in THEi campus</li> <li>Logistic work of the event</li> <li>Invite and liaise with speakers</li> <li>Reach out for promotion of the event</li> <li>Compose master list of target audience</li> <li>Collateral design and production</li> <li>Educational and promotional materials creation (video, website, publicity materials online)</li> </ul>
Collaborating Institution(s) (If any) <sup>#</sup>	Gratia Christian College	20%	<ul> <li>Invite and liaise with speakers</li> <li>Reach out for promotion of the event</li> <li>Compose master list of target audience</li> </ul>
	The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong	20%	<ul> <li>Invite and liaise with speakers</li> <li>Reach out for promotion of the event</li> <li>Compose master list of target audience</li> <li>Collateral design and production</li> <li>Educational and promotional materials creation (video, website, publicity materials online)</li> </ul>
Total:		100%	

*#* If no other eligible local self-financing degree-awarding institutions are involved, please input "N/A" in this table.

# 6. Project Objectives

#### 6.1 Objectives as per original application

1. To create a platform for academics and practitioners to exchange best practices associated with sustainable development strategies for responsible and innovative designs, production processes, and management.

2. To enhance the research capability of academics and keep them abreast of new developments and challenging research topics related to sustainable development in the fashion industry.

3. To provide innovative insights and solutions to stakeholders in the fashion industry for resolving problems emerging in new sustainability and social responsibility contexts.

4. To gather different stakeholders for professional sharing around global trends and sustainable development practices in the fashion industry that have economic, social, or environmental impacts.

# 6.2 Revised objectives

Date of approval from the RGC:	N/A
Reasons for the change:	N/A
1.	

2.

3. ....

6.3 Realisation of the objectives

(Maximum 1 page; please state how and to what extent the project objectives have been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

All objectives have been achieved successfully. Details as follows.

# Objective 1: To create a platform for academics and practitioners to exchange best practices associated with sustainable development strategies for responsible and innovative designs, production processes, and management.

The evaluation report mentions participants from diverse fields, including Fashion & Clothing, Academic, NGO, and Student. The conference successfully provided a platform for academics and practitioners to exchange ideas, fostering discussions and collaboration.

# Objective 2: To enhance the research capability of academics and keep them abreast of new developments and challenging research topics related to sustainable development in the fashion industry.

The conference have invited renowned scholars as keynote speakers and panelists to share their expertise and insights on emerging research areas and cutting-edge topics in UNSDGs and circular fashion. These sessions would have provided a valuable platform for academics to learn from and engage with established scholars, fostering intellectual growth and professional networking.

The conference might have also facilitated discussions around challenging research topics in sustainable development in the fashion industry. This could have included exploring areas such as sustainable materials and textiles, circular economy practices, supply chain transparency, consumer behavior and sustainability, and the social impact of the fashion industry. By addressing these complex and evolving research topics, the conference likely supported academics in expanding their research capabilities and broadening the scope of their work.

# Objective 3: To provide innovative insights and solutions to stakeholders in the fashion industry for resolving problems emerging in new sustainability and social responsibility contexts.

The evaluation report reveals that a majority of respondents (76.9%) agreed that the forum successfully provided innovative insights and solutions related to sustainability and social responsibility. This indicates that the conference effectively delivered on its objective of offering fresh perspectives and practical strategies to address challenges in the fashion industry. Furthermore, the average agreement rating of 4.3 out of 5 signifies a high level of satisfaction among participants regarding the innovative insights and solutions presented at the conference. This suggests that the conference not only provided theoretical knowledge but also practical and actionable ideas that resonated with the stakeholders in the fashion industry. Survey details please refer to section 6.7.

# Objective 4: To gather different stakeholders for professional sharing around global trends and sustainable development practices in the fashion industry that have economic, social, or environmental impacts.

The "International Forum on Circular Fashion and UNSDGs in the fashion and textile industry" was a 3-day hybrid conference designed to promote circular fashion and sustainable supply chain practices aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This indicates that the conference had a specific focus on circularity and the integration of sustainable practices in the fashion and textile industry. Renowned fashion experts representing different level of stakeholders were invited as speakers for the conference, providing participants with valuable insights and knowledge. Each day of the conference covered five to six topics, allowing for in-depth discussions and exploration of various aspects of sustainable development in the fashion industry. The experts likely shared good practices, showcased successful case studies, and presented their research findings, enabling participants to learn from their expertise.

Objectives	Addressed (please tick)	<b>Percentage Achieved</b> (please estimate)
1. To create a platform for academics and practitioners to exchange best practices associated with sustainable development strategies for responsible and innovative designs, production processes, and management.	$\checkmark$	100%
2. To enhance the research capability of academics and keep them abreast of new developments and challenging research topics related to sustainable development in the fashion industry.	$\checkmark$	100%
3. To provide innovative insights and solutions to stakeholders in the fashion industry for resolving problems emerging in new sustainability and social responsibility contexts.	$\checkmark$	100%
4. To gather different stakeholders for professional sharing around global trends and sustainable development practices in the fashion industry that have economic, social, or environmental impacts.	$\checkmark$	100%

6.4 Summary of objectives addressed to date

# 6.5 Project progress

Original Implementation Schedule	Revised Implementation Schedule (Date of RGC's Approval)	Updated Progress
January – February 2023 Compilation of mailing list	N/A	
February – July 2023 Preparation and administration of the event	N/A	The forum was well-prepared and managed. It was held on 26-28 July 2023.
July 2023 Event	N/A	The event was held successfully on 26-28 July 2023 as scheduled.
August – November 2023 Construction of	N/A	The editing of all the forum recordings has been

archive website		completed within the
		scheduled timeframe.
August Nevember 2022		All the post-seminar task
August – November 2023 Post-seminar task	N/A	have been completed within
Post-seminar task		the scheduled timeframe.
December 2023		The website with all the
Launch of		recording of the conference
	N/A	was launched on November
archive website		2023.

<b>Title / Name</b> (Surname in Capital Letters)	Post / Institution	Title / Topic of Presentation / Course	<b>Previous Research Links with</b> <b>Hong Kong Institutions</b> (Nature and Date (Month / Year))
Ms. PARIZOT Morgane	Redress/ Education Director	Keynote Speech I - Circular Economy: How circularity can be approached in a multilevel of fashion industry?	N/A
Professor AU Raymond Wai Man, MH	Honorary Professor of THEi/ Director of Fashion Farm Foundation	Keynote Speech II – The Implementation of UNSDGs in Fashion	N/A
Ms. CHEUNG Janet	Project Director, Hong Kong Fashion Designers Association	Seminar I – Sustainable Design Thinking in Fashion Product	N/A
Ms. AU Vickie	Founder, V Visionary Design Studio	Seminar II - Sustainable fashion: An inside look at the brand and circular models for fashion brands	N/A
Professor CHENG Louis	Dr S H Ho Professor of Banking and Finance, Director of the Research Institute for Business, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong	Forum Session – Driving Profit with Purpose	N/A
Mr. HUNG Alex	Managing Director of Crossover International. Co. Ltd. & Charter President of Rotary Club of Peninsula East	The Future of Sustainable Fashion: Transformative New Technologies	N/A
Professor LESLIE Catherine	Professor,SchoolofFashion,KentState University	0	N/A

[		Example a m	
		Further	
		consideration	
		about sustainable	
		development in	
	<b>T</b> 1	the classroom	
	Founder,	Seminar II - The	
	100degreec &	Expansion and	
Ms. WONG	President of	5	N/A
Ling	Rotary Club of	-	
	Smart Hong	through Digital	
	Kong	Marketing	
	Founder, VT	Seminar III -	
Ms. AU	Comms &	Communicating	
YEUNG Alice	Co-Founder,	sustainability: PR	N/A
	Creative	as an agent for	
	Tomorrow FDN	change	
	Had f Cl 1 1	Forum Session –	
$\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{O}_{\mathbf{r}} \{ 1 \}$	Head of Global	Rethinking	
Dr. Stéphane	Recycling &	Forward on	N/A
Ogé	Circularity,	Circular Fashion	
	Lacoste	Supply Chain in	
		the New Era	
	II	Forum Session –	
Mr. WONG	Head of material	Resilience and	
Eddie	Management,	retail: the key to	N/A
	Boardriders	circular supply chain	
		Forum Session –	
Mr. WONG	Associate	Leading by driving	
Max	Director, CSR,	sustainability into	N/A
IVIAX	Esquel Group	•	
		the global textile	
		industry Seminar I –	
	Senior Sales and	Looking Back	
Ms. LEUNG	Operations	and Ahead:	
Phillix	Manager,	Sustainable	N/A
	ALDO Group	Material in	
	International	Fashion	
		Seminar II –	
		From Community	
	Founder &	to Fashion: What	
Dr. YU William	CEO, World	the Fashion	N/A
	Green	Industry Can	
	Organization	Learn from Local	
		Communities?	
	Former District		
	Governor of	Seminar III –	
	Rotary Club,		
Mr. FONG	District 3450	Redefined via	N/A
Eugene	and	Perspective of	
	Management	SDGs	
	Committee of		
	51		

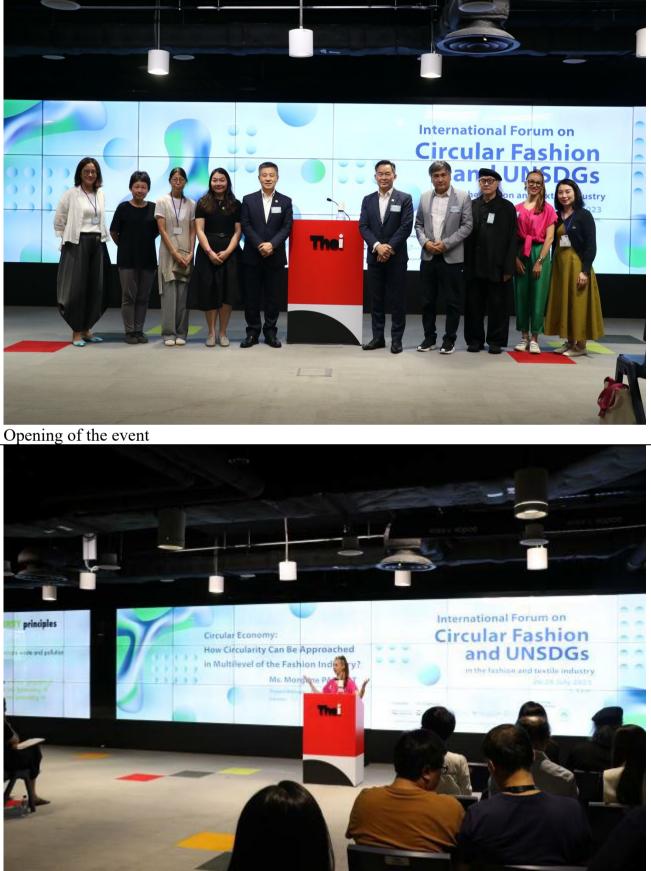
	UNESCO		
Mr. Fongoh Eric	Co-ordinator, ICENECDEV	Forum Session – Raw to Market: Reversing the Climate Crisis at Source	N/A
Dr. TIEN William	President/ CEO of Axis Technologies Group Inc, President / CEO of Carbonis Inc, Chairman of iCarbon RE Limited	Forum Session – How Policies and End of Life Regulation on Global and Local Levels Can Drive Circularity?	N/A
Mr. SONG Yang	Founder of Song Yang Art and CubeQ Art/ Consultant of the United Nations Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Foundation	Forum Session – Panel Discussion	N/A

6.7 Please provide details of the activities organized, including the theme / objectives of the activities, targeted participants, attendance, analysis of participants, e.g. country of origin, research background, etc., evaluation forms of the activities and a summary of the participants' evaluation. Photos of the activities are preferred.)

A 3-day hybrid event named "International Forum on Circular Fashion and UNSDGs in the Fashion and Textile Industry" was held successfully on 26-28 July 2023. The forum brings educators, scholars, practitioners, non-profit organizations and community members together to exchange their views on circular fashion, with an emphasis on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It aims to promote research excellence and vocational skills in the fashion industry while integrating sustainability practices at multiple levels of the fashion supply chain, also enhancing the visibility and impact of sustainability and SDGs to the general public.

18 renowned experts were invited and have delivered a speech to the audiences.

# Day 1 Economic Session Working Circular from Concept to Reality (SDG 9 & 12)



Keynote Speech I Circular Economy: How Circularity Can Be Approached in Multilevel of the Fashion Industry?



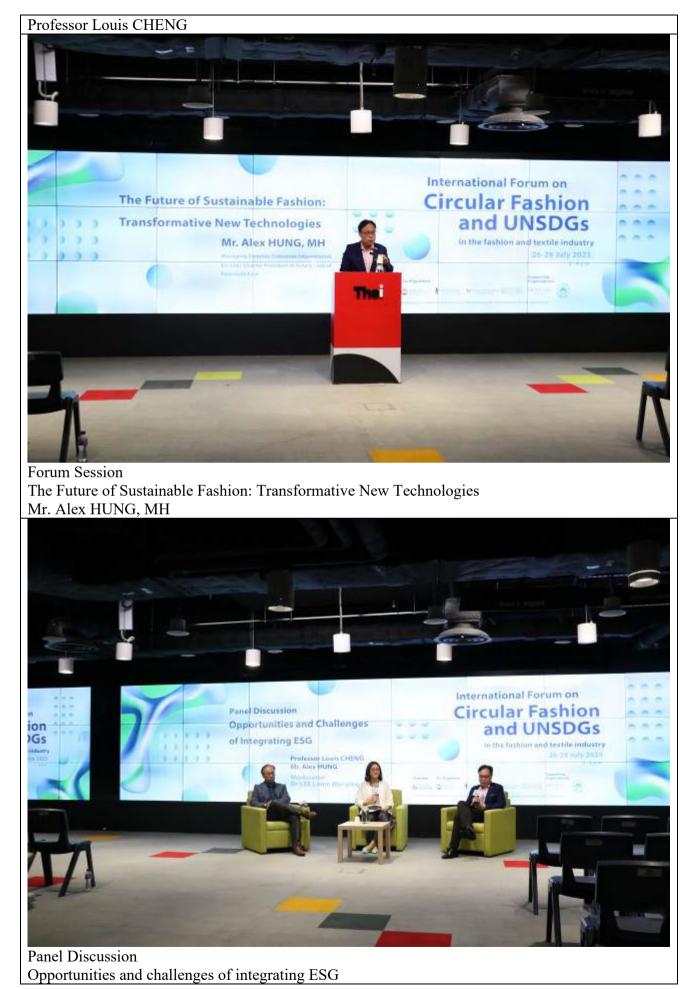
# Ms. Janet CHEUNG

#### Seminar II

Sustainable Fashion: An Inside Look at the Brand and Circular Models for Fashion Brands Ms. Vickie AU



Driving Profit with Purpose



Professor Louis CHENG Mr. Alex HUNG, MH Moderator: Dr LEE Liane Wai-ying

Day 2

**Social Session** 

Building a Circular Driven Society (SDG 7, 9, 10 & 12)

Seminar I Building a Circularity Driven Society: Further Considerations about Sustainable Development in the Classroom



Seminar I

Building a Circularity Driven Society: Further considerations about sustainable development in the classroom

Professor Catherine LESLIE



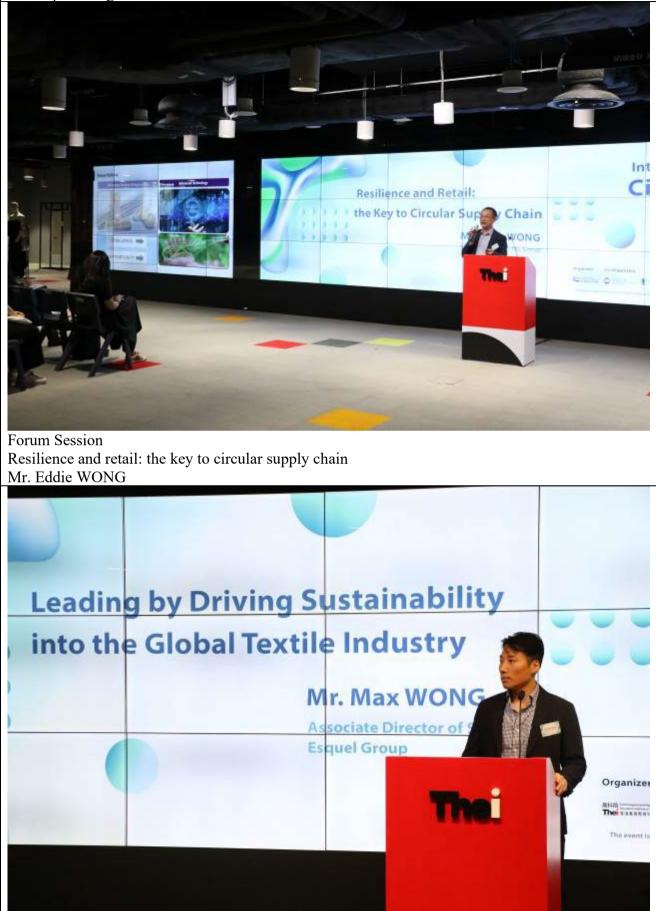
### Seminar II The Expansion and Sustainability of Fashion Industry through Digital Marketing Ms. Ling WONG



Seminar III Driving Sustainability: The Role of PR as an Agent for Change Miss Alice AU YEUNG



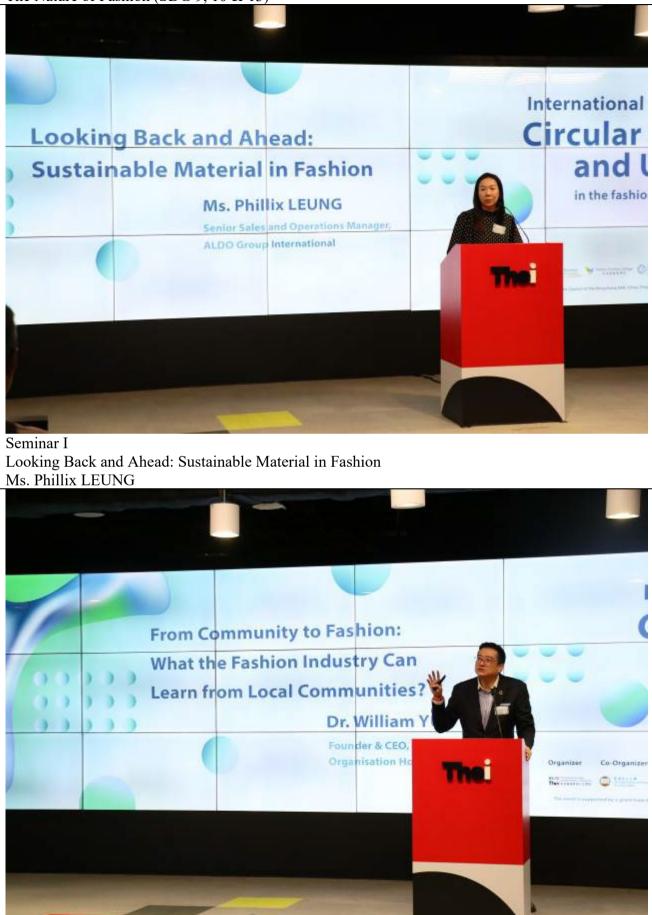
Forum Session Rethinking Forward on Circular Fashion Supply Chain in the New Era Dr. Stéphane Ogé





Ir. Dr. WONG Yin Cheung, Eugene

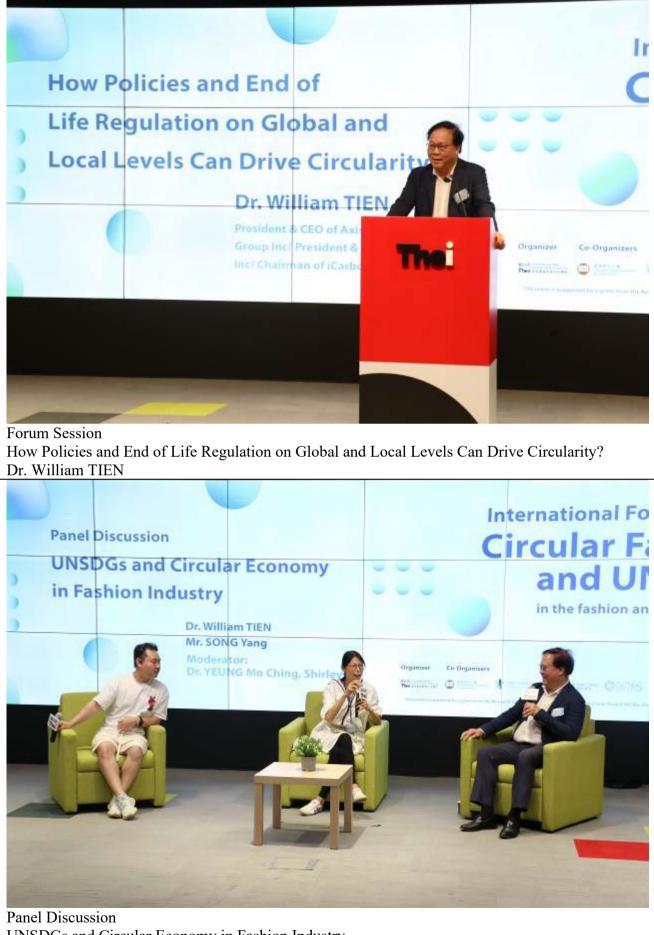
**Day 3 Environmental Session** The Nature of Fashion (SDG 9, 10 & 13)



# Seminar II

From Community to Fashion: What the Fashion Industry Can Learn from Local Communities? Dr. William YU

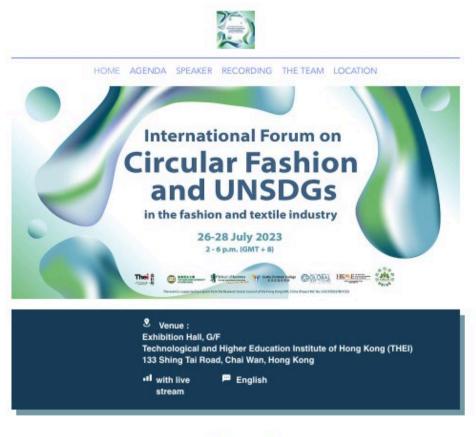




UNSDGs and Circular Economy in Fashion Industry Dr. William TIEN

An event website has been set up for the convenience of target participants to register. The website also serves as a platform for introducing the event objectives and providing background information on the speakers. It has replaced the traditional practice of distributing printed leaflets during the event, aligning with the sustainability concept of the event.

Event website: https://circularffandunsdg.wixsite.com/ifcf-org



# About

The 'International Forum on Circular Fashion and UNSDGs in the fashion and textile industry' is a 3-day hybrid conference that focuses on promoting circular fashion and sustainable supply chain practices in line with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Renowned fashion experts will cover five to six topics each day, elaborating on good practices and presenting their knowledge and research in the forum. The event aims to promote research excellence and vocational skills in fashion-related industries while increasing the awareness of sustainability at multiple levels of the supply chain, also enhancing the visibility and impact of sustainability and SDGs to the general public.

The event has attracted more than 300 participants, and the information and backgrounds
of the participants are as follows.

Event Date	Number of participants	Profession
Day 1	119	Academic   32
26th July 2023		Design   17
Economic Session:		Information Technology   4
Working Circular from Concept		Logistic   3

D 1:		Manafastaning   11
Reality		Manufacturing   11
		Others   27
		Student   16
		Wholesale & Retail   9
Day 2	97	Academic   34
27th July 2023		Design   9
Social Session:		Information Technology   4
Building a Circularity Driven		Logistic   1
Society		Manufacturing   11
		Others   20
		Student   15
		Wholesale & Retail  3
Day 3	91	Academic   24
28th July 2023		Design   10
Environmental Session:		Information Technology   3
The Nature of Fashion		Logistic   1
		Manufacturing   8
		Others   29
		Student   12
		Wholesale & Retail   4

All the seminar recordings have been uploaded on the website as well as YouTube channel. Over 3000 views have been recorded.

YouTube channel: <u>https://www.youtube.com/@IFCFSDG</u>

Here is the total view count for each recording up until **December 21, 2023.** 

Торіс	Views
How Circularity Can Be Approached in Multilevel of the Fashion Industry? - Ms. Morgane PARIZOT	176
The Implementation of UNSDGs in Fashion - Professor Raymond AU Wai Man, MH	137
From Fast to Slow: The Essence of Slow Fashion - Ms. Janet CHEUNG	170
An Inside Look at the Brand And Circular Models for Fashion Brands - Ms. Vickie AU	158
Driving Profit with Purpose - Professor Louis CHENG	147
The Future of Sustainable Fashion: Transformative New Technologies - Mr. Alex HUNG, MH	138
Opportunities and challenges of integrating ESG - Professor Louis CHENG & Mr. Alex HUNG, MH	145
Driving Sustainability: The Role of PR as an Agent for Change - Miss Alice AU YEUNG	188
Further considerations about sustainable development in the classroom - Professor Catherine LESLIE	159
The Expansion and Sustainability of Fashion Industry through Digital Marketing - Ms. Ling WONG	167
Resilience and retail: the key to circular supply chain - Mr. Eddie WONG	141
Fashion Redefined via Perspective of SDGs - Mr. Eugene FONG	138
Looking Back and Ahead: Sustainable Material in Fashion - Ms. Phillix LEUNG	144
Rethinking Forward on Circular Fashion Supply Chain in the New Era - Dr. Stéphane Ogé	170

Outlook for Circular Economy and Decarbonisation - Dr. Stéphane Ogé,		
Mr. Eddie WONG & Mr. Max WONG		
Leading by driving sustainability into the global textile industry - Mr. Max	134	
WONG		
What the Fashion Industry Can Learn from Local Communities? - Dr.	148	
William YU		
Raw to Market: Reversing the Climate Crisis at Source - Mr. Fongoh Eric	134	
How Policies and End of Life Regulation Can Drive Circularity? - Dr.	151	
William TIEN		
UNSDGs and Circular Economy in Fashion Industry - Dr. William TIEN &	151	
Mr. SONG Yang		
Total number of views	3058	

An evaluation survey has been conducted after the event. The results show the outcome of the survey.

Question	Mean
Q1: The forum was useful to me.	4.13
Q2: The content was presented in a logical, well-organized sequence.	4.04
Q3: The presenters was familiar and comfortable with the content.	4.15
Q4: The presenters made good use of the allotted time.	4.16
Q5: The forum provided innovative insights and solutions of sustainability and social responsibility contexts.	4.28
Q6: Overall rating of the forum.	4.21

# 7. Research-Related Outcome

7.1 Potential for development into research proposal and the proposed course of action *(Maximum half a page)* 

The talks delivered diverse topics in regard to circularity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) of the fashion industry. These are potential topics for further exploration of other initiatives or research projects:

- Circularity in fashion design education
- The challenges of fashion education in sustainability
- How to arouse the awareness and interest of students with regard to sustainability?
- 7.2 Research collaboration achieved (*Please give details on the achievement and its relevant impact*)

NA

7.3 Any new development and/or challenging research topic(s) has / have been identified and any new initiative(s) for future research has / have been inspired.

The success of the event shows the importance of circularity and sustainability in the fashion industry. It inspired to conduct a conference which could focus on educating about circularity and sustainability, in order to further equip the next generation.

# 8. The Layman's Summary

(Describe <u>in layman's language</u> the nature, significance and value of the research activities, in no more than 200 words)

The research activities for this project were focused on circular fashion, which means finding ways to make the fashion industry sustainable in different aspects. Experts in the field were invited to share their knowledge and research during a forum. The project also aimed to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations, which include things like affordable and clean energy, reduced inequalities, and responsible consumption and production.

The forum had different sessions covering various aspects of circular fashion. In the economic session, the research focused on understanding how sustainability challenges affect fashion companies and their ability to create sustainable products. In the social session, the researchers examined how the fashion industry interacts with communities to promote skills, knowledge, and resources needed for sustainable and circular innovations. In the environmental session, the focus was on aligning innovation with sustainable development to protect the environment.

The project was led by well-known scholars and experts in the field, and it aimed to deepen our understanding of circular fashion and the SDGs. It provided a valuable opportunity for researchers to enhance their knowledge and skills, and it will have long-lasting benefits for academia. Overall, this research project aimed to find solutions that benefit the economy, society, and the environment in the context of fashion.

# Part C: Research Output

9. Recognized Conference(s) Paper(s) Related To This Project Was / Were Delivered (As Applicable)

(Please attach a copy of each conference abstract)

Month / Year / Place	Title	Conference Name	Submitted to RGC (indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)	Attached to this Report (Yes or No)	Acknowledged the Support of RGC (Yes or No)
N/A					

# 10. Research Personnel Trained (As Applicable)

Name	Capacity
	Research Assistant
	Research Assistant

# 11. Other Impact (As Applicable)

(e.g. prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, technology transfer, etc.)

N/A

# **12. Statistics on Research Outputs**

	Peer-reviewed Journal Publications	Conference Papers	Scholarly Books, Monographs and Chapters	Patents Awarded	Other Rese Output (please spe	S
No. of outputs arising directly from this project	N/A				Туре	No.

**13.** Public Access Of Completion Report (Please specify the information, if any, that cannot be provided for public access and give the reasons.)

Information that Cannot Be Provided for Public Access	Reasons
N/A	