



## **United Kingdom : Textile Institute 86th World Conference to take place in Hong Kong**

September 16, 2008

The bustling, vibrant, gateway to the east, Hong Kong will be the gathering point in November for the textile industry's most important event of the year.

Over 400 delegates are expected to attend The Textile Institute 86th World Conference – Fashion and Textiles: Heading towards New Horizons, which will offer a fantastic opportunity to network with current and new industry colleagues and listen to an internationally renowned group of speakers.

An inspirational venue, Hong Kong offers delegates a glimpse at a charming 21st century city, full of history but always with an eye on the future - a unique mixture of eastern and western cultures.

With manufacturing bases in the surrounding Pearl Delta region, China and other Asian countries, as well as strong links with world trade, Hong Kong continues to play a major role in the global textile and clothing arena, both as an exporter and as a service centre.

Hong Kong's success with manufacturing, trading and the retail sector is world famous. The World Conference Chairman, who is The Textile Institute World President, Prof Xiaoming Tao of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University is looking forward to welcoming colleagues and TI Members to the conference, she commented "that the conference is a fantastic opportunity for all those involved in fashion and textiles to exchange ideas and listen to groundbreaking new developments, we hope that all participants will enjoy the conference."

Jointly organised by The Textile Institute and the Institute of Textiles and Clothing, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the conference highlights will include key note speakers from around the world, including Dr Kenneth K K Wang, the managing director of the Sterling Group, and chairman of Alvanon Inc; Prof Robert J Young, head of the School of Materials, University of Manchester, UK; Prof Ronald Postle, professor textile physics, School of Chemistry, University of New South Wales, Australia; Alan K Prichard, associate technical fellow, the Boeing Company, USA; Prof Subhash Anand, professor of technical textiles, at the Centre for Materials Research and Innovation, The University of Bolton, UK; and Prof Yoshiharu Kimura, the director of the Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan.

Mr Alan Prichard, a New Zealander by birth, is considered the father of high speed machining at Boeing, he predicted the stress wave now called the "Prichard Effect", and discovered mathematical chaos (a classic heartbeat signature) in Boeing factory systems, subsequently saving wasted labour.

He is currently working at the forefront of developing new materials technology, including bioengineered materials and working with woven carbon fibres.

His presentation at the World Conference will cover the historical use of woven fabrics as structural elements on commercial aircraft, he will discuss the latest applications of woven cloth in commercial airplanes, including Boeings new 787 and then he will discuss the future application of technical woven fibres for aircraft structure, including the use of fibres in 3D woven and braided form.

Dr Kenneth Wang, studied to become a Doctor at Guy's Hospital in the UK, later returning to Hong Kong to help run the family business, Sterling Products, in 2001 he started Alvanon. Using his medical understanding of human anatomy he recognised that most mannequins were not anatomically correct.

He identified many inefficiencies in the apparel supply chain that were common problems across the industry and demonstrated that costs could easily be reduced through the use of visualisation technology, allowing companies to work smarter and more efficiently.

Alvanon is a successful multi-national company with a multi-million turnover. They aim to be the industry's global size

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and fit expert, through use of scientifically backed strategy consulting and practical tools.

Dr Wang's presentation is titled "Fitting the World". Sponsors of the World Conference include Messe Frankfurt (HK) Ltd a subsidiary of Messe Frankfurt Exhibition GmbH, one of Europe's oldest and largest trade fair organisers; the Hong Kong Intimate Apparel Industries' Association (HKIAIA); leading fashion manufacturing group, Tingtex (Holdings) Company Ltd; and vertical manufacturer and retailer, the Afasia Group.

Over 100 international presentations will cover: Fibre and Polymer Materials; Fashion and Textile Design; Processing Technology; Clothing Science and Technology; Innovative Textiles; Marketing and Retailing; Trading and Compliance; Management and Education.



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