



Speakers Profiles

Mrs. Rita LAU Ng Wai-lan, JP

Secretary for Commerce & Economic Development
The Hong Kong SAR Government

Mrs. Rita Lau joined the Administrative Service of the Hong Kong Government in October 1976. Since then, she has served in various bureaux and departments, holding such senior positions as Deputy Secretary (Information Technology and Broadcasting), Director of Urban Services, and Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene. She was Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport) from July 2002 to January 2004, and Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Planning and Lands) from May 2004 to June 2007.

Lau assumed the post of Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Communications and Technology) in July 2007 and was appointed Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development on 12 July 2008. Her policy responsibilities include external commercial relations, inward investment promotion, intellectual relations, property protection, industry and business support, tourism development, consumer protection, competition, development of information technology, telecommunications, broadcasting, film and creative industry, and innovation and technology.

Speakers Profiles

Mr. Markus LAMPE

Senior Vice President Marketing

CRYSTALLIZED™ - *Swarovski Elements*, D. Swarovski & CO



Mr. Markus Lampe is in charge of all matters pertaining to the crystal components business at Swarovski. In addition to the responsibility for all branding and communication strategies, this includes international product management, innovation management, and central trend research and design.

The new retail concept, Swarovski CRYSTALLIZED™ (B2C), was developed and implemented internationally under Lampe's leadership, opening a whole new creative universe for consumers.

Lampe joined D. Swarovski & Co. in 1987 and was a core team member in key strategic projects as Vice President Strategic Marketing Planning from 1992-1996. Prior to his current position, from 1996 to 1999, he was President of Swarovski Crystal Ltd., North America, responsible for the development of marketing and sales programmes in the US.

In addition, Lampe serves as a member of the Swarovski Brand Board which oversees all company-wide branding strategies and activities.

He is a frequent speaker in leading luxury- and marketing-focused forums, and the author of several articles in European marketing and management magazines.

Lampe holds a master's degree in Strategic Management and Marketing from the University of Innsbruck, Austria, and obtained additional education in marketing and management at universities in the US (e.g. Ann Arbor).

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Nicholas KWAN

Regional Head of Research, Asia
Standard Chartered Bank

Mr. Nicholas Kwan joined Standard Chartered Bank in August 2005, and is currently the bank's Regional Head of Research, Asia, responsible for a team of 14 economists and research professionals covering East Asia's macro-economic development. His team is based in eight different locations in Asia, including Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Seoul, Bangkok, Singapore and Jakarta.

Based in Hong Kong, Kwan was formerly with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), where he was a senior economist specialising in macro-economic and policy research for seven years. Prior to the HKMA, Kwan was the Regional Chief Economist at Merrill Lynch, covering the Asia Pacific region; he was based in Singapore for six years and then in Hong Kong from 1993 to 1998. He led his Merrill Lynch team to second place in the Institutional Investor Asian poll.

Kwan is an economics graduate of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, has an MBA from Warwick University in the UK and is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Thorsten ALLENSTEIN

Managing Director

Triumph International (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Thorsten Allenstein has been part of the fashion business for the past 18 years. After completing his management studies, he started his career in the family business in Germany.

Travelling extensively throughout Asia, Allenstein learned to love the region and, when the opportunity arose, decided to leave his home country for more exciting shores. In 2000, he joined the Esquel Group, the largest shirt manufacturer in the world, as Senior Manager. In 2003, he moved to China to get operational exposure heading a production facility for the Group. After successfully turning around the production, he returned to Hong Kong to head the European sales and marketing team.

In 2005, Allenstein joined Triumph International as its Country Head & Managing Director for India.

His focus for the first three years was the establishment of Triumph's production facilities in Chennai, for which he laid the foundation stone in November 2006. This export-oriented unit was Triumph's 27th production facility worldwide and started commercial production in April 2008.

To establish the Triumph brand in India, Allenstein shifted his base to Mumbai in early 2008. He now concentrates fully on the company's retail expansion plans in India, in addition to his responsibility for Triumph in Sri Lanka, which he has headed since 1 September 2007.

In 2009, Allenstein will establish an extensive network of exclusive brand outlets and flagship stores all over India. The opening of the first stand-alone store in India in Mumbai in September 2008 marked the launch of this expansion drive, while the latest addition is the first flagship store in New Delhi, which opened in January 2009.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Walter ARCHIE
VP, Global Sourcing
Dick's Sporting Goods International Ltd.

Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc. is an authentic full-line sporting goods retailer offering a broad assortment of brand name sporting goods equipment, apparel, and footwear in a specialty store environment. As of 31 January 2009, the company operated 384 Dick's Sporting Goods stores in 39 states primarily throughout the eastern half of the US. The company also owns Golf Galaxy, Inc., a multi-channel golf specialty retailer, with 89 stores in 31 states, e-commerce websites and catalogue operations, and Chick's Sporting Goods, Inc., which operates 14 specialty sporting goods stores in Southern California.

Mr. Walter Archie is responsible for the Global Sourcing Operations of the company's private and license brands. He was responsible for the start up of Dick's Sporting Goods product development group in the US, which developed all the Dick's private brands, acquired brands and licensed international brands.

Archie's experience in international sourcing spans 25 years and he has lived in Asia for more than 10 years, currently in Hong Kong.

Prior to joining Dick's Sporting Goods, Archie was Managing Director for LL Bean in Hong Kong. He was also a VP of sourcing at the former Woolworth Overseas offices and started the Claire's Boutique sourcing operation in Asia.

Archie received his bachelors' degree in Economics from the University of Miami, Coral Gables in Florida, the US.

Speakers Profiles



Ms. Lisa BATE

Vice President, Asia, Consumer Products Services
Bureau Veritas

Ms. Lisa Bate is the Vice President, Asia of Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services, responsible for the Bureau's account management, business development and marketing for Asia.

Based in the Bureau's regional head office in Hong Kong and part of the Division's executive team, Bate oversees the Bureau's sales operations and marketing functions in Asia. She has extensive experience in the field, having worked for more than a decade with many of the world's top 25 retailers and brands.

Before her relocation to Hong Kong two years ago, Bate worked for Bureau Veritas in New York, Los Angeles and, prior to the handover in 1997, Hong Kong. With her strong background in developing quality and safety certification programmes, and brand protection strategies through risk management, Bate brings some of the industry's best practices and knowledge to Hong Kong, helping the Bureau to strengthen its presence throughout Asia.

Prior to joining Bureau Veritas, Bate was a merchandiser with a major US retailer. She has an MBA in Marketing and Finance.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Josef BECKMANN

Former President

The Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry

After having studied textiles for some years in his native Germany, the UK and the US, Mr. Josef Beckmann joined the management team at IBENA Textilwerke Beckmann GmbH in 1960.

Beckmann became General Manager of the company in 1962, a position he held until 1998, when he became a member of the Advisory Board of IBENA Textilwerke GmbH, a role he continues to play today in the form of Senior Consultant for the company.

Beckmann has also held a number of positions in Germany as Board Member and/or Chairman of associations within the German textile industry. For example, from 1998 to 2003, he was President of the Federation of the German Textile Industry (Gesamttextil), after which time he became President of the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry, a position he held until 2006.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Willie BEUTH

Founder

Institute for Sustainable Management

After studying Business Administration, Mr. Willie Beuth began his career as a journalist focusing on economics. In 1967, he moved to Italy, becoming a business and marketing expert in the textile and garment sector, and holding all the relevant management functions within the entire supply chain and vertical set-ups.

After working for global enterprises in textiles and apparel worldwide, Beuth started his third career as an entrepreneur in 1982, launching the development, marketing and distribution of textile colour codification systems.

At the end of the 1980s, trades and industries were looking for solutions to the first wave of environmental awareness in the textiles and apparels industries. Together with his friends, Beuth founded the "eco-tex Consortium" in Cologne, launching a unique monitoring system that ensures environmental and social performance based on traceability along the complete production supply chain. The logical consequence was the development and implementation of the first integrated management system in 1998, covering environmental, social and quality requirements. The system was used mainly in Japan by the top market players.

In 2003, Beuth established the 3P Institute for Sustainable Management, implementing worldwide tailored performance management solutions in several industry sectors, including apparel and textiles, toys, electronics, aquaculture and primary food.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Derek BINNS
Director
DBL Consulting

After graduating with a bachelor's degree and an MSc in Public Administration, and qualifying as a Public Accountant, Mr. Derek Binns pursued a successful career in the private sector. Starting in marketing with consumer goods companies, including Polaroid and Goretex, he subsequently developed his specialisation in strategic marketing, merchandising and supply chain management in the global fashion, clothing and textile industry.

Over the course of his career, Binns has consulted and held manufacturing industry directorships in Italy, India and Turkey, where he founded DBL Consulting in 2001. Binns has an unrivalled network of contacts worldwide within manufacturing and retailing in the branded casual fashion sector. He is a regular speaker on merchandising, product development and strategic marketing. He also holds several non executive directorships, including being on the board of online auctioneering company "just-sellit.com", and is currently setting up a European subsidiary for denim manufacturer US Denim.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Christophe BONGARS
Founder & CEO
SustainAsia Ltd.

Mr. Christophe Bongars, Founder and CEO of SustainAsia Ltd., has 22 years' experience in the field of consulting and business development, as well as the development and management of large-scale industrial, infrastructure and clean technologies projects. He has successfully created, developed and managed projects and businesses in such diverse countries as Asia, Europe and Africa. Based in Asia since 1995, he was Project Director for the Air Liquide group until the end of 2001, developing and managing industrial gas and utility projects. Bongars then joined the Suez – a leading global industrial and services group providing electricity, gas, energy services, water and waste management – as Vice President Asia Pacific, pioneering innovative business solutions in water and environmental services in Asia.

In 2004, Bongars founded SustainAsia Ltd. and became its Chief Executive Officer. The company is a leading consultancy in sustainability and clean technologies in Asia, providing consultancy and advisory services to investors and industry leaders seeking to enhance their long-term economic and environmental performance. SustainAsia also provides local expertise to investors and companies from the cleantech and eco-efficiency sectors looking to accelerate their growth in China and South East Asia.

Bongars serves as vice chairman of the Sustainable Development committee of the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hong Kong. He is an Organisational Stakeholder of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) in the Netherlands, and chairman of the Sustainable Development working group of the Business Environment Council in Hong Kong. He is also an inaugural member of the Australia Financial and Energy Exchange (FEX), Sustainable Investment Market (SIM) Classification Panel. Bongars is also a frequent speaker on issues of sustainable development, clean technologies and renewable energy.

He holds various engineering degrees from the ENSCP (Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Paris) and Paris VI University, as well as certificates from the International Project Management programme from INSEAD in Singapore and the Public Policy programme - Public Private Partnership from NUS Singapore and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Speakers Profiles



Dr. Thomas CHAN Man-hung
Head, China Business Centre
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Dr. Thomas Chan is currently Head of the China Business Centre at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, as well as a Visiting Scholar at the Policy Research Institute at the Ministry of Finance in Japan.

His previous work experience includes as a Visiting Research Fellow at the Faculty of Economics at Japan's Hosei University and at the Department of Economics and Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Adelaide in Australia; a Research Officer at the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong; a Fellow of the Japan Foundation at the Faculty of Law at Keio University in Japan; and Senior Lecturer at the Department of Economics at Hong Kong Baptist University.

Chan holds a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Hong Kong, as well as a master's degree in Sociology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and a PhD in Sociology from the Flinders University of South Australia.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Kenny CHAN

Vice President

Wuxi Natural Textile Industrial Co. Ltd.

Mr. Kenny Chan is Vice President of the Wuxi Natural Textile Industrial Co. Ltd. and also Deputy Secretary General of the Polo Shirt sub-council of the China Knitting Industrial Association. He is a graduate of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and has over 15 years' experience in international trade in textiles.

The Wuxi Natural Textile Industrial Co. Ltd. is a vertical organisation involved with yarn mercerisation and dyeing, fabric knitting, fabric finishing and the manufacture of polo shirts. The company is currently one of the world's largest manufacturers of mercerised cotton products, which are exported mainly to the US, Europe, Japan and Korea.

Speakers Profiles



Ms. Alice COHEN

UK Sustainable Clothing Roadmap, EU & International SCP Policy
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK (DEFRA)

Ms. Alice Cohen has worked for the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for the past five years. As part of her role leading EU and International Sustainable Consumption and Production Policy, Cohen works on the international aspects of the UK Sustainable Clothing Roadmap. She also leads the UK's input to the United Nations Environment Programme's Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production, and liaison with the European Commission on cross-cutting SCP policies and the revision of the EU Ecodesign Directive.

Cohen's other posts have included waste management policy and as private secretary to a minister in the UK, where she covered a wide range of the Department's policies.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Gilles CRUANES
Vice President, South Asia
Dassault Systèmes

Mr. Gilles Cruanes is the Vice President for the South Asia region at Dassault Systèmes (DS). In this role, he is responsible for developing and growing the DS sales and distribution network in the region through the company's direct offices, as well as a strong partner channel.

In addition, Cruanes has the responsibility for leading DS' solutions for the apparel industry in Asia.

Cruanes has a strong background in the apparel market, having worked in Asia for more than five years in various senior sales and management positions with Lectra, addressing the apparel business challenges. Prior to moving to Asia, Cruanes held various international assignments in Brazil, Chile and the US.

DS is the premier global software developer of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solutions, enabling companies from all industries to create and simulate the entire lifecycle of their products, from initial concept to manufacturing, maintenance in operation and recycling.

Through its network of Value Added Resellers, and its centres of expertise in Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka, Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai, Singapore, Chennai, Pune and Bangalore, each of which is staffed with industry professionals, DS is delivering innovation, and business transformation solutions and services centred on PLM to 11 market segments across Asia.

Speakers Profiles



Ms. Jacqui DIXON
Director
CSR Asia (Hong Kong)

Ms. Jacqui Dixon is the Director of CSR Asia's Hong Kong office, responsible for developing relationships with key clients, business development and leading on consultancy projects, especially in the areas of sustainability reporting and carbon auditing. She has recently conducted carbon audits for two large multinational companies operating in Hong Kong and China, and has advised companies on their climate change strategies. Dixon has also helped to develop an environmental training programme focusing on supply chain issues for a global apparel company, and has conducted general training on climate change in Hong Kong and Singapore.

CSR Asia is the leading provider of information, training, research and consultancy services on sustainable business practices in Asia, and has offices in China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

Dixon has a background in sustainable development, and has completed projects at the European Commission, Vodafone, the National Consumer Council and Channel 4. In 2004, she lived and worked in rural Nepal, co-ordinating a community resource programme, while, in South Africa, she led a youth-focused permaculture project in one of Cape Town's largest townships.

She holds a master's degree in Leadership for Sustainable Development and a bachelor's degree in Environmental and Geographical Science.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Devangshu DUTTA
Chief Executive
Third Eyesight

Currently based in New Delhi, India, Mr. Devangshu Dutta is chief executive of Third Eyesight, a specialist consulting firm focused on the consumer products and retail sector, and managing partner of PVC Partners, an investment firm.

Third Eyesight's clients include market and brand leaders with annual sales of over US\$80 billion. Third Eyesight provides support in the areas of corporate and market strategy, market entry and new business start-ups, sourcing and supply chain management, strategic alliances, and mergers and acquisitions, and through operations projects.

Since 1990, Dutta has held senior and top management positions in retail and management consulting organisations in India and internationally, and also co-founded a supply chain solutions company.

Dutta writes regularly and is frequently invited to speak at premier industry events internationally. He is also an active member of The IndUS Entrepreneurs (TIE), a global network whose objective is to promote entrepreneurship.

Dutta contributes to professional education through guest lectures at management education institutes. He also serves on the industry advisory boards of the University of Delaware's Department of Fashion and Apparel Studies (Newark, USA) and the AEPC Institute of Apparel Management (India), on the external board on behalf of Nottingham Trent University with the Pearl Academy of Fashion (India), and other institutions.

Speakers Profiles



Dr. John R. EASTON
Ecology Solutions Manager
Dystar UK Ltd.

Dr. John Easton was born in Oldham, UK, and studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge University before earning a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology.

Easton started his career with ICI in the UK in 1978 in Dyeing Research and then moved into Textile Printing. In 1986, he joined the Reactive Dye New Product Development team and was involved in the introduction of several new Procion H-EXL dyes.

In 1991, Easton took up the new role of Safety, Health & Environment Adviser within Technical Marketing and, subsequently, filled this role for Zeneca Specialties and BASF. On joining DyStar in 2000, he worked in the Product Safety and Ecology Department, and is now responsible for Ecology Solutions within the Textile Services Business Unit.

Easton was awarded the Silver Medal by the Society of Dyers and Colourists in 2003 for his services to the industry in the field of ecology and the environment, and has been a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Manchester since 2000.

Easton is Chair of the Society of Dyers & Colourists' Journals Committee and is a member of the Editorial Advisory Panel of Ecotextile News magazine. His paper "Supply Chain Partnerships for Sustainable Textile Production" was recently published in the book Ecotextiles (Woodhead Publishing, 2007).

Easton has conducted Ecology Training Seminars in Bangladesh, China, India, Thailand, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore and Sri Lanka, as well as for leading retailers, such as Marks & Spencer and Ikea.

Speakers Profiles



Ms. Janet E. FOX

Vice President and Director of Sourcing
JCPenney

Ms. Janet Fox is the Vice President and Director of Sourcing for J.C. Penney Corporation Inc. and President of JCPenney Purchasing Corporation.

JCPenney Purchasing Corporation is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of JCPenney Corporation Inc. and is the fourth largest importer of textiles and apparel in the US. JCPenney Corporation Inc. is one of America's largest department stores, and catalogue and e-commerce retailers.

As Director, Fox is responsible for an international US-based organisation that is responsible for the sourcing of private brand merchandise for JCPenney. She is a member of the leadership team that develops and implements JCPenney's international sourcing and trade strategies. Fox has been in her current position since March 2008. Her prior experience includes various merchandising and sourcing positions, both within and outside of JCPenney, and she has a total of 25 years' experience in the retail, textile and apparel industries. Fox is a member of the National Retail Federation and is on the board of the United States Association of Importers of Textile & Apparel.

Fox graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Advertising.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Robert HANLON

PhD Candidate

Department of Asian and International Studies

City University of Hong Kong

As a PhD Candidate at City University of Hong Kong, Mr. Robert Hanlon researches human rights, corruption and corporate social responsibility in China and Southeast Asia.

He has worked previously for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong; the Canadian High Commission to Australia; and the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a Hong Kong-based regional NGO with United Nations' consultative status.

Hanlon has a BA in Political Science and Philosophy from the University of Victoria (Canada), a master's degree in International Relations from the University of Queensland (Australia) and a diploma in Chinese studies from Wenzao College (Taiwan). He has undertaken postgraduate work at the Liu Institute for Global Issues, the University of British Columbia (Canada), the Sasin Graduate Institute for Business Administration, Chulalongkorn University (Thailand) and the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at the University of Oxford.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Morrison HSU Mao Chun

General Manager, Apparel Product System
Li Ning Co Ltd.

Mr. Morrison Hsu joined the Li-Ning Group in November 2007, and is primarily responsible for the product planning, research and development, and design of apparel and accessories products.

Prior to joining the Group, Hsu worked at well-known international sports brand companies, and has extensive experience in marketing and product management in the US and Asia Pacific area.

Hsu graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in Business International Marketing.

Speakers Profiles

Ms. Julia K. HUGHES

Senior Vice President

US Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel

Ms. Julie Hughes is the Senior Vice President for the US Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel (USA-ITA) and the President of International Development Systems (IDS), an internationally reputed resource for companies, trade associations and countries that need up-to-date trade statistics and government regulations covering textile and apparel products.

Hughes was Divisional Vice President, Government Relations for the Associated Merchandising Corporation (AMC) in Washington DC for 14 years. She represented the interests of textile and apparel importers on quota and textile issues to government officials in the US and overseas, and has testified before Congress and the Executive Branch on textile trade issues.

Hughes speaks frequently at international conferences, such as the Apparel Sourcing Show, MAGIC, the WWD Sourcing Summit, the Foreign Service Institute, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Cotton Sourcing Summit, the USIA's WorldNet, the International Textiles and Clothing Bureau, the Young Presidents' Organisation and the World Trade Organisation Beijing International Forum. In 1992, she received the Outstanding Woman in International Trade award.

Hughes has an MA in International Studies from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a BSc in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Anthony KEUNG Ping-So

President and CEO, Fenix Group Holdings Ltd.

Managing Director

Fenix Hong Kong Ltd.

Managing Director

Sidefame Ltd.

In 1972, Mr. Anthony Keung and a Japanese partner established Fenix Hong Kong Ltd. as a supplier of Japanese yarn to Hong Kong companies. By 1980, the company had integrated knitwear trading and manufacturing activities, with Japan as its core market. Fenix developed niche markets in Japan and became one of that market's foremost suppliers, with an annual output of US\$100 million. Recently, it has expanded this activity significantly to cover the European and US markets.

Fenix diversified its business by starting fashion retailing in the 1980s and became one of the major Hong Kong fashion retailers, operating 11 high fashion brands and 119 shops worldwide, including its own brand, Anteprema. As the fashion retailing business blossomed, Fenix began to explore new Horizons, with the establishment of City/super as a lifestyle mega store catering to a quality-conscious, up-market clientèle.

At the end of 2008, the Group had grown to embrace 18 regional companies, 14 production lines and 119 retail stores worldwide, employing a staff of 8,000 and achieving an annual turnover of well over US\$350 million.

Keung has an MBA from the Asia International Open University.

Speakers Profiles



Ms. Mary E. KISSEL
Editorial Page Editor
The Wall Street Journal Asia
Hong Kong

Ms. Mary Kissel is editor of the editorial page of The Wall Street Journal Asia, where she directs opinion coverage and contributes regularly to the global Journal's signed and unsigned commentary on Asia-Pacific.

Kissel's journalism career began at the Journal as an intern reporter from Paris, Brussels and Washington DC. She joined the Journal in Hong Kong in 2004 to write the "Heard in Asia" column, the Journal's premier commentary on the financial markets. In addition to the Journal, Kissel's work has been published in the Far Eastern Economic Review, the Australian and the South China Morning Post.

She is a sought-after speaker on topics ranging from Asian politics and policy to economic trends and trade issues. She is also a regular guest on the US ABC Radio's "John Batchelor Show", and appears on CNN, CNBC and RTHK.

Kissel began her career at Goldman Sachs as a fixed income research and capital markets specialist in New York and London.

Kissel has a master's degree in international affairs from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a bachelor's degree in government from Harvard University. She is a Claremont University Lincoln Fellow and a Stanford University Hoover Institution Edwards Media Fellow.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Stephen LAMAR

Executive Vice President

American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA)

Mr. Stephen Lamar is responsible for the design and implementation of American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA) lobbying strategies. He has been instrumental in promoting legislation to expand the US trade relationship with the Caribbean Basin and Africa, and has been involved in trading initiatives with Mexico and other parts of Latin America, Jordan, China and Southeast Asia.

Before joining the AAFA, Lamar worked for several prominent DC-based lobbying groups, assisting foreign governments to develop strategies to secure increased trade and aid benefits with the US. He also worked with corporate clients to identify and gain access to sources of multilateral and bilateral financing for overseas trade and investment projects.

From 1988 to 1991, Lamar was a trade specialist at the International Trade Administration in the US Department of Commerce, advising US firms on US Government and multilateral financing opportunities for trade and investment throughout Africa and the Middle East.

He also served for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Botswana, teaching Mathematics and supervising 10 secondary school teachers.

Lamar is President of the Washington International Trade Association and a Board Member of Consumers for World Trade. He has lectured at the Foreign Service Institute, and holds a bachelor's degree from Colgate University in New York, and a master's degree in International Affairs from George Washington University.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Roger LEE
Director
TAL Apparel Ltd.

After working as a Senior Principal at a major IT consulting firm in the US for nine years, Mr. Roger Lee decided to join TAL Apparel in 2005 as the Senior Manager of Business Development & Operations. He started his career at TAL Apparel managing the factory operations and sales organisation. In addition, Lee was responsible for implementing TQM Initiatives and Operational Best Practices across the Group.

Lee was also tasked with launching the Group's Learning Development Centre, aiming to nurture and foster TAL's senior executives, and the next generation of staff and managers. Under his able leadership, the Talent Management System for the management of performance, compensation and succession planning took form.

Lee is now the Director of Sales of TAL Apparel, and manages the sales portfolios of all accounts. His core responsibilities include overseeing the overall business performance of the Group, driving sales, identifying business opportunities with the industry, and working directly with clients to build and strengthen customer relationships.

He is also actively involved in a number of trade organisations in Hong Kong. On 1 April 2009, he will join the Government Textiles Advisory Board.

Lee earned his bachelor's degree in Engineering from Bristol University in England. He then obtained an MBA, specialising in Strategic Management, from Imperial College at the University of London.

Speakers Profiles



Hon. Mrs. Sophie LEUNG Lau Yau Fun, GBS, JP
Textiles and Garment Functional Constituency Representative
Legislative Council of Hong Kong SAR
Director
Bay Apparel Ltd. and Golden Emblem Investment Co. Ltd.

The Honourable Mrs. Sophie Leung Lau Yau-fun, GBS, JP, is a member of the fourth term of the HKSAR's Legislative Council, representing the textiles and garment functional constituency. She is also a Director of Bay Apparel Limited and Golden Emblem Investment Company Limited.

Leung joined the textiles and garment industry in the 1970s, going through thick and thin with the sector for more than 30 years. She is a member of several key government and non-government organisations and institutes that support and enhance the development of the textile and garment industry. For many years, Leung has played an active role on the Textiles Advisory Board chaired by the Secretary for Trade and Industry, and has been a Director of the Textile Council since its incorporation in 1991. In 1997, she founded the Textiles and Garment Information Centre to provide a variety of support to fellow industry members. Leung was appointed a member of the Steering Committee on the Development of the Fashion Industry, a high-level strategic committee established in 2002 by the Secretary of Commerce Industry and Technology.

Leung is also the founder and chairman of The Young Entrepreneurs Development Council, a non-profit organisation that seeks to cultivate entrepreneurial and leadership qualities and skills in Hong Kong, particularly among young people. Its work is assisted by a wide spectrum of membership drawn from the commercial, public and professional sector, as well as academics and students.

Leung received a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Illinois.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Willy LIN, SBS, MBE, JP

Chairman, Hong Kong Shippers' Council
Vice Chairman, Textile Council of Hong Kong
Managing Director, Milo's Knitwear (Int'l) Ltd.
Milo's Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

In addition to being Managing Director of Milo's Knitwear (Int'l) Ltd. and Milo's Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Mr. Willy Lin is also Non-Executive Director of Top Form International Ltd., Chief Executive Officer of Futung Knitwear Ltd., Director of Jiangzi M. H. Textiles Co. Ltd. and Director of Thailand's Patak Corporation Ltd. He is also Honorary Consul for The Slovak Republic.

Since 2001, Lin has been a member of a number of government boards and/or committees, including the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council, the Logistics Services Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Council of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Lin is also involved in a wide range of industry activities, including as a General Committee Member of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries since 1988; Vice Chairman of the Textile Council of Hong Kong since 2001; Chairman of the Hong Kong Shippers' Council since 1999; Director of the Hong Kong-Thailand Business Council since 2002; Honorary Chairman of the Hong Kong Exporters' Association since 2002 and of the Hong Kong Knitwear Exporters' and Manufacturers' Association since 2004; Honorary Trade Advisor for the Ministry of Commerce in Thailand since 2004; Vice Chairman of the China Shippers' Association since 2005; a Committee Member of The Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee, Jieyang, Guangdong, since 2006; and a Committee Member of The Hong Kong Chinese Importers' and Exporters' Association since 2006.

Lin holds a BSc degree from Babson College in the US.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Peter Liu

Former Chairman (2003-2008)

Textile & Apparel Committee

The American Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong

Mr. Peter Liu is an executive search consultant who specialises in the global supply chain sector. With more than 20 years' experience, Liu's work focuses on serving clients that use the supply chain to improve customer service, strengthen vendor relationships, reduce costs, grow the top line and increase technological efficiency. His recent executive search work included sourcing senior supply chain executives for global apparel manufacturers and retailers, business conglomerates and logistics service providers.

Prior to becoming an executive recruiter, Liu was a Director of Peninsula Knitters, a major global garment manufacturer and distributor based in Hong Kong.

Liu established Burlington WorldWide, a Hong Kong-based subsidiary of the largest textile company in the US. In 2001, he was appointed President in charge of an apparel fabrics business worth more than US\$500 million, and responsible for all global commercial activities, including sales, product development, sourcing, manufacturing and supply chain management. Previously, Liu had been a Main Board Director at TAL, a US\$600-million global apparel manufacturer and recognised leader in supply chain management.

Liu is a board and executive committee member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and an appointed member of its Government Relations Committee. He was the Chairman of its Textile & Apparel Committee from 2003 to 2008. Liu serves on the Advisory Boards of the international event, Prime Source Forum, and the University of Delaware Fashion & Apparel Studies, and is a Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Directors.

Liu holds an MBA in export management and international business from CASS Business School and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of London.

Speakers Profiles



Ms. Christine LOH
Co-Founder & CEO
Civic Exchange

Ms. Christine Loh is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of the independent, non-profit public policy think tank, Civic Exchange. Loh had a 14-year career in the private commercial sector, where she was engaged in commodities trading and strategic planning, before having a highly successful career in politics for nearly a decade.

Loh is also an International Adviser to the G8+5 Climate Change Dialogue, Senior Policy Adviser to the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (London), a Member of the Court of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, a Board Member of Community Business, a Board Member of the East West Institute (New York), a Board Member of the Tällberg Foundation (Sweden), a Member of Asia Society's International Council (USA), and a Board Member of Global Urban Development (USA). Loh is also a trustee of a Hong Kong family charitable foundation, the Fu Tak lam Foundation, and is actively engaged in numerous non-governmental organisations in Hong Kong related to urban planning and design.

Loh is also well known for her work in designing and facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue processes to help deepen and broaden understanding on public issues. She calls these processes Sustainability Tools, which she continues to develop by working with various international organisations.

Loh has been recognised widely for her achievements, including as one of the World Economic Forum's "Global Leaders for Tomorrow" in 1994; being twice recognised by Business Week as one of "The Stars of Asia" in 1998 and again in 2000. She was named "Entrepreneur of the Year" in 2003 for the success of Civic Exchange and named by Asia Inc as one of Asia's "Under-50 Movers and Shakers"; given the Peter Bryce Award for outstanding civic work in 2004, named "Woman of the Year" by Hong Kong Business for 2006, and received an OBE in 2007. She was recognised as one of the "Heroes of the Environment" by TIME in October 2007, as well as named as one of 15 "Ethical Leaders of 2007" by the London-based publication Ethical Corporation.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Marco DE LORENZO
Industry Principal Consumer Products
SAP Asia Pte Ltd.

Since 2005, Mr. Marco De Lorenzo has been Industry Principal for the Consumer Products Industry at SAP, responsible for the Asia Pacific region and Japan, based in Singapore.

De Lorenzo has worked for SAP for more than 10 years, gaining broad experience in business development, and sales and consulting in the consumer products industry, in particular in apparel and footwear, as well retail and pharmaceuticals.

Prior to joining SAP, De Lorenzo was a Sales Manager in the fashion industry for a Hong Kong-based and an Italian-based manufacturer for more than four years, as well as a Marketing Consultant in the automotive industry.

De Lorenzo holds an MBA from the University of Essen in Germany.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Ben LYONS

Manager, Supply Chain Integrity and CSR
Australian Wool Innovation Ltd.

Prior to joining Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), Mr. Ben Lyons worked at the Australian Wool Exchange in Sydney and for a Financial Times (UK) joint-venture in Nanjing, China. In July 2007, he joined AWI as Knowledge Services Manager, responsible for supply chain-related environmental and ethical issues, market access, market intelligence, and education and training. Since September 2008, Lyons has been based in Shanghai, focussing on the rebuilding of the Woolmark brand and infrastructure, in particular building environmental and social compliance platforms for wool textile companies in Japan, Europe and Hong Kong.

Lyons has degrees in Economics, and Chinese language and literature from Universities in Brisbane, Xi'an and Nanjing. He received an Australia-China Council scholarship to conduct research into China's trade system at the University of International Business Economics Beijing in 2002/03. Lyons is about to submit a doctorate concerning China's wool textile supply chain management issues, from fibre to retailer.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Jürgen J. MAAS
Vice President
Foreign Trade Association, Belgium (FTA)

From 1962 to 1965, Mr. Jürgen Maas served as an Apprentice/Trainee at Kaufhof AG in Trier/Germany, after which he served two years in the German military.

In 1967, Maas was appointed Assistant Department Manager of Kaufhof AG in Kassel. The following year, he was appointed Department Manager Kaufhof AG in Mulheim/Ruhr. In 1972, Maas became the Owners' Representative for Kaufhof AG in New York. In 1973, moving to Tokyo, Japan, Maas became Import/ Export Representative for Kaufhof and, in 1976, became the Central Buyer for the company, returning to his home town of Cologne in Germany.

In 1982, Maas was appointed General Manager/CEO of Gemex Trading Ltd. in Hong Kong. In 1986, he was named a member of the Board of Metro International KG responsible for the Buying Department Non Food, based in Düsseldorf, Germany. In 1990, he moved back to Cologne and was named a member of the Board of Kaufhof Holding AG. In 1996, Maas returned to Düsseldorf as a member of the Board of Metro Group Buying GmbH. In 2002, he became a member of the Executive Board of Directors of Metro Cash & Carry International GmbH and, in 2007, was appointed to a senior position at Metro AG.

Maas has also held such positions as President of the Foreign Trade Association for the German Retail Industry and Vice President of the Foreign Trade Association, Belgium, and is a member of the Foreign Economy Advisory Council to the Federal Ministry of Technology and Economy. He is also a member of the Supervisory Boards of Kaufhof Warenhaus AG and Metro Cash & Carry Germany.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Robert MCKEE
Industry Strategy Director, Fashion
Lawson Software, Inc.

Based in the US, Mr. Robert (Bob) McKee is responsible for overall strategy for the Lawson Fashion Solution.

McKee has more than 35 years' experience in the industry, having held such positions as VP of Operations, Manufacturing, Sourcing and Materials Management, Materials Manager, Production Control Manager, Production Planner, DC Manager and DC Supervisor, as well as being an independent consultant to the industry.

In 1998, McKee joined Intenia International, which merged with Lawson Software in 2006. His roles at Intenia included Director Global Fashion, Director of US Solution Design and Global Director for the Intenia Fashion Solution. Prior to joining Intenia, McKee was VP of Operations at O'Bryan Brothers, Inc., Director of Sourcing at Holloway Sportswear, Inc., VP of Manufacturing, Sourcing and Quality Control at Bachrach Clothing Inc., VP of Manufacturing at The Company Store and Director of Materials Management at Medi-Flex Hospital Products. In his early career, he was VP of Materials Management at BTK Industries, and VP of both Sourcing and Materials Management at Warnaco. McKee started his career in the industry at Hartmarx in 1972.

McKee has implemented seven different enterprise management solutions in seven different companies and, today, is considered by many a guru, as well as a well-known veteran of the industry and a regular speaker at industry events.

Speakers Profiles



Ms. Kathleen MITFORD

Vice President, Product and Market Strategy
Retail, Footwear & Apparel Consumer Products
PTC

Ms. Kathleen Mitford is vice president, product and market strategy, retail, footwear & apparel and consumer products at PTC. In this position, she is responsible for product strategy and solutions marketing for PTC products aimed at the retail, footwear and apparel, and consumer products industry.

Mitford has extensive experience in product lifecycle management (PLM) applications for retail, footwear and apparel, and consumer products operations, and uses that expertise to develop and drive product requirements and associated marketing messages that resonate with retailers, brands and manufacturers in this specific vertical. Prior to PTC, Mitford held a variety of roles within the retail and apparel industry, developing detailed product development processes for global teams implementing PLM solutions.

Mitford has lectured at many retail, footwear and apparel, and consumer products industry conferences on topics that address global product development and management issues.

Mitford attended the Philadelphia College of Textiles & Science in Philadelphia, where she earned a BSc in Fashion Design.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Thomas NELSON
Managing Director
VF Asia Ltd.

Mr. Thomas Nelson is Managing Director of VF Asia and has 26 years' experience in the apparel business with the company.

His experience includes four years with Engineering, with responsibility for plants in the US, Costa Rica, Honduras and Puerto Rico; 13 years managing cut, sew, wet process and finishing plants for denim bottoms; three years in Human Resources for the US, Costa Rica, Honduras and Puerto Rico; three years in Hong Kong, responsible for the jeans business, quality, technical services and the lab; and another three years in Hong Kong as Managing Director.

Nelson's current responsibilities include 16 offices worldwide in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, mainland China (five offices), Peru and the US. VF Asia's sourcing group manages US\$2 billion in FOB on an annual basis, and has more than 1,100 people sourcing 300 million pieces annually in Asia and the Americas.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Roger NELSON
Managing Director
Concepts 2 Results Ltd.

Mr. Roger Nelson is Managing Director of Concepts 2 Results Ltd. and former Senior Vice President-Asian Operations of the Thomas Group, an internationally known implementer of process improvement successes in numerous industries in Asia, Europe and North America.

Nelson has diversified experience in operations and supply chain management, manufacturing/engineering management and manufacturing/management consulting. His career has covered various industries encompassing apparel manufacturing, automotive, metals processing, aerospace, material handling, electronics, telecommunications, healthcare and insurance.

Specifically, Nelson's multiple industry background has included process improvement implementations for supply chain and manufacturing/services arenas. His international consulting has been extensive, with a major focus on Malaysia, Mainland China, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines and Taiwan. Nelson is also a lecturer at Hong Kong University and is on the Hong Kong American Chamber of Commerce Textile/Apparel, Energy, Logistics/Transportation and Human Resources Committees.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Raymond NG
Chief Operating Officer
GS1 Hong Kong

Mr. Raymond Ng joined GS1 Hong Kong as Chief Operating Officer in 2008. In this capacity, he is responsible for overseeing all the functions and operation of the Professional Services and Solutions Division. Ng also leads the industry, solution and training development of the organisation, and directs the design and delivery of industry projects. Ng represents GS1 Hong Kong on the Export Supply Chain Advisory Board as the Head of the Implementation Team.

Ng has over 16 years' experience in business and industry development, as well as consulting services for various global IT services providers. His most recent position was Director of Consulting and Systems Integration, with a particular focus on outsourcing data centre and tailoring financial IT solutions for the financial services industry. Under his leadership, the Services Team expanded rapidly, with a remarkable record of achieving triple growth in revenue in just three years.

Ng earned a BSc (Honours) degree in Computer Science from King's College London, University of London.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Felipe PALACIOS SUREDA

Head of Trade and Economic Section,
European Union
Office of the European Commission in Hong Kong & Macau

Mr. Felipe Palacios Sureda took up duties as Head of the Trade and Economic Section at the Office of the European Commission in Hong Kong and Macao in September 2006. He joined the civil service of the European Commission in 1995, coming from the private sector where he had held positions as an economist in manufacturing and services companies.

Prior to his appointment to Hong Kong, Palacios Sureda was Trade Counsellor at the Delegation of the European Commission to Vietnam, where he contributed to upgrading the EU trade strategies for Vietnam and for ASEAN in preparation for an EU-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement. He was a negotiator in various agreements on textiles and market access, as well as in bilateral and multilateral negotiations for Vietnam's accession to the WTO. Palacios Sureda was also instrumental in consolidating EU business interests as input for trade policy formulation, and provided technical counsel to trade-related cooperation programmes.

At the European Commission, Palacios Sureda held positions in the directorate general for trade, dealing with trade defense instruments and policy development, and as an economic counsellor at the Delegation of the European Commission in Eritrea, where he managed the economic cooperation programme, and was responsible for economic and political affairs.

Palacios Sureda is a Spanish national, and a graduate in economics and business administration of the University of Zaragoza in Spain. He undertook post-graduate studies in marketing and finance at the Gothenburg Business School in Sweden and holds a master's degree in International Relations from the Paris X University.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Jeremy PREPSCIUS
Managing Director, Asia
Regional Management
Business for Social Responsibility Hong Kong

Mr. Jeremy Prepscius is in charge of serving and expanding the member base in Asia and integrating the work there into the BSR global approach, focusing on such issues as water, the next generation of social compliance work in the supply chain, the evolution of CSR with Chinese characteristics and the framing of CSR issues in Asia.

Prepscius has extensive experience in supply chain management, business integration, external communications, government relations and compliance operations. Prior to joining BSR in 2006, he had spent more than 10 years on equipment sourcing, footwear production and corporate responsibility for NIKE Inc., and worked in China for five years as the North Asia Regional Compliance Director, covering CSR issues in Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines.

Prepscius holds master's degrees in Economic Development from the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce from the University of Kentucky.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Thomas RUTHEKOLCK
Managing Director
Corporate Service Group GmbH

As Managing Director of Corporate Service Group, the internal service provider for Arcandor AG, Mr. Thomas Ruthekolck is responsible for strategic buying and international procurement.

He has 15 years' experience in the retail industry, with a focus on business process and supply chain management.

Born in Cologne, Germany, Ruthekolck has an MBA from the University of Nuremberg and a PhD from the University of Cologne. He has also contributed to several publications on IT management and organisational design.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Igor SALOMAKHIN
Head of the Moscow Liaison Office
Russia-Europe Textile Alliance (RETA)

Mr. Igor Salomakhin has been Head of the Moscow Liaison Office of the Russia-Europe Textile Alliance (RETA) since April 2008. RETA helped create The Association of the Austrian Textile Industry, The Union of French Textiles, The Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry, and The Swiss Textile Federation, each with the aim of assisting member companies to enter the Russian textile and clothing market, a large part of which is the familiarisation of European companies with Russia's distribution structures, local production capacities, and legal and fiscal framework conditions.

Prior to joining RETA, Salomakhin worked for Triumph International for 12 years as General Manager of Triumph's Russian daughter company; at Steilmann Osteuropa, one of the largest German manufacturers of women's and men's wear, as Moscow Representative, responsible for Russia and other countries of the former USSR; and as CEO of the Underwear Division at Yax, one of the largest Russian underwear and clothing manufacturers and distributors.

Salomakhin's main strengths lie in Business Development, Strategic Management, Start-Up Projects, Distribution (Wholesale/Retail/Franchising), Logistics, Vertical Brands/Private Labels, Marketing, Finances/Controlling. He is an analytical thinker, entrepreneurial, results-driven and a strategic planner, creative, flexible, sociable, with excellent communication skills, enthusiastic and well-organised.

Salomakhin holds an MBA in Management from Otto-von-Guericke University in Magdeburg and from the Academy of National Economics under the Government of the Russian Federation, Moscow. He also holds an Interpreter diploma in German and English from the Moscow Linguistic University.

Speakers Profiles



Ms. Eva SANDBERG
Senior Scientific Officer
European Chemicals Agency

Ms. Eva Sandberg took up the post of Senior Scientific Officer at the European Chemicals Agency in 2008. Prior to that, she was Senior Advisor in International Affairs at the Swedish Chemicals Agency for two years; a national expert at the European Commission, DG Environment (a member of the REACH drafting team) from 2002 to 2006; a Senior Adviser at the Ministry of Environment from 1996 to 2006; and a Toxicologist/Senior Toxicologist at the Swedish Food Administration from 1976 to 1996.

In her current position, Sandberg is responsible for international relations and contacts with countries outside the EU.

Sandberg holds a master's degree in Pharmaceutical Science.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Frank SAUCEDA
Executive Vice President
Luen Thai International Group Ltd.

Mr. Frank Saucedo is the Executive Vice President (EVP) of Luen Thai International Group Ltd., a leading apparel supply chain services provider for top brands, including Polo Ralph Lauren, Victoria's Secret, Adidas, Dillard's and Esprit.

As EVP, he oversees the end-to-end (E2E) operations of Polo Ralph-Lauren knits business in Hong Kong and mainland China locations. He is concurrently the President and country head of the manufacturing operations of Luen Thai Philippines.

Saucedo has been involved in establishing and overseeing numerous businesses for the Luen Thai Group that span the Asia-Pacific region and Latin America. While SVP for Corporate Services and Development until 2008, he led key corporate services initiatives covering human resources, administration, corporate social responsibility, communications and diversity for Luen Thai's global operations.

Saucedo has a degree in Business Administration and is the Vice-Chairman of both the Asia-Africa Committee and the Manpower Committee for the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of Worldwide ERC's Asia Pacific Committee and its Executive Roundtable.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Ian SKINNER

Programme Management, PLM Implementation
Pacific Brands Group

Employed by the Pacific Brands Group as Business Development Manager within the Integrated Services division, which encompasses the provision of IT and financial services, Mr. Ian Skinner has over 20 years' experience in the clothing, footwear and textile industry in manufacturing and wholesale.

Skinner operates mainly in a commercial capacity, looking at business performance, various go-to-market structures, the product gate and staging process, business process improvement and change management. He currently has responsibility for Programme Management of the PLM Implementation for the Group, encompassing underwear, hosiery, intimates, outerwear and footwear for brands totalling over US\$1 billion in wholesale sales.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. David M. SPOONER

Former Assistant

US Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration

Mr. David Spooner focuses on international trade matters, advising clients in trade remedy and safeguard proceedings, helping them to navigate the complex rules of international trade, and representing clients before the legislative and executive branches of government.

Prior to joining Squire Sanders, Spooner served as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration. In that capacity, he led government enforcement of trade remedy laws, principally the anti-dumping and anti-subsidy laws. He administered the Foreign Trade Zone system; supervised the US Department of Commerce's import safety initiatives; oversaw apparel trade policy and the implementation of laws governing trade in apparel; managed trade remedy negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as well as dispute resolution proceedings at the WTO; and chaired US-China talks on macro economic reforms and the steel industry. Spooner's achievements include the first-ever application of the anti-subsidy law to China and the negotiation of an agreement with Russia governing trade in uranium products.

Prior to his Senate confirmation as Assistant Secretary, Spooner served as the Textile and Apparel Negotiator and Transition Coordinator in the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR). While at USTR, Spooner was a principal negotiator for free trade agreements with Central America, the Dominican Republic, Singapore, Australia, Chile, Panama, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Colombia and Peru, principally negotiating customs enforcement, apparel and textile, origin and safeguard provisions. He was heavily involved in building support for congressional passage of the Bush Administration's trade agenda. Spooner also negotiated a comprehensive apparel trade agreement with China and concluded bilateral customs and quota arrangements with several nations.

Before his appointment to USTR, Spooner worked on Capitol Hill, managing the Washington DC office, and as the legislative director and press secretary for a member of Congress, serving as Communications Director for the US House Committee on Agriculture, and working for the US House Committee on Rules, which manages debate and amendments in the House of Representatives.

Spooner holds a law degree from the College of William & Mary and a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Jeff STREADER
Senior Vice President
Global Sourcing
Guess?, Inc.

Mr. Jeff Streader is an international apparel executive with over 25 years' "hands-on" experience. He has delivered innovative strategic sourcing and supply chain management solutions for some of the industry's leading corporations.

Streader started his career with Oxford Industries in 1981, where he worked for 18 years, with roles in Sales, Product Development and Sourcing. In 1999, Streader joined Fasturn, a Los Angeles-based software company that developed a platform to address inefficiencies in the apparel industry. The vision of this web-based product led the way for many of the collaborative applications available in the market today.

Streader joined VF Corporation in 2002 as Vice President of Global Sourcing with VF Imagewear in Nashville. At VF, he developed and executed the sourcing strategy for the worldwide production of the VF Imagewear divisions, growing their supply chain into a premier network of global vendors.

In 2006, Streader became President of Kellwood Company's corporate supply chain, Kellwood Global. He was responsible for providing the leadership and structure for Kellwood's sourcing, quality, logistics, distribution, trade and social compliance programmes worldwide, in addition to managing Kellwood's Asian offices.

Recently, Streader joined Guess?, Inc. as the Senior Vice President of Global Sourcing. His role includes refining and advancing the supply chain strategy to support the company's global retail operation. He manages the Asian sourcing operation and is based in Los Angeles.

Streader holds a degree in Business Administration from Richard Stockton College in New Jersey and is a member of Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP) Board of Directors.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. K. K. SUEN
Chief Architect & Principal Consultant
GS1 Hong Kong

Mr. K. K. Suen joined GS1 Hong Kong in 1995 with over 20 years of experience in System Development and Consultancy.

As Chief Architect and Principal Consultant of GS1 Hong Kong, Suen's responsibilities include advising local industries on the application of international Supply Chain Management standards and technologies, as well as e-commerce infrastructure. As part of this role, he is responsible for developing and instructing RFID/EPC and EDI/XML/eBusiness training programmes and local implementation guidelines to users and service providers.

In 2001, Suen obtained his MSc (Eng) degree in e-Commerce from the University of Hong Kong. In 2003, he was elected Vice Chairperson of the XML Specialist Group of the Hong Kong Computer Society and Vice Chairman of the Retail Technology Industry Association, and was invited to be an Advisor of the HKSAR Government's XMLCG (XML Coordination Group). In 2004, he was invited to become the only Asian representative on the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) of EPCglobal. In 2008, Suen was invited by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to be a guest lecturer on the subject of technological applications and adoption for supply chain management, logistics and the retail industry. With extensive technical and industry knowledge, Suen is represented on numerous local and international committees.

Before joining GS1 Hong Kong, Suen worked for a Hong Kong-based software house where he held the position of Project Manager, with responsibility for system design and project management.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Stanley SZETO
Chairman & CEO
Lever Style Inc.

Lever Style Inc. is an apparel manufacturer serving such clients as Armani Collezione, Banana Republic, Calvin Klein, Hugo Boss, J Crew, John Varvatos and Paul Smith.

Established in Hong Kong in 1956, Lever Style now has 7,000 staff and makes over 10 million garments a year. Its product range includes men's and ladies' woven shirts, blouses, pants, skirts, suits, jackets and other constructed outerwear. Under Mr. Stanley Szeto's leadership, Lever Style has tripled in size since 2000, making it one of the fastest-growing companies in the apparel manufacturing industry.

Prior to joining Lever Style in 2000, Szeto worked in J.P. Morgan's mergers and acquisitions unit and, later, at PAMA, an Asian buyout firm with over US\$1 billion in assets under management. He served on the boards of companies in PAMA's portfolio, focusing on strategy and management issues.

Szeto graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, triple-majoring in Finance, Entrepreneurial Management and Legal Studies.

Keenly involved in the industry, Szeto serves as Director of both the Hong Kong Textile Council and the Federation of Hong Kong Garments Manufacturers.

Also actively engaged in the community, Szeto is a Leader for The Young Entrepreneurs Development Council in Hong Kong and an Executive Committee member of the Hong Kong chapter of the Young Presidents' Organisation (YPO). He also served as President of the University of Pennsylvania Alumni Association of Hong Kong and as Chairman of the Hong Kong chapter of Mensa.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Michael TIEN Puk Sun
Chairman
The G2000 Group

Mr. Michael Tien is the founder of the G2000 Group, which was founded in 1979. Prior to starting the Group, he worked with Macy's Department Store in New York, the US.

The G2000 group currently operates in Hong Kong, China, Macau and such Asia Pacific countries/regions as Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand and the Middle East. Most of the Group's overseas operations are franchise agreements, and all G2000 shops throughout the region have an identical concept and image.

In recent years, the Group has focused its development on the Mainland China, where there are now more than 300 G2000 stores/counters in such major cities as Shanghai and Beijing.

Tien is active in Hong Kong community affairs, holding posts with the Employee Retraining Board (ERB) and as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR). He is also a member of the Education Commission (EC) and the Manpower Development Committee (MDC) under the HKSAR Government Bureau. He was elected a Member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (Hong Kong Deputy) in January 2008.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Edgar TUNG
CEO
Zymmetry Group

Mr. Edgar Tung is the CEO of the Zymmetry Group, a leading global sourcing and manufacturing solution provider for the apparel industry. Headquartered in Hong Kong with offices in New York and China, the Zymmetry Group has customers ranging from global brands based in the US, to large global manufacturing enterprises based in Asia. Under Tung's leadership, the Zymmetry Group has delivered innovative technology solutions to over 500 corporate customers with more than 120,000 global users.

Prior to joining Zymmetry, Tung spent six years leading the sales effort of the Esquel Group, one of Asia's largest and best-known vertical apparel manufacturers. As Director of Sales, he was instrumental in bringing in annual sales of more than US\$200 million from such markets as the US, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and China.

Tung's wealth of experience includes the founding of an Internet start-up powering performance-based online marketing in Greater China, structuring equity derivatives products for institutional and high net-worth individual clients of the Jardine Fleming Group, as well as coordinating the design and launch of Hong Kong's Mandatory Provident Fund System as an administrative officer of the Hong Kong Government.

Tung is a frequent speaker at apparel and technology forums. He obtained his MBA from the Harvard Business School and his bachelor's degree in Engineering from Imperial College (London). Tung is also a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Premal UDANI
Chairman & Managing Director
Kaytee Corporation Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Premal Udani is the Chairman and Managing Director of Kaytee Corporation Pvt. Ltd., one of the leading garment export company out of India. They are specialists in knitted garments and are completely vertical in operations, from knitting to garment making. The company is also a leading manufacturer of garments made from organic cotton.

Udani has been involved with the clothing and textile industry for more than 25 years. He has presented several papers at national and international textile forums, and his views are widely sought after by various ministries of the Government of India.

Udani is the immediate past President of the Clothing Manufacturers' Association of India (CMAI), which is the oldest and largest garment association in the country, primarily overseeing the domestic segment of India's clothing industry.

He is also actively associated with the Apparel Export Promotion Council, which is responsible for promoting clothing outside of India. Udani is a past Senior Vice Chairman of the Council, and has held several other key positions, such as Chairman of the Quota Committee, Chairman of the Knit Wear Committee and Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee.

Currently, Udani is Chairman of the Institute of Apparel Management (IAM), an institute set up by the Apparel Export Promotion Council to promote managerial talent within the textile and clothing industry.

Udani has an MBA specialising in international marketing.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Rakesh VAID
Chairman
Apparel Export Promotion Council, India

Shri Rakesh Vaid has been a member of the Executive Committee of AEPC since 1983. He has also been Chairman of many APEC sub-committees, including Export Promotion, Finance and Budget, Project Implementation and Apparel House Management, and was also President of the Garment Exporters' Association.

Vaid is the Founding Chairman of Delhi-based company Usha Fabs Pvt Ltd, a leading export house involved with various garment-related fields, including knits and woven, and responsible for the establishment of the largest schiffli embroidery units in north India. He is known for designing his own collections for customers in the US and Europe.

Vaid has diversified his group's growth in the US, the EU and China, where he has established offices. As a member of the Executive Committee of AEPC, he has been a member of various delegations representing the Ministry of Commerce & Textiles of the Government of India, and has visited several countries, including the US, the UK, Germany, China, France, Italy, Uzbekistan, Russia, Switzerland, Hong Kong and South Africa, to promote exports from India, and the upgrading of manufacturing processes and technology.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Pat-nie WOO

Director, Central Textiles (Hong Kong) Ltd.

Chairman, Sustainable Fashion Business Consortium, Hong Kong

Mr. Pat-Nie Woo is the Director of Central Textiles (Hong Kong) Ltd., an innovation leader in the textile field, with a number of proprietary technologies, including X-Fit and Estex, and is also one of the few Asian (ex-Japan) mills to have exhibited at top global fabric shows, such as Premiere Vision and Expofil in Paris.

Woo and Central have been very active in promoting sustainable development in the textile and apparel industry, and Central Textiles was one of the first vertical denim fabric mills in Greater China to be certified to the Global Organic Textiles Standard.

Woo also serves as Chairman of the Sustainable Fashion Business Consortium (SFBC) in Hong Kong. He demonstrates his passion in promoting the adoption of sustainable practices across the fashion supply chain, from spinners all the way to garment manufacturers, retailers and designers. Woo is determined to see the SFBC become an agent of change, making the industry more conscious about environmental issues.

Other posts that Woo holds include Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong Cotton Spinners Association, member of the Textile and Clothing Training Board on the Vocational Training Council, as well as board member of the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles & Apparel.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Michael YEE
Executive Partner
Accenture

As Executive Partner, Mr. Michael Yee leads Accenture's Greater China's Supply Chain Practice, as well as the overall management consulting service for consumer products and retail clients.

Yee has a varied background in strategic and supply consulting. His focus is on the retail and consumer product industries, with varied experience in supply chain and regional sourcing strategy, supply chain planning and optimisation, and vendor performance improvements.

Recently, he has also focused on supply chain transformation projects with strategic company-wide impact.

Prior to joining Accenture, Yee was responsible for retail and operation execution in Asia for a Fortune 500 company in the consumer/retail sector.

Yee is a Canadian Chartered Accountant, and holds a BSc degree from the University of British Columbia and an MBA from the Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario.

Speakers Profiles



Prof. Philip YEUNG

Executive Director

Clothing Industry Training Authority (CITA), Hong Kong

Prior to joining the Clothing Industry Training Authority in June 2006, Prof. Philip Yeung was associated with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University as Chair Professor of Textiles and Clothing.

His long association with the University, spanning more than 30 years, saw the successful development of the Institute of Textiles and Clothing, and contributed to global recognition in the fields of textile education and research.

In addition to his research interest in textile product development, Yeung is also actively conducts consultancy projects in the application of quality management in the industry.