

Speakers Profiles

Hon. Mr. Frederick MA Si-hang, JP
Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
Hong Kong SAR Government



Mr. Frederick Ma assumed the post of Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development in July 2007. His policy responsibilities include external commercial relations, inward investment promotion, intellectual property protection, industry and business support, tourism development, consumer protection, competition, information and telecommunications technology, broadcasting and film services, overall view of creative industry, innovation and technology issues.

Before assuming the post of Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Ma was Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury from July 2002 to June 2007.

Prior to joining the Government, Ma served in key posts in Pacific Century Cyberworks Ltd., J. P. Morgan Private Bank, Chase Manhattan Bank, Kumagai Gumi (HK) Ltd. and RBC Dominion Securities Ltd.. He also held a number of public service positions, including posts with Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd. and the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission.

Speakers Profiles

Dr. William FUNG Kwok Lun, OBE, JP
Group Managing Director
Li & Fung Ltd.

Dr. William Fung has been the Group Managing Director of Li & Fung Ltd. since 1986. He joined the Group in 1972 and became Director of an export trading business in 1976.

Fung is a graduate of Princeton University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering. He also holds an MBA from the Harvard Graduate School of Business and a DBA, honoris causa, which was conferred by the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology.

Fung is an independent non-executive director of HSBC Holdings PLC, CLP Holdings Ltd., VTech Holdings Ltd. and Shui On Land Ltd. He is also a member of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and a past Chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, the Hong Kong Exporters' Association and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee.



Speakers Profiles



Mr. Rufus H. YERXA
Deputy Director-General
World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Mr. Rufus Yerxa has been the Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), located in Geneva, Switzerland, since 2002. The WTO is the principal intergovernmental organisation relating to world trade.

Yerxa has extensive experience as a diplomat, legislative expert and private lawyer, and has served as a senior trade official in both US Republican and Democratic administrations. He began his government career as a legal advisor with the US International Trade Commission in 1977. From 1981 to 1989, Yerxa was legal counsel to the Committee on Ways and Means of the US House of Representatives, where he served as Staff Director of the Trade Subcommittee.

Over the subsequent four years, until 1993, he was the US Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva, the predecessor to the WTO. From 1993 to 1995, he was the Deputy US Trade Representative in Washington, his government's senior sub-cabinet trade official. In these two positions, he played a major role in negotiating and securing Congressional approval of both the Uruguay Round/WTO agreement and the NAFTA accord.

Yerxa left US government service in 1995, moving to Brussels as resident partner with a major US law firm where he focused on international trade matters and European regulatory affairs. He subsequently served as the European General Counsel for a major pharmaceuticals and agro-food company.

Yerxa received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Washington, and holds a J.D. degree from Seattle University, School of Law, and an LLB in international law from Cambridge University. He is a member of the District of Columbia and Washington State bars.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Willie BEUTH
3P Institute for Sustainable Management e.V.

Mr. Willie Beuth began his career as a journalist focusing on economics, after his studies in Business Administration.

In 1967, Beuth 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 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 assures environmental and social performance basing 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



Ms. Maren BÖHM
Corporate Responsibility Representative, Asia
OIA Shanghai, Otto Group

Ms. Maren Böhm studied Sinology, Classical Chinese Philology and Political Science at Trier and Taipei Universities. She received a DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) scholarship and continued her postgraduate studies in Business Administration with a focus on trade fair and event management.

In 1991, she worked for Düsseldorf Fair and Igedo. In 1993, she joined Karstadt Warenhaus AG, being posted to the buying office in Hong Kong. The following year, she set up the Karstadt/Neckermann Shanghai representative office, of which she was the Chief Representative. In 1997, Böhm underwent training in Germany as department store manager and moved to live in Wuhan, China between 1999 and 2002. She was the Head of Social Affairs of KarstadtQuelle Holdings between 2002 and 2005 before returning to Shanghai as Chief Representative of the KarstadtQuelle buying office. In March 2007, Böhm joined OIA Shanghai, Otto Group as its Corporate Responsibility Representative for Asia.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Kevin M. BURKE
President and CEO
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)

Mr. Kevin Burke joined the AAFA in June 2001 and has been instrumental in growing its membership base, member programmes, financial position and its standing on Capitol Hill.

Burke is a career government relations professional with more than 25 years' experience in Washington DC. He served for five years in a trade association, Food Distributors International as Vice President, Government Relations. Burke was responsible for all aspects of the association's outreach to Congress and the federal agencies on issues ranging from ergonomics to tax law and more. He also significantly expanded the scope of the association's political action committee.

Burke also worked as a legislative assistant and, later, press secretary to Representative Norm Lent (R-NY). He began his career in 1979 at the Republican National Committee and the Reagan-Bush Presidential Campaign.

From 1987 to 1995, Burke held the same position for the American Bakers Association, speaking on behalf of wholesale baking companies on legislative and regulatory issues.

Prior to that, he managed the government relations office of the National Association of Broadcasters, coordinating visits by association member executives with Members of Congress, as well as fundraising and advocating on behalf of members to lawmakers and the administration.

Burke currently serves on the Boards of the American Apparel Education Foundation, Boys Hope Girls Hope, the Congressional Institute, the Fashion Institute of Technology's Educational Foundation for the Fashion Industries, the International Apparel Federation, Kids In Distressed Situations and the US Chamber of Commerce's National Chamber Foundation. He is also a member of various political and trade association CEO groups in the Washington, DC area.

Burke holds a Master's degree in public administration from the American University in Washington DC, as well as a Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Brockport.

Speakers Profiles



Dr. John CHEH
Vice Chairman and CEO
Esquel Group of Companies

After completing his undergraduate degree at McGill University, Dr. John Cheh studied International Trade Policy at MIT, where he received his PhD in Economics. He joined the Canadian Government in 1974 working for the Treasury Board and Privy Council Office in the economic and financial policy area. From 1981 to 1993, he was with Canada's Department of External Affairs and International Trade, and served in Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo in senior diplomatic positions. He also worked for two years as the Executive Director of the Canada China Business Council.

In 1994, Cheh moved to Hong Kong as President, Asia of Bell Canada International, in charge of its strategic telecommunications investments and M&A activities. In 2001, he was recruited by Bombardier Inc. as President of its China Operations and worked in that position until he joined Esquel in 2003.

The Esquel Group manufactures about 70 million cotton shirts annually and has 47,000 workers in China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Mauritius. Its vertically integrated operations include cotton farming, spinning, weaving, knitting, dyeing, finishing and garment manufacturing.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Felix CHUNG Kwok Pan
Chairman
Hong Kong Apparel Society Ltd. (HKAS)

Mr. Felix Chung graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Quantity Surveying from the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, UK, in 1986, and then earned his MBA degree from Stirling University in the UK in 1987. He joined his family business in a knitwear factory in late 1988 and, in 2000, started Fashion Rom International Ltd., a major brand management company.

The Hong Kong Apparel Society Ltd. (HKAS) was formed by more than a dozen small to medium-sized Hong Kong garment manufacturers in 2001; today, it has over 200 SME members. Chung was the founding Chairman of the Society, which is a non-profit-making trade association. The HKAS serves, protects and promotes the interests of the garment industry, and also acts as a conduit between the industry and various government bodies. It also assists SMEs in their quest for world market information and keeps them up to date with trade developments in today's changing business world.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Devangshu DUTTA
Chief Executive
Third Eyesight, India

Mr. Devangshu Dutta has held senior management positions in retail and management consulting organisations, and also co-founded a fashion sourcing company.

As a consultant and advisor, he has worked with more than 125 clients, with sizes ranging from brand and market leaders with annual sales of up to US\$80 billion to start-up companies. Third Eyesight's scope of assistance to its clients includes corporate and market strategies, business planning and start-up, market entry, sourcing and supply chain management, strategic alliances, mergers and acquisitions, and operational support in a variety of other areas.

Dutta is also managing partner of an early-stage venture investment firm, and an active member of The Indus Entrepreneurs, the global TIE network.

In addition to his business interests, Dutta also contributes to professional education through lectures at premier academic institutions. He writes frequently, and his work has been referenced by business and academic researchers in various countries.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Jan A. EGGERT
Secretary General
Foreign Trade Association, Belgium (FTA)

Mr. Jan Eggert is an economist who has studied at the Universities of Freiburg, Paris, Berlin and Cologne; he holds a Diplom-Volkswirt degree.

Eggert spent several years working with German industrial companies in the fields of organisation and control.

In 1981, he became Economic Adviser for External Economic Affairs at the Federation of German Industries (BDI) based in Cologne, Germany.

From 1985 to 1989, Eggert was Managing Director of the German-American Chamber of Commerce in Atlanta, Georgia, with responsibility for the South Eastern States of the US.

In 1989, back at the BDI, he was a member of the Executive Board and of the Coordination Bureau for European Policy Affairs. In 1991, he was named Director of the Central Department in charge of matters related to industrial associations, personnel management, finance and organisation. From 1995 to 2000, he was Director of the Department for International Affairs – Economic Policy.

Eggert has held his current position, based in Brussels, since May 2000.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Willie FUNG
Chairman
Top Form International Limited

Mr. Willie Fung, the Chairman of the Top Form International Limited, has over 30 years of experience in the apparel industry. Mr. Fung was formerly a Director of Kellwood Company, an apparel company.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Thomas Anthony GLASER
President, Supply Chain Europe/Asia
VF International SAGL

In 1983, Mr. Thomas Glaser graduated from Franklin & Marshall College, US, with a Bachelor's degree in Government & Economics. After his graduation, he joined Phillips-Van Heusen (PVH), a large US-based apparel manufacturing and marketing company, holding various sales positions, including Key Account Sales for Federated Department Stores and Sears.

From 1993 to 1997, Glaser held various management positions at PVH Asia Operations in Hong Kong; his last position was as General Merchandising Manager for all woven sportswear.

In 1997, Glaser joined G. H. Bass Retail Apparel as Vice President of Sourcing and Operations, handling US\$100 million in volume for various apparel products and a team of more than 30 people. In 2000, Glaser joined Van Heusen Sport, Geoffrey Beene Bass Wholesale Divisions as the Vice President of Sourcing and Operations, handling US\$200 million in wholesale volume and a team of more than 75 people. A year later, he was named Managing Director of VF Asia Ltd. Sourcing, the world's largest branded apparel company, handling US\$1.8 billion in operation costs in China, Southeast Asia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Middle East and Africa, and a team of more than 1,000 people.

Glaser has been in his current position, based in Switzerland, since 2006. He retains responsibilities for the Asia sourcing operations, as well as the total supply chain in Europe for the Outdoor and Jeans wear Coalitions. Glaser serves key brands in Europe, including Wrangler, Lee, The North Face, Napapijri, Kipling, Nautica, Eastpak and Jansport.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. George P. J. GOLDMAN
Vice President & Managing Director, Hong Kong/South China
APL & APL Logistics
NOL Group

In his current position, Mr. George Goldman is accountable for revenues exceeding US\$1.8 billion, as well as operations in China's central and southern regions. Drawing on extensive experience in business management, sales and marketing, Goldman is currently based in Hong Kong, from where he leads more than 700 employees in 15 locations.

Goldman was previously APL's Vice President & Managing Director of North China from 2004 to 2006, when he was based in Shanghai. While there, he was appointed Chairman of the Logistics and Transportation Committee of the city's American Chamber of Commerce.

Goldman began his career in 1984 with Japan Line and joined NOL in 1991 as North America Corporate Marketing Manager.

Goldman was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and has lived in New York, Singapore, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Edward A. GRIBBIN
President
Alvanon Consulting Group
Alvanon, Inc.

As President of the Alvanon Consulting Group (a division of Alvanon Inc., the global size and fit expert), Mr. Edward Gribbin manages a global team of experts that helps apparel brands and retailers understand and improve market “fit” to grow sales, profit and brand loyalty. Gribbin and his team have collected and analysed body scan and health data from over 20 countries to become the definitive industry expert on fit, sizing, grading and body shapes in specific countries, regions and targeted demographics. His team works with a “Who’s Who” of top global brands and retailers on both strategic and tactical business growth opportunities.

Gribbin has more than 30 years’ apparel industry experience, progressing from technical design and product development, production and sourcing, and merchandising and marketing to strategy and general management.

Prior to joining Alvanon, he served as President of Intellifit Corporation, where he co-invented the revolutionary Intellifit Scanner. As Senior Vice President at Angelica Corporation, he managed the sales, marketing, design and production of career apparel, uniforms and image programmes for major hotel chains, retailers, banks, airlines, casinos, theme parks, cruise lines and restaurant chains. Prior to Angelica, Gribbin co-founded Boathouse Sports, one of the largest specialty athletic manufacturers in the US today.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Justin HUANG
Secretary General
Taiwan Textile Federation (TTF)

Mr. Justin Huang was born in 1959 and graduated from the Tatung Institute of Technology with a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Design in 1982.

After working as an industrial designer for three years, he joined the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) at its Industrial Design Promotion Centre, developing a strategic plan to upgrade the industrial design capabilities of Taiwan's manufacturing industries.

In 1990, Huang worked with McKinsey & Company to develop the "Mini Europe Project" to assist Taiwan manufacturers to use European design resources. In 1991, he was appointed Design Manager and established a Taiwanese government-subsidised design studio in Düsseldorf, Germany, where he remained for four years.

In March 1996, Huang joined the Taiwan Textile Federation (TTF) as Director of the Information and Planning Department and, in April 1997, was appointed Head of the TTF's Textile & Fashion Design Centre.

In May 2002, Huang was promoted to Deputy Secretary General of the TTF responsible for design promotion and market development. Over three years, he successfully established a connection between TTF and well-known international exhibition organisers and textile/apparel organisations.

Under Huang's guidance, the TTF initiated a verification and certification system for the promotion of Taiwan's functional textiles worldwide, and, over the past five years, has received a positive response from more than 200 well-known retailers and private labels, with certified textile mills discussing the supply of functional textiles with retailers and private labels.

In November 2005, Huang was appointed Secretary General of the TTF. He was also assigned Asia Co-Ordinator with a mandate to promote mutual interests and benefit the Asia apparel industry for the International Apparel Federation (IAF), which is an Amsterdam-based global apparel society.

Since 2006, Huang has worked with Taiwan fashion brands, helping them to enter overseas markets. The "Taipei in Style" trade show was organised to enhance the business potential of Taiwan and overseas trade professionals; as a result, many leading Chinese chain stores and retailers have recruited Taiwan brands.

Currently, one of the TTF's main business strategies is to help Taiwan's textile industry to promote the development of environmentally friendly textiles.

Speakers Profiles

Ms. Julia K. HUGHES

Senior Vice President

The United States Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel (USA-ITA)

In addition to her current position, Ms. Julia Hughes is 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 for textiles and apparel products.

Hughes was Divisional Vice President, Government Relations for the Associated Merchandising Corporation (AMC), Washington, 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, 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 a Master's degree in International Studies from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a Bachelor of Science degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Steven A. JESSEPH
Vice Chairman, President and CEO
Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP)

Mr. Steven Jesseph's company, Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP), is a non-profit, factory certification group based in Arlington, VA, that certifies factories to a 12-point code of conduct covering legal, labour, environmental, security and customs compliance for the manufacturers of labour-intensive consumer products. WRAP is supported by 22 international trade and business associations, and has certified factories in over 72 countries.

Prior to joining WRAP, Jesseph was Vice President for Compliance and Risk Management at Sara Lee Branded Apparel (now Hanes Brands International), formerly an operating group of Chicago-based Sara Lee Corporation. His responsibilities included environment, health and safety, product liability, social compliance and more for all operations in over 30 countries in the Western Hemisphere, Europe, Africa and Asia. Brands included Hanes, Playtex, Champion, Bali, L'eggs, Dim and Just My Size. Prior to that, he served as Executive Director for Sara Lee Corporation's global health and safety group where he was responsible for 154,000 employees in 55 countries.

Jesseph was the founding Chairman of the Social Responsibility Committee of the American Apparel & Footwear Association. He serves on the Governing Board of the International Council of Toy Industries CARE Programme and on the Appalachian State University Graduate School Advisory Board. He received his Bachelor's degree from Otterbein College and his Master's degree from Xavier (Ohio) University.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Anthony KEUNG Ping-So
President and CEO
Fenix Group Holdings Ltd.
Managing Director
Fenix Hong Kong Ltd.
Managing Director
Siefame Ltd.

In 1972, Mr. Anthony Keung, who holds an MBA, and a Japanese partner built up 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 their core market. Fenix developed niche markets in Japan and became one of that market's foremost suppliers, with an annual output of 8,000,000 pieces. 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 112 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 clientele.

At the end of 2007, the Group had grown to embrace 18 regional companies, 14 production lines and 112 retail stores worldwide employing a staff of 8,000 and achieving an annual turnover of well over US\$350 million.

Speakers Profiles



Mrs. Helen KHOO
Executive Director
Wing Tai Retail Pte. Ltd.

Mrs. Helen Khoo heads and oversees the Apparel & Lifestyle Division of Wing Tai Holdings. Under her portfolio, Wing Tai Retail manages a total of 20 fashion and lifestyle brands, with more likely to be added across Singapore and Malaysia.

With a total of over 180 retail outlets, Wing Tai has successfully established its reputation in the market as a leading retail giant in Southeast Asia within just a decade.

Prior to Khoo's joining the Wing Tai group in 1995, she was Retail Development Director and Assistant Managing Director of Pizza Hut Singapore and Malaysia, which was part of the franchise company, Cerebos Pacific Ltd.. Khoo was already a veteran in apparel export trading and fast food retail prior to immigrating to Singapore in 1990 as she had been a senior executive with the British conglomerate, the Swire Group, in Hong Kong for 14 years.

Khoo is currently an active council member of the Singapore Retailers Association (SRA) and the Orchard Road Business Association (ORBA). She also sits on many task force committees for projects organised by the government to continually improve the retail landscaping and manpower training sectors in the retail industry. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Hong Kong.

Speakers Profiles



Ms. KIM So Hee
President
Malcom Bridge, Korea

Ms. Kim So Hee runs a trend analysis company called Malcom Bridge that focuses mainly on analysing fashion trends and consulting on fashion marketing strategies.

Kim has worked previously as a consultant for LG fashion, one of the largest fashion groups in Korea, Sejung.co and The Basic House. She is also currently a columnist for Money Today, a famous economics magazine in Korea.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Jack KIPLING

Chairman

The Export Council for the Clothing Industry in South Africa

Mr. Jack Kipling is the founder and Managing Partner of Jack Kipling & Associates (JKA), a consultancy specialising in international trade for the clothing industry in sub-Saharan Africa.

Until February 1999, Kipling was Managing Director of the Bonwit Group, South Africa's largest ladies' clothing manufacturer servicing the local South African market, and exporting to the UK, France, Germany and the US.

Active in industry structures, he has held various positions at national level. Currently Chairman of the Export Council for the Clothing Industry in South Africa, he served on the Minister of Trade & Industry's Export Advisory Council for four years, during which the EU/SA FTA was signed and AGOA implemented. He is the Immediate Past President of the Clothing Trade Council of South Africa and also served terms as Chairman of the Bargaining Council for the Clothing Industry, the sector's labour regulating authority.

Kipling played a key role in the formation of the African Cotton & Textiles Federation, a regional trade body formed in 2005 that currently includes the national associations of 14 sub-Saharan African countries and has the objective of working together to promote the clothing industries of Southern Africa through regional integration.

Speakers Profiles



Ms. Mary KISSEL
Editor, Editorial Page
The Wall Street Journal Asia

Ms. Mary Kissel supervises The Wall Street Journal Asia's opinion pages, including editorials, features and the "Taste" page in the "Weekend Journal" section. She also contributes regularly to the Journal's signed and unsigned commentaries on Asia, as well as on global trade and economic issues.

Kissel's most recent interviews include with the Dalai Lama, former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. She has appeared on CNN, CNBC, the John Batchelor Show and the Bill Bennett Show, among others, and guest lectures to various groups throughout Asia-Pacific.

Kissel joined The Wall Street Journal Asia in Hong Kong in 2004 as writer of the Money & Investing section's "Heard in Asia" column and later served as an Asia-wide finance correspondent. She worked previously for Goldman Sachs, an investment bank, in New York, Frankfurt and London.

Kissel received a Bachelor's degree with honours in Government from Harvard University and a Master's degree in International Affairs from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She is a Claremont University Lincoln Fellow and a media fellow at the World Economic Forum.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. William H. LAKIN
Director General
European Apparel & Textile Organisation (EURATEX)

Mr. William (Bill) Lakin is of British nationality and was born in 1943. He holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Sheffield, England, in Modern Languages and Economics.

Following a short period teaching English to students in Paris, Lakin joined the staff of the International Wool Textile Organisation in 1969. He was appointed Secretary-General of that organisation in 1972, a post he held in conjunction with that of Secretary-General of Interlaine, the EU Committee of the wool textile industries from 1976 until 2000.

From 1992 to 2000, he was a Board Member of Wool Commodity Group (Australia) and, in March 2000, was appointed Director General of Euratex.

Over the past 20 years, Lakin has edited and published a number of economics and statistical publications relating to the wool industry.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Stephen E. LAMAR
Executive Vice President
American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA)

Mr. Stephen Lamar is responsible for the design and implementation of the AAFA's lobbying strategies on international trade, labour policy, customs procedures, environment, judicial policy and procurement practices. 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 the southern African country, 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 has published several articles on international economic policy. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Colgate University in New York and a Master's degree in International Affairs from George Washington University.

Lamar speaks Spanish and some Setswana.

Speakers Profiles



Dr. Harry LEE, SBS, JP
Chairman
Textile Council of Hong Kong
CEO
TAL Group

Dr. Harry Lee joined Textile Alliance Ltd. (TAL) in Hong Kong in 1973 and, in 1983, was appointed Managing Director of TAL Apparel Ltd., which currently employs more than 20,000 people.

Lee is actively involved in a number of trade organisations in Hong Kong. He is the Honorary Chairman of the Hong Kong Garment Manufacturer's Association, as well as Chairman of the Textile Council of Hong Kong Ltd..

Lee was educated in both the UK and the US, and holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Imperial College, London, and a doctorate from Brown University in the US.

In 1996, Lee was named an Officer of the British Empire (OBE). In 1997, he was appointed a Justice of Peace (JP) and, in 2001, was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star (SBS) at the Fourth Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR.

Speakers Profiles



Dr. Sarah LIAO Sau Tung, GBS, MBE, JP, FRCS
Former Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
Hong Kong SAR Government

Dr. Sarah Liao was Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR Government from 2002 to 2007, overseeing a public works programme with an average annual budget of HK\$27 billion (approximately US\$3.46 billion).

During her tenure, Liao was responsible for the development and implementation of policies on environmental protection, nature conservation, transport planning, services and safety management, road and rail infrastructure, potable water supply, slope safety and flood prevention, and industry practice standards.

Liao promoted sustainable development in all her policies. She tackled air pollution by promoting the use of public transportation, imposing emission caps on power stations and tightening vehicle emission standards. She also alleviated water pollution by implementing the polluter-pays principle for the sewage management system. Liao worked closely with the Guangdong provincial government to advocate emission trading and to set up the air quality-monitoring network.

Prior to her position as the Secretary, Liao worked in academia, as well as in environmental and engineering consulting in Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan. She was involved in Beijing's Olympic Bid in 2001 as the environmental expert and presenter.

Among her diverse involvement in public service, Liao initiated the establishment of the Occupational Safety and Health Council in 1988, represented Hong Kong's Small and Medium Enterprises in APEC in 1994-5, chaired the competition policy study on the telecom industry and recommended the liberalisation of the industry, and also served in the Central Policy Unit.

Liao was also a Council Member of the Environmental Division of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, a technical adviser to the Conservancy Association and on the Board of Governors of Friends of the Earth.

Liao was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1994, and was made a member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) and also awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star (GBS) in 2007.

Liao is a Fellow of the Royal Chemical Society, the City and Guilds of the London Institute and the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers. She earned a PhD in Environmental/Occupational Health in 1985, an M.Phil in Inorganic Chemistry in 1977, a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry in 1973, all from the University of Hong Kong, and a Master of Science degree in Analytical Chemistry in 1975 from the University of Birmingham, UK.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Peter LIU
Chairman, Textile & Apparel Committee
The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Global Supply Chain Practice
Heidrick & Struggles

Mr. Peter Liu is a member of Heidrick & Struggles' Global Supply Chain Practice. With more than 20 years' experience, Liu's work focuses on serving clients that use the supply chain function to improve customer service and vendor relationships, reduce costs, grow the top line and increase technological efficiency. Prior to joining Heidrick & Struggles, Liu was a Director of Peninsula Knitters, a major global garment manufacturer and distributor headquartered 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 and responsible for all global commercial activities, including sales, product development, sourcing, manufacturing and supply chain management. Previously, Liu was a Main Board Director at TAL, a US\$600-million global apparel manufacturer and recognised leader in supply chain management; Managing Director and Chief Representative, China for Betz Lab Inc.; and Country Manager, Taiwan, China and Hong Kong for Du Pont Asia Pacific, Ltd..

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.

He is a board member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and Chairman of the Textile and Apparel Committee. He also serves on the Advisory Boards of the Global Prime Source Forum and the University of Delaware Fashion & Apparel Studies, and is a Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Directors.

Liu has lived and worked in Hong Kong, the UK, Shanghai, the US, Singapore and Indonesia. He speaks fluent English, Mandarin and Cantonese.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Jürgen J. MAAS
Vice President
Foreign Trade Association, Belgium (FTA)
Senior Vice President, International Affairs Metro AG

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. In 1968, 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, he became the Central Buyer for the company, returning to his hometown 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 his current 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, 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



Mr. Roger NELSON
Senior Vice President, Asian Operations
Thomas Group Hong Kong

Mr. Roger Nelson is an internationally known implementer of process improvement successes in numerous industries in Asia, Europe and North America. He has diverse experiences in supply chain management, manufacturing, engineering management and manufacturing/management consulting. Nelson's career has covered various industries encompassing apparel manufacturing, automotive, metals processing, aerospace, material handling, electronics, telecommunications, health care and insurance.

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

Speakers Profiles



Prof. Edward NEWTON
Visiting Chair Professor of Fashion Design
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Prof. Edward Newton combines an academic career with that of a Design/Marketing Consultant, spanning all areas of clothing and apparel design. He considers that the two areas inter-relate successfully, and provide the basis for his undoubted excellence in the area of apparel design and marketing.

Newton's international experience and interests include research, consultancy and teaching, and he has worked extensively in India, the Far East and the US. His main area of research interest is the globalisation of fashion and textile design, and the associated areas of manufacturing and retailing. He was involved in the development of New Delhi's National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), India's premier institute for fashion and textiles. Newton is also a consultant to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the area of textiles and apparel. His work in China is as a consultant and visiting professor to a number of universities. In UK, Newton is a visiting professor at the University of Leeds, and is involved with other universities as a consultant and external examiner.

Newton is a Fellow of the Chartered Society of Designers, the Textile Institute and the Clothing and Footwear Institute, and was a world vice-president of the Textile Institute in 1994/1996.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Giovanni ORGERA
Business Development Manager
Hembly International Holdings Ltd.

Mr. Giovanni Orgera obtained a Degree of Jurisprudence from the University of Bari, Italy, and subsequently, in Rome, two post-graduate degrees in International Economics and Foreign Trade. After his studies, he joined a leading Italian banking group, working overseas for many years and holding different positions in several countries.

In 1994, Orgera was posted to the Hong Kong branch of his bank. In 2004, he became General Manager of the Shanghai branch, where he worked until September 2007. In these positions, he built up extensive experience with the different challenges facing companies in the quest to be successful in the Chinese market.

Orgera also developed relationships with many Italian companies involved with the Chinese market as President of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong for three years and Vice President of the China-Italy Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai for two years.

Orgera's main responsibilities in his current position are to develop and lead the implementation of strategies that shape future business delivery, to oversee all new business developments and to maintain a high level of industry visibility for the company to aid in attracting new business opportunities.

Speakers Profiles



Prof. Angela PEERS
Principal Lecturer, Department of Clothing Design and Technology
Manchester Metropolitan University

Prof. Angela Peers heads the International Fashion Business and Technology Centre at the Manchester Metropolitan University. Her academic subject is international fashion marketing, and her current research areas include employability and employment skills.

A member of the Hollings Faculty Executive Group, Peers is Chair of the Faculty Academic Enterprise Committee, Chair of the University Placement Learning Committee, and a member of the University Academic Board, Academic Development Committee and the Research and Enterprise Committee.

Externally, Peers is Chair of the IAF Education Committee, a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Sandwich Education and Training, Vice Chair of the Textile Institute Design Interest Group and is on the Board of the British Clothing Industry Association. She collaborates with universities and colleges in the UK, Brazil, China, Greece, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Taiwan, Turkey, the US, Kazakhstan and Turkey, as well as fashion and clothing retailers and manufacturers in Brazil, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Turkey, the US and Sri Lanka.

The Department of Clothing Design and Technology offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in fashion design, clothing technology and textiles for fashion, fashion business, and related studies in the UK, and has over 1,400 undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Scott QUESENBERRY
Special Textile Negotiator, Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR)
Executive Office of the President, USA

Mr. Scott Quesenberry is responsible for supervising US trade negotiations involving textiles and apparel while working to expand US industry access to overseas markets.

Prior to joining the USTR, Quesenberry worked for Senator Elizabeth Dole, most recently as Legislative Director and, before that, as Chief Counsel and Policy Director. In those capacities, he was responsible for advising Senator Dole on all trade and manufacturing policy issues. Prior to this position, he served as the Issues Director for Elizabeth Dole's 2002 senatorial campaign in North Carolina. Before joining Senator Dole, he was a government affairs counsel in the private sector and worked for a variety of campaign committees.

Quesenberry is a 1993 graduate of Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, and received his law degree in 1996 from Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, Georgia.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Carlo RIVETTI
President
Sportswear Company SpA
Vice President for International Promotion
SMI (Italian Federation Textile and Fashion)

Mr. Carlo Rivetti was born in 1956 and graduated in Economics from Bocconi University in Milan. He believes in teamwork, the importance of research, and in a product that is the outcome of the combination of technology, function, quality and elegance. He can rely on the expert skills of someone who has worked in this sector for years, coupled with the irreverent imagination of a man who has never failed to follow through on his own choices, no matter how strange and unfashionable they might seem at the time.

Rivetti's father, Silvio, founded one of the leading European clothing manufacturers, the Turin-based GFT Group, which, in the '50s introduced to Italy the first ready-to-wear Italian men's and women's brands, Facis and Cori. By studying the strategies and production systems used by major US companies in this sector, Silvio Rivetti laid the foundations for what became the leading European clothing manufacturer in the '80s. In those years, GFT was the first manufacturer to close license deals with such fashion designers as Giorgio Armani, Emanuel Ungaro and Valentino. This brought about the birth of the so-called "Made in Italy" phenomenon. In the mid-80s, GFT decided to expand into the informal fashion business, becoming first partner with and then sole owner of C. P. Company.

In 1993, Rivetti and his sister Cristina decided to leave the family company before taking over the informal clothing branch of the group centered on C. P. Company in Ravarino, which was promptly renamed Sportswear Company, owner of the brands C. P. Company and Stone Island. Rivetti became President of the company.

Rivetti teaches Industrial Design at the Politecnico in Milan and Fashion Man at the IED (Istituto Europeo di Design) where he also sits on the Scientific Committee. He teaches Marketing for Fashion at L.UN.A. University (Libera Università delle Arti) in Bologna and is among the founders of the "Fondazione ADI" (Italian Industrial Design Foundation) where he sits on the board of directors. He is also on the board of directors of Pitti Immagine, a company that organises and promotes the most important Italian clothing fairs in Florence, as well as on the board of Nazionale Stilisti, the National Italian Fashion Football team of which he is also the captain.

Speakers Profiles

Mr. Britton RUSSELL
Principal
Kurt Salmon Associates (KSA)

Mr. Britton Russell is currently based in Shanghai, China, where his focus is on retail and product sourcing expansion in China as he leads KSA's sourcing and manufacturing practice. He has held a number of leadership positions within KSA, including Director, Strategy for Asia and Regional Director for East Asia. His specialty is linking consumer insights and merchandising targets with product line development and sourcing to drive both product innovation and speed across the supply chain. He has worked with leading retailers and brands on key projects in both the US and Asia.

Prior to joining KSA, Britton was Senior Director for Global Sourcing with The Home Depot, the largest home improvement retailer, where he drove significant increases in direct sourcing and private brand products and transformed the sourcing organisation into a global operation supporting all of The Home Depot's businesses. With Nike, he served as an Apparel Sourcing Manager, setting up the company's quality assurance and vendor management policies in the early 1990's.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Ted SATTLER
Group Executive Vice President – Foreign Operations
Philips-Van Heusen Corp.

Mr. Ted Sattler graduated from Colgate University in 1966 and earned an MA from Long Island University in 1971. He was a US naval officer from 1966 to 1969, serving in the South Pacific, including Vietnam.

Sattler joined Burlington Industries in 1970, serving in various management and senior management positions for the Galey & Lord division, the Klopman Blended Fabrics division, the Klopman Textured Woven division and the Burlington Knitted Fabrics division.

Sattler was appointed to his current position in 1985.

He also serves as a member of the Cotton Board, appointed by the US Department of Agriculture, a cleared advisor to the US Department of Commerce on Trade Issues and a Board Member of USA-ITA.

Speakers Profiles



Dr. Andrew Sia
Chairman & CEO
ACE Style Intimate Apparel Ltd
Founder and Chairman
Hong Kong Intimate Apparel Industries' Association
Founder
ACE Style Institute of Intimate Apparel

The core business of the ACE Style Group, Dr. Andrew Sia's company, is the manufacture of premium-quality lingerie and swimwear. The company is headquartered in Hong Kong, and supported by its manufacturing facilities in China and the Philippines, with customer services and design offices in New York and London.

Sia was the Founding Chairman of the Hong Kong Intimate Apparel Industries Association, and founder of the ACE Style Institute of Intimate Apparel at both De Montfort University in the UK and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

He is also an active member of the Trade Development Council's Garment Advisory Committee and a director of the Textile Council of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and Apparel, and the Hong Kong General Chamber of Textiles, to name just a few of his public appointments.

Speakers Profiles



Ms. Karen GRABUS SMITH
Vice President, Eastern Hemisphere Sourcing
Jockey International Inc.

Ms. Karen Grabus Smith's office services Jockey's global markets, including US Wholesale, US Retail, Jockey.com, Jockey Person to Person, Thorobred Division, Canada, Jockey Europe, Jockey Asia and Jockey International Licensees. Grabus Smith is responsible for developing a supply chain that adequately serves these combined businesses from the Asia region.

Grabus Smith began her working career at Sara Lee, involved with the Champion brand, holding progressive management positions in Merchandising, Marketing, Sourcing and Product Development for the Licensed Sports area of the company. She then moved to VF Imagewear, a division of VF Corporation, and held management positions in the Merchandising and Sales areas of the Licensed Sports business.

Grabus Smith joined Jockey in 2005 as Director, Corporate Product Execution and was promoted to Senior Director, Corporate Product Execution in 2006; she was promoted to her current position in late 2007.

Jockey is a recognised trademark and its products are sold in more than 120 countries. The company has been held privately since 1876 and its global headquarters is located in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. SUN Rui Zhe

Vice President and Director of the Office for Social Responsibility
China National Textile & Apparel Council (CNTAC)

President

China Textile Information Center & China Textiles Development Centre

In his business career, Mr. Sun Rui Zhe has been a member of the research teams for several projects involved with the industry's technical innovations and infrastructural readjustment. He played a leading role in several key projects, among them the relaunch and marketing of several textile trade journals; trend research and forecasts; testing labs for the Chinese textile industry; the Fabrics China project; the China National Colour System; service centres in textile industrial clusters; and China's social compliance management system for the textile and apparel industry.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Dean B. TURNER
Senior Vice President
Cotton Inc.

Mr. Dean Turner, who is based in the company's world headquarters in Cary, NC, heads Cotton Inc.'s wide range of US and international marketing initiatives with mills, manufacturers, brand marketers and product specifiers, which are designed to influence the development and sourcing of cotton products. This effort includes overseeing the entire group's technical, information and fashion services, as directed from the company's headquarters and international offices in Mexico City, Mexico; Osaka, Japan; Singapore; and Shanghai, China. Turner is also charged with co-ordinating efforts with other US cotton groups that participate in international programmes.

Turner, who joined Cotton Inc. in 1977, has led the Global Account Management team since 1999 and International Marketing since 1987. Immediately prior to this assignment he was responsible for US account management; he also held positions in the firm's apparel mill marketing, home fabrics marketing, merchandising and apparel marketing departments.

Prior to joining Cotton Inc., Turner was Product Development Manager with Owens Corning Fiberglass and head stylist in the decorative glass fibres division of Burlington Industries.

A graduate of the Philadelphia College of Textiles & Science, where he earned a degree in textile design, Turner also holds an MBA from Fordham University.

Cotton Inc. is the fibre company of America's cotton producers and importers, and has a global mission to increase demand for cotton and profitability through research and promotion.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Fernando URREA
President
Leonisa S.A., Colombia

Mr. Fernando Urrea is a Colombian-born entrepreneur. He has 35 years' experience running his family company, Leonisa, which is the leader in lingerie products in the Hispanic markets in America, Spain and Portugal.

Urrea has been responsible for opening and developing markets in different countries throughout The Americas for his company's own brands through multiple channels, including retail, catalogues, stores and online.

For several years, Leonisa has been named "The Best Partnership Company" by retailers in the US and "The Best Lingerie Collections" in Paris, and has won National Quality Awards in several Latin American countries.

Urrea holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance, with a specialisation in International Marketing, from the University of South Florida in the US.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Rakesh VAID
Chairman
Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), India

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

Vaid is the founding Chairman of Delhi-based Usha Fabs Pvt. Ltd., a leading export house that produces some 10,000 pieces a day and employs 1,200 people. The group is involved in such garment fields as knits and woven items, and set up one of the largest schiffli embroidery units in North India. Vaid 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, Vaid has been a member of various delegations organised by the Ministry of Commerce & Textiles of the Government of India, and has visited several countries, among them the US, the UK, Germany, China, France, Italy, Uzbekistan, Russia, Switzerland, Hong Kong and South Africa, to promote exports from India, and the up-grading of manufacturing processes and technologies.

Speakers Profiles



Dr. Kenneth K. K. WANG
Managing Director
Sterling Products Ltd.
Chairman
Alvanon Inc.

Dr. Kenneth Wang graduated from Guy's Hospital Medical School, London in 1972-73 with an MBBS. He returned to Hong Kong in 1974 to manage his family's garment manufacturing operation, Sterling Products Ltd., which is a vertically integrated multinational childrenswear company with headquarters in Hong Kong, a textile plant in Johor Bahru, Malaysia; and a garment and embellishment manufacturing centre in Sri Lanka. Within China, the company has developed a technical and sampling centre in Dongguan, a design centre in Guangzhou, a virtual manufacturing centre in Changzhou, and sourcing offices in Shanghai and Guangzhou. Wang is also Chairman of Alvanon Inc., the global size and fit expert for the apparel industry that has offices in New York, London and Hong Kong, and a manufacturing centre in Dongguan, China.

Wang is a Member of the World Presidents' Organisation, Chairman of Project Concern, a non-profit organisation for medical and dental care in Hong Kong, Immediate Past Chairman of the Clothing Industry Training Authority, Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong Garment Manufacturing Association and a member of the Textile Council.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Åke WEYLER
Director
Textile Importers Association, Sweden

Mr. Åke Weyler is the proprietor of a small company, Weyler Consulting & Information, which he founded in 1997. He believes that small companies should have strong slogans; hence, the slogan of Weyler Consulting & Information is "Traders hate quotas, duties and red tape. So do we. Professionally."

Weyler has long experience as an organisation manager and has been engaged in this type of work since 1977, which is when he started to work for quota-free and general free trade in textiles and clothing. Weyler considers himself one of the victors, as first Sweden (1991) and then the EU (2005) finally abandoned quotas on textiles and garments.

Weyler was Managing Director of the Textile Importers Association in Sweden between 1982 and 2005, while also being Managing Director of the Association of Swedish Textile, Clothing and Shoe Retailers from 1992 to 2005. He is still a consultant to the Textile Importers Association.

Since 1997, Weyler has been a member of the Board of the Foreign Trade Association (FTA) in Brussels. He actively participates in the work of the Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI), also based in Brussels.

Since 2006, Weyler has been Contributing Editor for Textile Asia, Hong Kong.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Jon WHITE
Managing Director
Omega Compliance Ltd.

Mr. Jon White was responsible for developing the factory social compliance programme for the Hong Kong-based international buying agency, William E. Connor & Associates Ltd..

Since 2006, he has been Managing Director of Omega Compliance Ltd., a third party services provider that supports supply chain compliance initiatives, including security, and ethical and quality assurance for many of the world's best-known brands and retailers.

White has lived in Hong Kong for 22 years and is fluent in Cantonese.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. Fritz WINANS
Corporate Senior Vice President and President
Global Sourcing and Manufacturing
Liz Claiborne, Inc.

Mr. Fritz Winans joined Liz Claiborne in 1996 as Vice President of Sales, Liz Sport. A year later, he became Vice President/General Manager of Liz & Co. and Liz Golf. He served as President of Liz Claiborne from 1998 to 2001, followed by Group President of Liz Claiborne Brands from 2001 to 2005. In mid-2005, he took responsibility as Managing Director Business Development – Asia and, two years later, became Corporate Senior Vice President and President of Global Sourcing and Manufacturing responsible for managing the global sourcing and manufacturing for 30 Liz Claiborne brands.

While serving the company for the past 12 years, Winans re-organised the global sourcing and manufacturing worlds into global teams, opened a number of Juicy stores in Asia, strategically re-aligned Asian offices and operations, and launched and nourished several brands under the Liz portfolio.

Previously, Winans was Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Nygard International, the largest women's apparel company in Canada. Before joining Nygard in 1992, Winans served as Vice President of Sales at I.B. Diffusion. He began his career in 1983 as a Senior Account Executive with Koret of California, a subsidiary of Levi Strauss.

Winans is involved in a number of industry activities; he also sits on the Executive Council Board of Liz Claiborne and on the Board of Directors of The New Jersey Battered Women's Shelter.

Raised in Chicago and a native of New Jersey, Winans received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Marquette University.

Speakers Profiles



Mr. WOO Pat Nie
Director
Central Textiles (Hong Kong) Ltd.

Mr. Woo Pat Nie's company is 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 exhibiting at Premiere Vision and Expofil in Paris in 2007. Central Textiles also participated in the Munich Blue Line Show in 2008.

Woo and Central have been very active in promoting sustainable development in the textile and apparel industry and Central 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 in Hong Kong, which was formed in 2008 and consists of a number of major players in the textile and apparel industry headquartered in Hong Kong. Its mission is to promote and increase the use of sustainable business practices across the fashion supply chain, from spinners all the way to garment manufacturers, retailers and designers.

Other posts that Woo holds include Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong Cotton Spinners Association, and Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong Association of Textile Bleachers, Dyers, Printers and Finishers; he is also a member of the Textile and Clothing Training Board on the Vocational Training Council.

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.