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APPAREL SUPPLY CHAIN EXECS TO DISCUSS KEY ISSUES AT HONG KONG'S PRIME SOURCE FORUM

By WGSN Newsteam, 23 February 2011

Global supply chain experts are to meet in Hong Kong at the end of next month to discuss the key issues as the apparel industries continue their recovery from the global economic crisis.

Prime Source Forum 2011, running from March 30-April 1, will be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre with the keynote given by Edwin Heh, former senior VP, COO at

Wal-Mart Global Procurement, who will focus on challenges and opportunities for the supply chain in the next decade.

The three-day event will see over 50 lead speakers and panellists take part across seven sessions, covering topics such as challenges and competition, balance of trade, currency and labour issues, raw materials shortage, sourcing alternatives and talent management.

"During 2010 most apparel companies experienced a tremendous storm, yet most saw a resurgence of 'chasing the business' due to better retail sales," said Thomas Nelson, chairman of the Global Apparel, Footwear and Textile Initiative, which will be hosting a workshop on standardisation.

"As we move forward, our lives in the apparel industry will only become more complicated. We will need to do things faster, cheaper and better. However, much of what we can do can be done in unison and can really help to make a better world for the workers, factories, the brands and our end customers."

There are also six technology workshops taking place, focusing on topics including applying lean manufacturing techniques to improve efficiency and the importance of sustainable business practices.

MORE INTERNATIONAL NEWS: THE AMERICAS

Steve Madden profit advances 30% on double-digit sales growth

23 February 2011

Steve Madden Ltd saw its profit climb 30% in the fourth quarter as sales and royalties both put in strong gains, it said Tuesday.

Canadian retail sales shrink in December

23 February 2011

7 For All Mankind plans Canada rollout

23 February 2011

EUROPE, MIDDLE-EAST, AFRICA

German textile workers agree new pay deal

23 February 2011

A pay deal has been struck for about 130,000 textile and clothing workers in western Germany that will see them receive a one-off payment followed by a salary rise of 3.6%.

Horspool quits New Look to join Oasis

23 February 2011

Barbara Horspool, group design director at UK value fashion chain New Look, has quit to join women's fashion chain Oasis, reports Drapers.

ASIA/PACIFIC

Japan January supermarket sales dip 0.1%, down for 26th month

23 February 2011

Japan's supermarket same-store sales edged down 0.1% year-on-year in January down for the 26th month running, the Japan Chain Stores Association said Tuesday. Clothing sales last month fell 1.2%.

Apparel supply chain execs to discuss key issues at Hong Kong's Prime Source Forum

23 February 2011

Global supply chain experts are to meet in Hong Kong at the end of next month to discuss the key issues as the apparel industries continue their recovery from the global economic crisis.

Chinese cotton prices rise in January

23 February 2011

Chinese cotton prices followed an upward trend in January as international prices continued to rise, the National Development and Reform Commission said.

Hong Kong's IFC Mall axes restaurants to make room for jewelers and luxury brands

23 February 2011

TODAY'S TOP STORIES



Bullish VF talks up 2011 as sports and outdoor ops flourish

23 February 2011

VF Corp said Tuesday it expects 2011 would see the highest rate of organic revenue growth since 2007 as it lodged an 11% sales increase for Q4 thanks to a muscular performance from its action sports and outdoor ops.

New ck one lifestyle campaign becomes brand's biggest digital initiative to date

23 February 2011

Calvin Klein has unveiled a new global campaign for its first ck one lifestyle collection, a line incorporating underwear, denim and swimwear inspired by the iconic unisex fragrance of the same name.

Macy's impresses with upbeat outlook as exclusives route pays dividends

23 February 2011

An upbeat Macy's talked positively of its 2011 expectations Tuesday as the department store group broadens its exclusive and private brands, and said it should be able to manage higher cotton and cashmere costs through a mix of vendor purchasing power and astute product assortment.

Wal-Mart sees US comp sales continue to decline

23 February 2011

Discount retail giant Wal-Mart Tuesday reported a seventh straight quarterly same-store sales dip at its core US stores as it continues to lose customers to "dollar" store rivals. Despite profits rising 27% for the quarter on prudent cost cuts and overseas strength, the market reacted negatively to those weak US sales and Wal-Mart shares closed down 3.1%.

US consumer confidence hits three-year high

23 February 2011

American consumer confidence has hit a three-year high this month as shoppers start to feel richer and more upbeat about economic prospects.

Restaurants have been shunted out of Hong Kong's IFC Mall in a bid to attract jewellers and luxury brands that are prepared to pay higher rent.

Indonesians seek household bargains to fund mobile phone habits

23 February 2011

Indonesian consumers continue to bargain-hunt when it comes to household essentials as they try to divert cash to pay for lifestyle items such as mobile phones and motorcycles, a Nielsen survey has shown.

Singapore to expand Fashion Exchange this May

23 February 2011

Singapore's Asia Fashion Exchange will include more designers and more fashion labels this year, as well as a longer run.

Seven & I to close Sogo department store in Tokyo

23 February 2011

Japanese retail giant Seven & I Holdings Co said Wednesday that it will close its loss-making Sogo department store in Hachioji, western Tokyo, next January.

David Jones sales dip 2.7%

23 February 2011

Australia's David Jones saw its sales fall 2.7% during its latest quarter, its CEO said Wednesday, adding that he is surprised consumers are not spending as they should.

Kathmandu head office, stores hit by New Zealand earthquake

23 February 2011

The devastating earthquake centred around New Zealand's Christchurch has hit outdoor equipment retailer Kathmandu Holdings' head office and three stores in the city. However, it said the impact on trading overall will not be significant, and no injuries were reported.

Bossini revenue rises 12% but profits plunge, says Asia consumer confidence growing

23 February 2011

Hong Kong-based retail giant Bossini International Holdings Ltd saw its revenue rise 12% in its latest six months, although operating profit plunged, it said Tuesday.

News in Brief:

23 February 2011