



Sustainability of the Textile Fashion Industry Chain: Crop to Shop

28-29 Nov. 2008, New Delhi, India
Pearl Academy of Fashion, Delhi / Northern India Section of the Textile Institute
(NISTI)

Keynote Presentation

Walking the Sustainability Catwalk,

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ABSTRACT:

The clothing industry is a high value sector, globally worth over \$1 trillion, employing approximately 26 million people and supporting a significant number of economies and individual incomes around the world. This economic success story also has a significant environmental and social footprint across its global lifecycle – with rising consumption being a key factor in this.

The UK Dept of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is co-ordinating the development of a new type of initiative – the Sustainable Clothing Roadmap. The roadmap aims to improve the sustainability of clothing across its life cycle and supply chain (from raw materials through consumption to end of life) building on existing initiatives already underway. The roadmap is a collaborative process, requiring the active involvement of stakeholders, with a strong action focus. To date over 250 stakeholder organisations along the supply chain of UK consumed clothing have

participated in the roadmap to include clothing retailers, fibre/fabric/garment manufacturers, suppliers, clothing reuse and recycling organisations, charities, industry associations, government, NGOs, practitioners, academia and support organisations. While the focus has started with UK based organisations, due to the fact that 90% of UK consumed clothing is imported, it is strongly recognised that many of the most significant impacts occur overseas. Hence wider international linkages through stakeholder organisations are taking place to include with India. A range of actions are moving forward under the roadmap. These include two demonstration projects focusing on Sustainable Design and Eco-efficiency respectively across Indian / UK clothing supply chains which are to run from 2008-2010. This presentation will describe the roadmap, progress to date and the two India / UK projects. Further information on the Sustainable Clothing Roadmap is at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/products/roadmaps/clothing/index.htm>

BIOGRAPHY & CONTACT DETAILS:



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Sustainable Clothing Roadmap

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/products/roadmaps/clothing/index.htm>

Dorothy Maxwell has an MSc and PhD in Environmental Science and 18 years professional experience working in the environmental / sustainability arena in industry, government and consultancy in Europe, USA and Asia. For the last 10 years, she has focused on sustainable products related projects for industry, governments in several EU Member States, the European Commission and United Nations Environment Programme working on Integrated Product Policy, Producer Responsibility, Sustainable Consumption & Production (SCP), Eco-labelling, Life Cycle Assessment, Ecodesign and Green Supply Chain Management. She is currently a Technical Director of *Global View Sustainability Services Ltd.* providing SCP supports to government and industry. In this context she is a Technical Advisor to Defra on several SCP projects including leading the UK **Sustainable Clothing Roadmap**. She previously worked as an environment specialist with international consultancies *Accenture* and *The Willis Group* and Head of the Sustainable Industry programme for the Irish government. She is a representative on several EU and UNEP environmental expert groups, has produced a range of environmental publications to include the *Guide for Developing Sustainable Products and Services in Industry* and regularly lectures on environmental topics to industry. An alumnus of *Imperial College London*, she lectures on their environment MSc on Sustainable Design.