

CityU Research Team Releases the “Vision for Fashion 2047” Report

January, 27, 2023



On 22 December 2022, an inter-disciplinary research team led by Prof. Alfred Tat-Kei HO, Head of the Department of Public and International Affairs (PIA) at City University of Hong Kong (CityU), successfully held a conference on campus and released a research report entitled “*Vision for Fashion 2047: Recommended Multi-Sectoral Actions to Establish a Fashion District in Sham Shui Po.*”

Based on interviews, policy review, data analysis, and multiple case studies, the report analyzes how the historical, cultural, human capital, and other community assets of Sham Shui Po District can be leveraged to support the future development of the textile and fashion industries in Hong Kong. The report also suggests the establishment of a fashion district in Sham Shui Po (“Fashion District” hereafter) and a number of multi-sectoral actions that can be pursued by the government, businesses, professional organizations, universities, research institutions, and community leaders to facilitate this development. [\[Links to the full report in Chinese and English are provided at the end of this press release\]](#)

Over 40 industry leaders, business pioneers, community representatives, and representatives from governmental agencies, trade associations, and public institutions, including the Sham Shui Po District Office, the Textile Council of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Textiles, the Hong Kong Design Centre, the Hong Kong Fashion Designers Association, the Fashion Farm Foundation, the Hong Kong Association of Textile Bleachers, Dyers, Printers and Finishers, the Clothing Industry Training Authority (CITA), the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), and the Our Hong Kong Foundation, to name just a few, participated in-person. Another dozen participants, including representatives from the HKTDC, attended online.

At the conference, Prof. Alfred Tat-Kei HO presented a summary of the research findings. Dr. Andrew Chi-Lok YUEN, a senior lecturer of the Department of Decision Sciences and Managerial Economics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and a research team member of the project, presented a case study of Dongdaemun Fashion

Hub in South Korea. Then conference attendees discussed the recommendations of the study and exchanged insights on the future development of the textiles and fashion industries in Hong Kong.



Prof. Alfred Tat-Kei HO (the Principal Investigator) and Dr. Andrew Chi-Lok YUEN (a research team member) presented the key findings of the study.

Out of the eight major recommendations discussed, participants were particularly interested in the proposed establishment of the Fashion District Development Corporation (FDDC), a public corporation, as the managing and executive body for the proposed Fashion District. Consensus was also reached among the participants about the need for further collaboration across the public, business, and academic sectors and with other industries, including the retail sector, entertainment, media, toys, arts and culture, marketing, and advanced manufacturing.



“Stakeholders related to textile-and-fashion industries require more cooperation despite various business goals. If we look at the larger picture of ‘Industrialization 4.0’, there would be a lot more opportunities to work together – say, to identify a few specific theme-based niche markets together by sharing business information and industrial resources to create a sort of clustering effect for Hong Kong,” said Mr. Alan CHEUNG, Founder and Managing Director of Grandion Group and a Director of the Hong Kong Design Centre.

Mr. Anthony KEUNG, President and C.E.O. of Fenix Group Holdings Limited and the Honorary Chairman of Knitwear Innovation and Design Society, shared a similar view. “The Fashion District architecture ought to be orchestrated under and along a wider scope of Hong Kong’s uniqueness of being an East-meets-West centre for international cultural exchange. We are serving not merely the local market, but also the niche ones in the Greater Bay Area and beyond.”

Building on this idea, Mr. Benny YU, Chief Operating Officer of Hanbo Enterprises Limited and Chairman of Hong Kong Apparel Society Limited, suggested that the proposed Fashion District should leverage the cultural and ethnic diversity of Sham Shui Po District to attract more global talent and foster new creative ideas. Mr. Kevin YEUNG, Chairman of Hong Kong Fashion Designers Association, added that Hong Kong has already established leadership in certain niche markets, such as wedding dress design and wholesale trading. Based on these past successes, the proposed Fashion District might explore other possible strategic emphases to expand Hong Kong’s market reach.

On the topic related to local production, Dr. Raymond CHU, Chairman of Chemtax Industrial Co., Ltd. and Chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Textiles, pointed out that data management and personalized garment production would be crucial to the future Hong Kong textile industry. He remarked, “... our strength is on customized small-batch production. I learned that some local companies are doing well in this regard. They utilize 3D simulation software and data management systems to realize inventory control and provide tailor-made solutions to customers.”



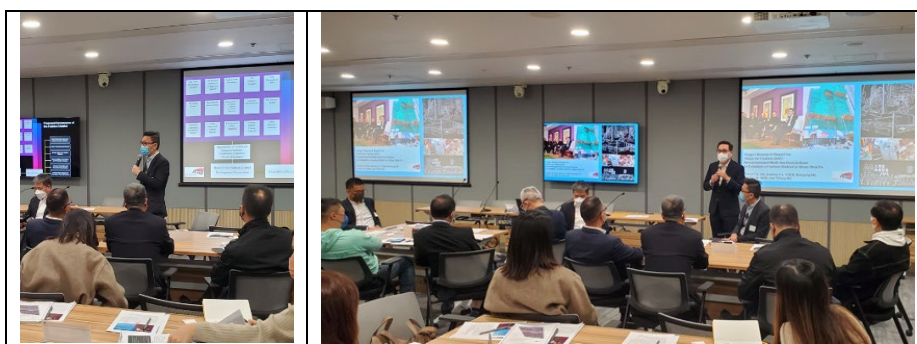
Mr. Alan CHEUNG (left, front), Dr. Raymond CHU(left, 2nd), Mr. Anthony KEUNG (upper middle), Mr. Roger CHAN (lower middle), Mr. Kevin YEUNG (upper right), and Mr. Richard CHENG provided various comments and suggestions on the future direction of the Hong Kong fashion and textile industries.

Mr. Roger CHAN has seen the same trend. As Executive Director of Cobalt Fashion (Hong Kong) Limited and a member of the Hong Kong Textile Council, he pointed out the new possibilities of personalized manufacturing and a new business/production model that could reduce inventory costs and enhance the reliability and responsiveness to the rapidly changing market trends and demand.

Conference attendees also discussed the needs of talent development in Hong Kong. Prof. Raymond AU, a former faculty member of the Institute of Textiles and Clothing at Hong Kong Polytechnic University and currently one of the Directors of Fashion Farm Foundation, highlighted the need to introduce more hands-on practical skills and experiential learning to local students and to connect academic studies with the “real

world.” Mr. Richard CHENG, Chairman of the Clothing Industry Training Authority (CITA), shared that CITA has a mission to serve this need and to equip local workers with essential technical skills. They have also organized various programs and events, such as the WorldSkills Competition, to attract local young people to join the fashion and textile industries.

The conference was concluded by Prof. Michael TSE, Associate Vice-President (Strategic Research) of City University of Hong Kong and Mr. Paul WONG, District Officer (Sham Shui Po). Prof. TSE expressed deep appreciation for the policy study and remarked that cultural development would take time and should always be human-centered and supported by multi-sectoral efforts. Mr. Paul WONG made a delightful preliminary announcement that there would be a signature event related to design and fashion in 2023 in Sham Shui Po District and expressed great enthusiasm about coordinating with different parties to help energize and re-brand Sham Shui Po District.



Mr. Paul WONG (left) and Prof. Michael TSE (right) provided some concluding remarks for the conference.

The report-release conference received wide attention as well as positive feedback from the guests and different sectoral representatives. Special thanks should be given to Mr. Paul WONG, District Officer (Sham Shui Po); Mr. Bosco LAW, Deputy Chairman and C.E.O. of LAWSGROUP and one of the Vice Chairmen of Textile Council of Hong Kong; Dr. Henry TAN, C.E.O. of Luen Thai Group Ltd. and the President of Textile Council of Hong Kong; and Dr. Joseph WONG, Executive Director of Hong Kong Design Centre, for their advice and assistance for the conference. The research team is also grateful for the strong support and helpful inputs from Hon Sunny TAN, various members of the Research Committee of Textile Council of Hong Kong, the leadership of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Textiles, the Hong Kong Apparel Society, the Fashion Farm Foundation, and different local companies and stakeholders of Sham Shui Po District during the research process.



To access the full report, please visit the following links:

<p>https://www.cityu.edu.hk/pia/doc/news/20221222_CityU_FashionDistrictStudy-Full-Report.pdf (English)</p>	<p>QR code (English):</p> 
<p>https://www.cityu.edu.hk/pia/doc/news/20221222_CityU_FashionDistrictStudy-Full-Report_Chi.pdf (Chinese)</p>	<p>QR code (Chinese):</p> 

This report is part of an on-going research project that helps formulate a viable strategic action plan for the Hong Kong textile-and-fashion industries and Sham Shui Po District development. If you are interested in knowing more about the project and joining our next conference, tentatively scheduled to happen in June, 2023, please contact us via the following survey link:

<p>https://cityuhk.questionpro.com/visionforfashion2047</p>	<p>Survey QR code:</p> 
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If you have any questions or comments related to this press release, please contact Ms. Tiffany NG of City University of Hong Kong by email at tiffany.ng@cityu.edu.hk or by phone at 3442 8915.