

TaFF Launches Sustainability Programme to Redefine Fashion

TaFF aims to galvanise the fashion industry to be more environmentally friendly by developing capabilities and toolkits for the industry.

Singapore, 30 November 2021 - The Textile and Fashion Federation (TaFF) launched its fashion sustainability programme today. Minister of State, Low Yen Ling, Ministry of Trade and Industry, attended as the guest-of-honour.

This follows the roll-out of the Enterprise Sustainability Programme (ESP) by Enterprise Singapore on 1 October 2021, which supports enterprises in their sustainability initiatives and helps them capture new opportunities in the green economy.

The fashion sustainability programme aims to complement the work of ESP. As part of the programme, TaFF will develop toolkits for enterprises to adopt, introduce talent capability development programs and will work with the industry to identify common pain points and possible solutions to explore and capitalise on opportunities in the green economy. It will also work with communities to build awareness and capabilities in sustainability.

This is a timely program as in Singapore alone, fashion and textile products account for 137,000 tonnes of waste of which merely 4% is being recycled.¹

“Fashion is more than just apparels and accessories as technology is more than just notebooks and cell phones. We need to redefine the scope of the fashion industry to include its entire value chain. As such, TaFF will work towards building vibrant ecosystems for sustainability that span across the broad upstream and downstream value chain, from materials, manufacturing, and brands to technology and innovative solutions,” said Mr. Wilson Teo, President, TaFF.

As the strategic partner of the programme, RGE Pte Ltd has committed to S\$2.75 million funding to support sustainability initiatives over three years. Mr. Tey Wei Lin, President, RGE, said, “We are glad to be TaFF’s strategic partner for this programme to promote public awareness and industry collaboration towards sustainable fashion in Singapore and the region. Choice of materials that are natural, biodegradable, responsibly produced and can be easily recycled at the end-of-use, are critical considerations for fashion to be sustainable. As the world’s largest producer of viscose fibre, we look forward to lending our expertise as an upstream textile raw material supplier in support of the programme.”

¹ Source: <https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/waste-management/waste-statistics-and-overall-recycling>

TaFF's patron, Senior Minister of State Ms. Sim Ann was also present at the launch event along with the programme's Steering Committee. The committee is represented by different stakeholders of the value chain reflecting its ambition to be more inclusive in its sustainable fashion efforts. "Our message to the industry is that sustainability in fashion is about ecosystems and collaborations. With this committee, we aim to bring about a comprehensive perspective to the direction of our programme," said Ms. Nicole van der Elst, Chairperson of the programme's Steering Committee.

During the launch, TaFF featured eight organisations that exemplify innovative sustainability brand stories, materials and technology solutions. Amongst them are TaFF's incubation program (TBFI) graduates, BHuman and Mycotech.

"Industry partnerships are pertinent to uplift capabilities of enterprises. We are very encouraged by TaFF's efforts to drive sustainability in the textile and fashion sector as trade associations and chambers play a key role in strengthening sector-specific capabilities," said Mr. Alan Yeo, Director of Retail & Design at Enterprise Singapore. "Collaborations with corporate partners such as RGE Group will also help accelerate this process. This is a good start and we hope to eventually see more companies across all sectors start to integrate sustainability alongside their growth."

Sustainability Pledge by Corporates and Individuals

Launched earlier this month, a very first initiative of the programme was the sustainability pledge. The objective of the pledge is to encourage both corporates and individuals to take a small step towards a unified effort in this programme. "At TaFF, we recognise that no single individual or organisation can solve the issues of fashion sustainability alone. Therefore, we present corporates and the consumers an opportunity to collaborate and volunteer to work together to make an impact," said, Ms. Carolyn Poon, TaFF Director for Sustainability. Since launch, nearly 500 have pledged in favour of the cause.

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About Textile and Fashion Federation (TaFF)

Textile and Fashion Federation (TaFF) is the official association for the textile and fashion industry in Singapore and plays an active role in the development of the industry. Working closely with the fashion and lifestyle community and government agencies, TaFF promotes Singapore as an innovative fashion hub in South East Asia with a focus in three key areas: Technology & Innovation, Sustainability and Asian Craftsmanship. TaFF champions programmes that build capabilities, expand Singapore's fashion and textile businesses internationally, and promote environmentally friendly business practices.

About Ministry of Trade and Industry

Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) promotes economic growth and create jobs, so as to achieve higher standards of living for all by facilitating the development of industry sectors with strong growth potential and fundamentals, protecting Singapore's international trade interests, in particular, with a view to enhance access to global markets for our goods, services and investments, and providing a good understanding of the current state of and outlook for the Singapore economy for policy formulation and refinement. These strategies are derived from Singapore's general philosophy of economic management: strong adherence to a free market economic system, and active pursuit of outward-oriented economic policies.

About Enterprise Singapore

Enterprise Singapore is the government agency championing enterprise development. We work with committed companies to build capabilities, innovate and internationalise. We also support the growth of Singapore as a hub for global trading and start-ups. As the national standards and accreditation body, we continue to build trust in Singapore's products and services through quality and standards.

About RGE

RGE (Royal Golden Eagle), based in Singapore, is a group of resource-based manufacturing companies with global operations. Through its companies Sateri in China and Asia Pacific Rayon (APR) in Indonesia, RGE is the world's largest viscose producer. Its group of cellulosic fibre companies, which are vertically integrated from renewable plantation management to yarn production, occupy critical positions in the textile value chain. Founded in 1973, RGE's purpose is to improve lives by developing resources sustainably.

Textile and Fashion Federation (Singapore)

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SUSTAINABILITY SHOWCASE:

1. **Success Stories** of existing fashion retailers/designers who are already on the path of sustainability.
 - **BHuman:** Waterless vegan skincare that uses 100% plant-based ingredients.
 - **Nyana Nyana:** Apparel and accessories made from organic batik using natural dye from plants.

2. **Innovative Materials:**
 - **RGE Pte Ltd:** Fully integrated viscose rayon manufacturer in Asia producing natural and biodegradable viscose rayon used in textile and personal hygiene products.
 - **PEFC.:** How sustainable fashion management can help fashion industry reduce its carbon footprint.
 - **MYCOTECH:** A display of high-performance and sustainable material produced from Mycelium technology.
 - **NEXTEVO:** Turning pineapple waste into sustainable textiles for sneakers and denim-ready fibres.

3. **Fashtech:**
 - **Browzwear:** Fashion design software that removes productivity barriers, speeds up time to market and enhances sustainability.

4. **Capability Development (Sustainable Skills):**
 - **Job Tech Pte Ltd.:** AI-powered skills / job discovery and visualisation proof-of-concept to understand fashion sustainability and skills requirement.

FASHION SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE

Role in Committee	Name	Company	Value Chain
Chairperson	Nicole van der Elst Founder	VDE Consultancy	Services
Vice Chairperson	Bey Soo Kiang Vice Chairman	RGE Pte Ltd	Fibre producer
Committee Member	Sharon Lim CEO and Co-Founder	Browzwear	Fashtech
Committee Member	Chloe Tan Regional Leader for SE Asia ANZ Sustainability and Business Communication	Dupont	Water solutions
Committee Member	Liu Tingzhi Head of Design	Love Bonito	Designer & retailer (Singapore)
Committee Member	Makarand Kulkarni CEO	Polygenta Technologies Limited (India)	Recycled yarn from PET
Committee Member	Boutaina Faruq Director of Business Development	Q Collection Pte Ltd	Manufacturing
Committee Member	Raena Lim COO & Co-Founder	Style Theory	Recommerce