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## **First Integral Conversation Held in Guilin**

*Experts and leaders explore the future of sustainable development in China*

In an effort to promote sustainable development in one of the world's fastest-growing economies, Esquel Group hosted the inaugural Integral Conversation in Guilin, China, on November 18, 2014, an event that was attended by approximately 40 experts and 300 participants. Attendees gathered to discuss sustainability and explore a new sustainable development model for China, with topics including manufacturing, urban planning, architectural design, supply chain management, product and technology innovation, culture, eco-tourism, and how the new generation views sustainability.

In her welcome remarks, the Chairman of Esquel Group, Marjorie Yang, said, 'I believe every generation has a duty to future generations. That's what sustainable development is about. And sustainability can only be achieved through concerted efforts in the areas of environment, resources, economy and people.'

Speakers at the conference shared a wealth of insights on a number of pertinent topics. Keynote speakers Prof. Liu Mingkang, the former Chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, talked about the new requirements and trends brought by the prevalent use of the internet and smart phones, and how these developments have inspired changes in corporate management and culture. Professor Hau Lee from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business shared his perspectives on the 'renaissance of sustainable development' that is happening through the joint efforts of different organisations along the supply chain. The President of the International Textile Manufacturers Federation and China National Textile Industry and Apparel Council, Wang Tiankai, said textile enterprises should upgrade their operations through sustainability and set an example for more enterprises to pursue low-carbon production.

The Integral Conversation included six panel discussions where speakers shared their insights and perspectives on sustainability in various industries and areas:

- Zhang Yansheng, Secretary-General of the Academic Committee at the National Development and Reform Commission, moderated a discussion on sustainability practices with panelists including Yin Xudong from Novartis China, Eric Chan from CLP Power Hong Kong, Cheng Peng from Esquel Group and Frazer Mead from Marks and Spencer.



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- Oval Partnership Director Christopher Law hosted a session called ‘Sustainability and Urban Design’, where He Dongquan from Energy Foundation China, Qian Jingjing from the Natural Resources Defense Council, and renowned architects Liu Jiakun and Bryant Lu shared their insights on the challenges of urbanisation as well as topics such as smart cities and people-oriented architecture.
- Yan Yan, Vice President of the China Textile Information Center, moderated a panel on the challenges faced by fashion industry supply chain management where Michael Brennan from Novozymes, Doug Freeman from Patagonia, Tian Ye from Esquel Group and To Wai from SF Express held a lively interactive discussion.
- Professor Feng Xiaocai of East China Normal University, Professor Pei Shengji of the Kunming Institute of Botany at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, famous visual communication artist Youyishanren (Huang Binpei) and moderator Mu Zhengpeng from the Shan Shui Conservation Centre explored sustainable development from a socio-cultural perspective.
- In a panel discussion on ‘Tourism, Eco-tourism and the New Needs of the Traveller’, moderator Professor Bob McKercher from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Samantha Fanshawe from RacingThePlanet, Patricia Gallardo from Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, Ming Tan from COMO Foundation and Mark Watson from Cathay Pacific Airways spoke on the development of eco-tourism from their industries’ perspectives.
- In an example of how Integral Conversation drew talent from diverse fields and all walks of life, Malini Thadani, Head of Corporate Sustainability Asia Pacific for The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Edgar Tung, Chairman of the Youth Arch Foundation, Coco Bian from the Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management, and student representatives from Guilin universities and high schools exchanged ideas regarding sustainability across generations.

In his closing remarks, Esquel Group Vice Chairman and CEO John Cheh called on the community to preserve valuable resources for the next generation. He added that he hoped to unite participants through Integral Conversation in the effort to protect the environment, use technological innovation to create quality employment and take action to realise sustainable development. ‘Integral Conversation will be held in Guilin annually from this year onwards,’ he said. ‘We will bring more participants together in the dialogue about China’s future, create long-term value for the



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community and make a better future for our next generation.’

At the event, Xu Feng, Vice Mayor of Guilin, Chuck Gee, Dean Emeritus from Manoa School of Travel Industry Management at the University of Hawaii and renowned writer Professor Pai Hsien-yung also utilised Integral Conversation’s unique platform to discuss topics with participants from various industries and explore China’s future and sustainable development.

- Ends -

### **About Integral Conversation**

Over the past 30 years, the rapid development of the Chinese economy has created tremendous pressure on resources and the environment, presenting steeper challenges day by day. To ensure that China’s economy and industries continue to develop in a sustainable manner, Integral Conversation aims to facilitate discussions around new development methods and explore the possibilities of having a system that can complement China’s economic growth while respecting the past, people and ecology.

‘Integral’ (十如) refers to the Buddhist idea of “*ten suchnesses*” (十如是), meaning the world is one inseparable unity – that all individual units co-exist and are interdependent on one another. In order to achieve sustainability and harmony, one must balance different aspects including the environment, resources, the economy and the human factor. Through the concept of ‘integral’, Esquel is creating a development model to harmonise all these aspects, enabling continuous improvement for the communities where it operates and beyond.

Esquel acquired Guilin Yinhai in 2011 and established Guilin Esquel Textiles a year later. Esquel also plans to invest 2 billion RMB in the construction of an eco-industrial tourism complex designed to complement Guilin’s natural environment. Incorporating the concept of ‘*ten suchnesses*,’ this new property will be a showcase of a new development model for the textile industry based on ecological and human needs.

For more information, please visit [www.integral-conversation.com](http://www.integral-conversation.com).

### **About Esquel Group**

Founded in 1978, Esquel Group is one of the world's leading textile and apparel manufacturers, with state-of-the-art production facilities in mainland China, Malaysia, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, and a network of strategically located merchandising offices servicing key markets in mainland China, Japan, Europe and



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the U.S. With a workforce of 59,000, Esquel manufactures over 100 million garments annually for leading brands including Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger and Nike. It is also an acknowledged leader in innovation, environmental protection and corporate social responsibility in the apparel manufacturing industry. By incorporating five strong business principles know as e-Culture – ethics, environment, exploration, excellence and education – Esquel's goal is to contribute positively to the communities where it operates while growing a sustainable business.

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## **Integral Conversation – Event Photos**

November 18-19, 2014 • Guilin, China

Photo Captions:



Ms Marjorie Yang, Chairman of Esquel Group, delivered the welcoming remarks at the inaugural Integral Conversation.



Mr. Xu Feng, Vice Mayor of the Guilin Municipal Government, welcomed guests to Guilin for Integral Conversation and wished the event success.



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Professor Hau Lee, Chairman of the Esquel Sustainability Council, said sustainability required a consolidated effort from the organizations along the supply chain.



Mr. Wang Tiankai, President of the China National Textile and Apparel Council and President of the International Textile Manufacturers Federation, shared the latest developments in sustainability in the textile industry.





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Dean Emeritus Chuck Gee of the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Travel Industry Management shared his views on the development of sustainability in tourism.



Dr. John Cheh, Vice Chairman and CEO of Esquel Group, delivered the closing remarks.



Mr. Zhang Yansheng, Secretary-General of the National Development and Reform Commission's Academic Committee hosted the panel discussion on 'Sustainability and Industry: Current solutions and the future of industrial practices'.



Hundreds of guests and media attended the first Integral Conversation on 18 November in Guilin.





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Prominent writer Professor Pai Hsien-yung talked about the unique history and culture in Guilin.