

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Integral Conversation 2015 inspires leaders to take action for sustainability

More than 300 experts gathered in Guilin to discuss sustainable development

Hong Kong, 17 November 2015 – Creating a new culture of ecological living that unites individuals, corporations and communities is the essential next step for the sustainability movement, according to experts at this year's Integral Conversation conference in Guilin.

More than 300 experts from the public, private and academic sectors engaged in high-level discussions during the annual event, which ran from November 5 to 7, 2015, with 'Sustainability and Living' as its main theme. These experts explored how holistic approaches to such basics as clothing, food, urban living and mobility can contribute to sustainable development.

"This conference is a venue for us to share our values and ideas and inspire a more integrated and inclusive response to sustainability," said Marjorie Yang, Chairman of Esquel Group. She would bring the ideas generated by the conference to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in December and share with other enterprises on how we can contribute to a harmonious living environment.

Luo Yongdong, Vice Mayor of Guilin, underscored his support of the conference during his welcome address. He explained that sustainable development is in line with Guilin's development direction. Furthermore, he said that Esquel Group has not only invested in Guilin and contributed to its urban construction, but also provided a new platform for the exchange of insights and information in the "new normal" economic environment. This platform facilitates reform and development in Guilin, and also China as a whole.

In addition, George Yeo, Chairman of Kerry Logistics Network and former Singapore Foreign Affairs Minister, also spoke at the conference. In his keynote address, he noted that both China's government and enterprises are making environmental issues a top priority. He said that the concept of "ecological civilization" will be a core doctrine for development in China. In other words, it must become a way of life, as is being advocated in this year's Integral Conversation.

Wong How Man, Founder/President of the China Exploration & Research Society, shared his views on China's sustainable development model and discussed various topics with experts from different backgrounds in the luncheon keynote speech.

Susan Rockefeller, renowned documentary filmmaker, designer and conservationist, David Rockefeller, Jr, Chair, The Rockefeller Foundation, and Toby Usnik, Chief CSR



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Officer & International Director, Christie's, engaged in a lively debate during the Conference's welcome dinner on the evening of November 5, 2015. Their thoughtful speeches set the tone for next day's panels.

High-level dialogue

Hosted by Esquel Group, a leading global textile and apparel manufacturer, Integral Conversation 2015 provided a platform for dialogue on incorporating sustainability into daily life. It built upon the success of last year's inaugural conference, which considered how societies could balance sustainability and economic development.

With discussions centered on four basics of – clothing, food, mobility and urban living – speakers shared their thoughts on how to achieve sustainable living:

- **Hau Lee**, Professor, Stanford Graduate School of Business, and Chairman, Sustainability Council of Esquel Group, hosted the opening plenary session to discuss "Making an Impact – The Role of Institutions."

Four experts shared their perspectives and insights on sustainable development for enterprises. Speakers included **Christoph Auhagen**, Chief Brand Officer, Hugo Boss; **Tim Freshwater**, Chairman, Goldman Sachs Asia Pacific Company Limited; **Zhang Yangsheng**, Secretary-General of the National Development and Reform Commission's Academic Committee; and **Zhu Hongren**, former Chief Engineer of Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, China.

- The Clothing Panel took the theme "Sustainable fashion – does it really matter?" and was hosted by **Wang Jun**, Executive Chairman, China Fashion Forum, Vice-Secretary General, China National Garment Association (CNGA) and Chairman, Beijing SIGEN International Culture Development Co., Ltd.

Speakers discussed the ongoing sustainability revolution in the apparel industry and also provided some suggestions on how to motivate the industry to move forward. This panel included **Chen Zhihua**, President, China Dyeing and Printing Industry Association; **Jeff Elder**, Vice President, Marketing, J. G. Boswell Company; **Queenie Huang**, Managing Director of Woven Business Development, Esquel Group; and **Shaway Yeh**, Group Style Editorial Director, Modern Media.

- On the Food Panel hosted by seasoned journalist **Gu Wei**, the discussion was centered on the current state of the food supply chain and how it can be improved in the future. **Dai Jianjun**, Founder, Dragon Well Manor; **Eve Felder**, Managing Director, The Culinary Institute of America, Singapore; **Hu Xiaosong**, President and Professor, College of Food Science and Nutritional Engineering, China Agricultural University, and Director, National Food and Vegetable Processing Engineering Research Center; and **Gael Moureau**, Corporate Executive Chef, Shangri-La Hotel and Resorts joined this panel.



- The Living Panel convened to discuss “How to Maximize Social Interaction in Planning and Designing the Future City”. It was hosted by **Aric Chen**, Curator for Design and Architecture, M+, with **Benjamin Cha**, Chief Executive, Grosvenor Asia Pacific; **Ray Chen**, Founder, Ray Chen and Partners Architects; and **Yin Zhi**, Chairman and CEO, Tsinghua Holdings Human Settlement Construction Co., Ltd. and Professor, Tsinghua University. They shared their opinions on China’s current models of urban living and considered the potential for green buildings and new urban design concepts.
- **Zhang Jianyu**, Managing Director, China Program of Environmental Defense Fund, hosted the Mobility Panel with the topic “How Individuals Reduce Carbon Footprint and Rise to meet the Future Green Transportation Challenge?”

With a range of professional perspectives, the industry experts shared their views and suggested solutions of the future. The panel comprised **Stefano Ammirati**, Head of Policy & Advocacy, Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile (FIA); **Evelyn Chan**, Head of Environmental Affairs, Cathay Pacific; **Aaron Painter**, General Manager, Microsoft Business Solutions, Greater China Region; and **Scott Pendleton**, Research Fellow, Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology’s (SMART) Future Urban Mobility (FM) Autonomous Vehicle’s Group.

- **Wei Yu**, China’s former Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education, Academician of CAE and Member of National Education Adviser Committee, rounded out the plenary session with an interactive conversation with students from Guilin. Discussing “How education plays an integral role”, the two generations shared their visions on future sustainable development. Wei Yu said that young people are China’s future and every citizen needs to be able to think scientifically and adopt a scientific life attitude.



To close Integral Conversation 2015, **John Cheh**, Vice Chairman & CEO, Esquel Group, expressed heartfelt thanks to attendees and called on the community to take action to pursue sustainable development. He said that Integral Conversation welcomes everyone's continuous contribution with the goal to achieve a better future for coming generations. "If you respect nature, it will revive itself", he said. John also introduced the Jiumeiqiao Project, which provides a blueprint for harmonious living.

China's rapid economic growth and industrial development have put tremendous pressure on resources and the environment. To achieve balanced growth, China's industries must continue to change the way they operate and individuals must begin to make sustainability and environmental protection a way of life. Integral Conversation will return to Guilin in 2016 to once again spark fruitful dialogue on this vital topic.

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About Integral Conversation

The Integral Conversation conference brings together sustainability experts from a wide range of fields to explore a more holistic approach to development. The aim is to inspire enterprises, community leaders, policymakers and individuals to take action in harmony to balance all aspects of life. "Integral" refers to the Buddhist concept of "ten suchnesses" ("十如是"), meaning continuous pursuit of perfection.

The first Integral Conversation was successfully held on November 18-19, 2014 in Guilin, China, in an effort to explore the next development model for China. This year the conference aims to promote the awareness of "Sustainability and Living" – how we can incorporate sustainability into our lives so that we leave the world in better shape than today. The discussion aims to facilitate discussion around new development methods and explore the possibilities of a system that can complement China's economic advances while respecting people and the planet.

About Jiumeiqiao Project

In 2011, Esquel Group acquired the Guilin Yinhai Textile Group, which has a company history of 53 years, and established Guilin Esquel Textiles Co. Ltd. The Esquel Group is now developing its "Integral Project" in Guilin. With an investment of CNY 2 billion, the Group aims to build an industrial tourism ecological park in Guilin's beautiful natural surroundings. Incorporated with the concept of "ten suchnesses", this significant new industrial base in Guilin will demonstrate a new development model for the textile industry that is human- and ecology-oriented.

About Esquel Group

Founded in 1978, Esquel Group is a global textile and apparel manufacturer with a vertically integrated supply chain that spans from cotton to retailing. Esquel manufactures over 100 million garments annually for leading brands including Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger and Nike. Esquel employs a 57,000-strong multinational

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workforce, with manufacturing facilities in China, Malaysia, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, and merchandising offices serving markets worldwide.

Long an advocate of innovation, environmental protection and corporate social responsibility, Esquel aspires to make a difference in the textile and apparel industry and contribute to the well-being of the wider community.

For more details, please click [Integral Conversation 2015](#).

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2015 Integral Conversation – Event Photos



Marjorie Yang, Chairman of Esquel Group, sets the tone for delivers 2015 Integral Conversation in her welcoming remarks.



Luo Yongdong, Vice Mayor of Guilin welcomes guests to Guilin and Integral Conversation.

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George Yeo, Chairman, Kerry Logistics Network, and former Singapore Foreign Affairs Minister, believes that China is successfully using new technology to improve the environment.



Speakers share views on sustainable development in the opening plenary session, "Making an Impact – The Role of Institutions", hosted by Hau Lee, Professor, Stanford Graduate School of Business and Chairman, Sustainability Council of Esquel Group.

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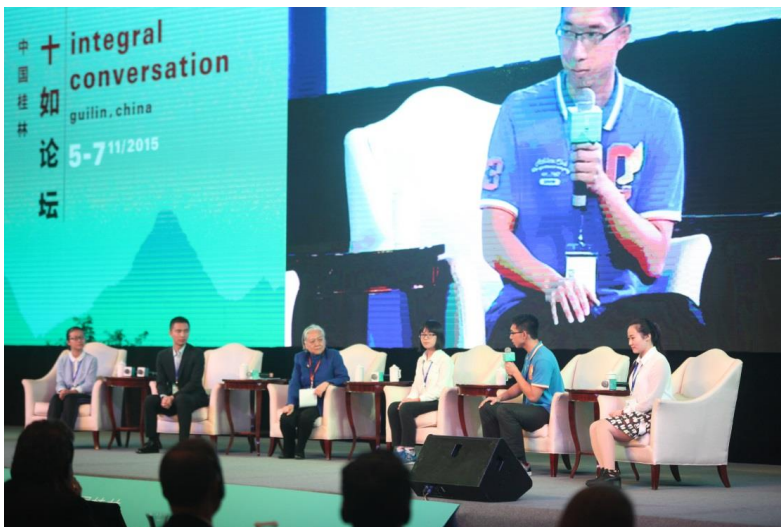
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Wong How Man, Founder/President of the China Exploration & Research Society, engaged the audience with tales of his experiences and adventures around the world.



Wei Yu, China's former Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education, Academician of CAE and Member of National Education Adviser Committee, hosts an interactive conversation with students from Guilin to close the conference.

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guilin, china
5-7¹¹/2015



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John Cheh, Vice Chairman & CEO, Esquel Group, presented the latest development of Jiumeiqiao project in the closing remarks for Integral Conversation 2015.



Susan Rockefeller, documentary filmmaker, designer and conservationist, and David Rockefeller, Jr., Chair, The Rockefeller Foundation, and Toby Usnik, Chief CSR Officer & International Director, Christie's, speak at the welcoming dinner on November 5th.

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Hosted by Esquel Group, Integral Conversation 2015 comes to a successful end with more than 300 international experts joining the event.