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**integral
conversation**

guilin, china

17-19^{11/2016}



Integral Conversation 2016

Inspires leaders to take action for sustainability

Cooperation is key to progression in an increasingly interconnected world



Over 300 international business leaders and influential scholars engaged in high-level discussions on sustainable development at the annual occasion, which ran from 17 to 19 November under the theme of “Connectivity & Sustainability”.

Experts and thought leaders came together to explore how countries and corporations across the world could congregate and tackle challenges arising from economic development in the era of globalization.

Welcome Dinner



Marjorie Yang, Chairman of Esquel Group, expressed her excitement in receiving guests from around the world, saying “Conference attendees should spend time listening to different stakeholders’ needs and sharing intelligence in building a sustainable community.”



Long Yu, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the China Philharmonic Orchestra, engaged in a lively conversation with Marjorie Yang at the Conference’s welcome dinner on the evening of November 17, 2016. They touched on subjects such as nurturing China’s younger generation and how cultivating a genuine interest in the arts is the key to unlocking the potential of our young.

Welcoming Speech



Teresa Yang, Vice Chairman of Esquel Group, delivered the welcoming remarks. Her thoughtful speech that stresses on the importance of achieving progress using a balanced approach helped set the tone for the day's panels.

Xinhong Fan , Deputy Mayor of Guilin, graced the conference with his presence. Upon addressing the audience in his welcoming speech, he highlighted his high regard of the work Esquel Group has done in all of its touch points in China, particularly that in Guilin. He appreciates that the 2016 Integral Conversation, now in its third year, has brought forth robust conversations on sustainable development, which is in line with Guilin's development agenda.



Keynote Speech

Stan Shih, Chairman of Stans Foundation and Co-founder and Honorary Chairman of Acer Group addressed the audience in his keynote speech on the morning of November 18, 2016.

As a famed entrepreneur known for his unique management models that are inspired by traditional Chinese wisdom, he urged leaders at the forum to adopt the “Wangdao” philosophy. “Contrary to western management concepts which emphasize the optimization of profits for each stakeholder, Wangdao requires players to pursue a win-win outcome,” says Shih.



Opening Panel

Harnessing the Business Sector to Shape a Long-Term Sustainability Agenda

Rose Marcario, President and CEO of Patagonia, John Slosar, Chairman of John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Limited and Swire Pacific Limited, and Geoff Yang, Founding Partner & Managing Director of Redpoint Ventures engaged in a lively discussion with panel moderator Vijay Vaitheeswaran, China Business Editor and Shanghai Bureau Chief of The Economist. The panel discussed the approaches corporations could adopt in pursuing social responsibility and achieving sustainability through aspects such as supply chain management.



Luncheon Plenary

Embedding Sustainability into the National Development Agenda

Jun Ma, Director of the Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs (IPE) and Truong Dinh Tuyen, Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister of Vietnam discussed the importance of establishing government policies and of having forward-thinking non-government organizations (NGOs) monitoring and advising the governments of developing regions.



Parallel Panel Discussions

Culture in Architecture

Clifford Pearson, Director of the University of Southern California's American Academy, China, hosted the panel on "Culture in Architecture". Speakers Li Chung Pei, Partner of Pei Partnership Architects, Calvin Tsao, Principal of Tsao & McKown Architects, Jianfei Zhu, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne, Australia, shared their perspectives on masterpieces by the legendary architect I.M. Pei and discussed how Pei has inspired them different ways. They also shared thoughts on how to fully integrate human beings and nature in order to achieve sustainability.



Healthcare

The "Healthcare" panel was hosted by Yin Xudong, Chairman of Novartis Group (China). The dynamic panel made up of York Chow, Former Secretary for Food and Health of the HKSAR, Una-May O'Reilly, Leader of the AnyScale Learning For All (ALFA) group, and Joseph Tucker, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director of UNC Project-China, discussed how to improve information transparency through sharing collaborative intelligence. The discussion explored ways to enable global healthcare organizations to forecast and control diseases through more efficient and accurate approaches.



Education

Leong Cheung, Executive Director of Charities and Community at The Hong Kong Jockey Club, hosted the “Education” panel. The interactive section focused on how the younger generation can make use of the internet and other new technologies to learn and innovate. Speakers included Harold Abelson, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT, Yuhyun Park, Founder and Chair of infollutionZERO Ahn-Sei Foundation, and Siu Cheung Kong, Professor at the Department of Mathematics and Information Technology at the Education University of Hong Kong.



Innovation

The “Innovation” panel was hosted by Xiao Lai Luo, General Manager of Woven Fabric Mill, Esquel Guangdong. The panel discussed how corporations could groom the new generation and encourage start-ups through fostering technology and innovation. Speakers included Tuan-Anh Nguyen, Country General Manager, Grab Vietnam, Ami Dror, Founder & CEO of LeapLearner, and Albert Ni.



Closing Panel

Sustainability and the Young Generation

Albert Ni hosted the closing panel “Sustainability and the Young Generation” with university students from China, Malaysia and Vietnam. They raised issues faced by the ecosystem and peoples in their own community and discussed how these problems can be remedied with collective efforts.



Closing Remarks



In his closing remarks, John Cheh, Vice Chairman & CEO, Esquel Group, shared the latest updates on the Integral Project on behalf of the Group. Located at Jiumeiqiao, Guilin, the Integral Project showcases the concept of green workplace, low carbon emissions, and energy-saving production, demonstrating Esquel's pursuit of sustainability and perfection. "To protect the environment, we have to be a game changer with respect to nature. That's why we are here," said Dr. Cheh.

Conference Dinner & Kun Opera Performance

Guests enjoyed an evening of Kun Opera performance at the Conference Dinner after a very informative day. The Jiangsu Suzhou Kun Opera Theatre performed four parts of The Peony Pavilion for our audience. This is the widely popular Youth Edition that is adapted by novelist and playwright Prof. Hsien-yung Pai.



Saturday Program

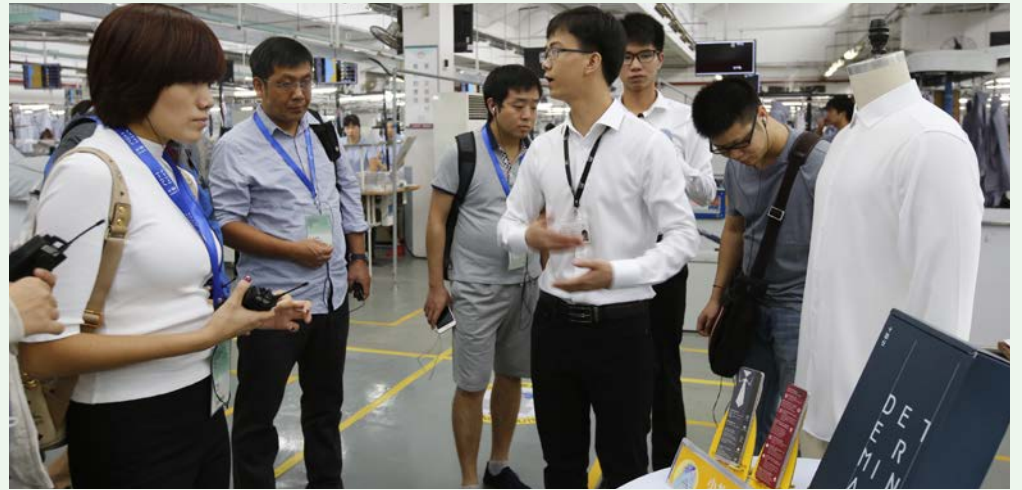
Scenic Bike Ride

Bright and early the next morning, we invited our guests on a scenic bike ride along the picturesque Lingchuan Caoping Greenway. This route sprawls along the Li River, passing through the Xiaoyao Lake Scenic Zone and Daxu Old Town, offering bike-riders with wondrous views of Guilin's breathtaking landscape and cultural artifacts.



Factory & Jiumeiqiao Walk-through

We also arranged a site visit to Esquel Guilin's spinning and garment factory and the Integral Project at Jiumeiqiao. The former showcases Esquel modern factory operations, while the latter is the site on which we are building the factory of the future where industry and ecotourism comes together as one. The Integral Project is set to become a new industry benchmark that prides itself on being a green workplace with low carbon emissions.



Health Campaign Crowdsourcing Session

Joseph Tucker, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director of UNC Project, China, hosted a crowdsourcing session on Saturday. Dr. Tucker is a physician with expertise in the area of infectious diseases. He is particularly interested in using crowdsourcing as a means to find new ways to tackle the issues patients and doctors are facing.

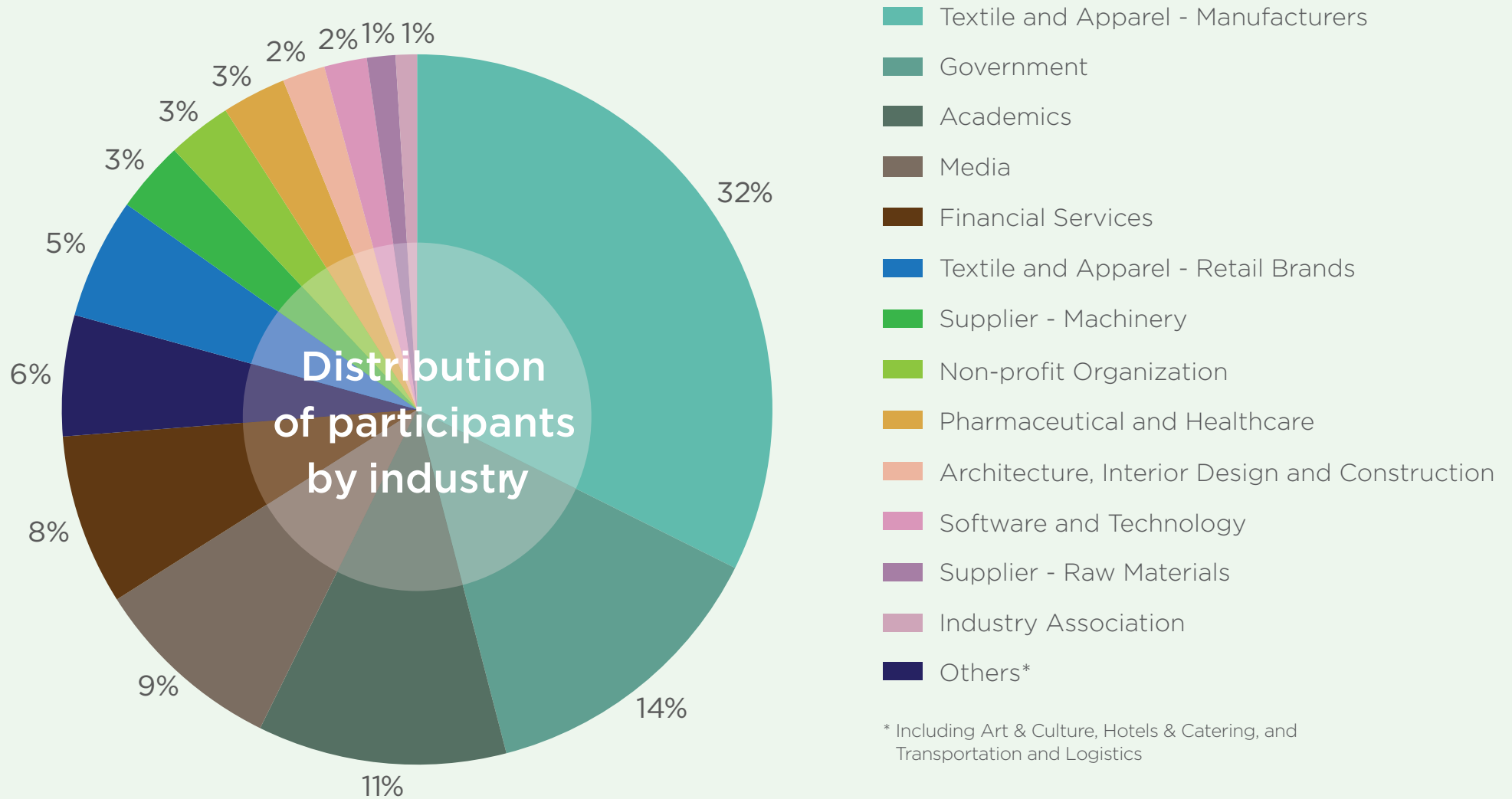


Traditional Fan Crafting

Wrapping up a very eventful three days, we went back indoors with our guests to take part in a Chinese fan-making workshop. An artisan from Guilin taught us how to make traditional Chinese fans from scratch. Also known as “Tuanshan” in Chinese, the fan is a symbolization of unity and amity.



150+ organizations and corporations attended this year's conference





Hosted by Esquel Group, the Integral Conversation 2016 came to a successful end.

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See you next year at
the Integral Conversation 2017

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