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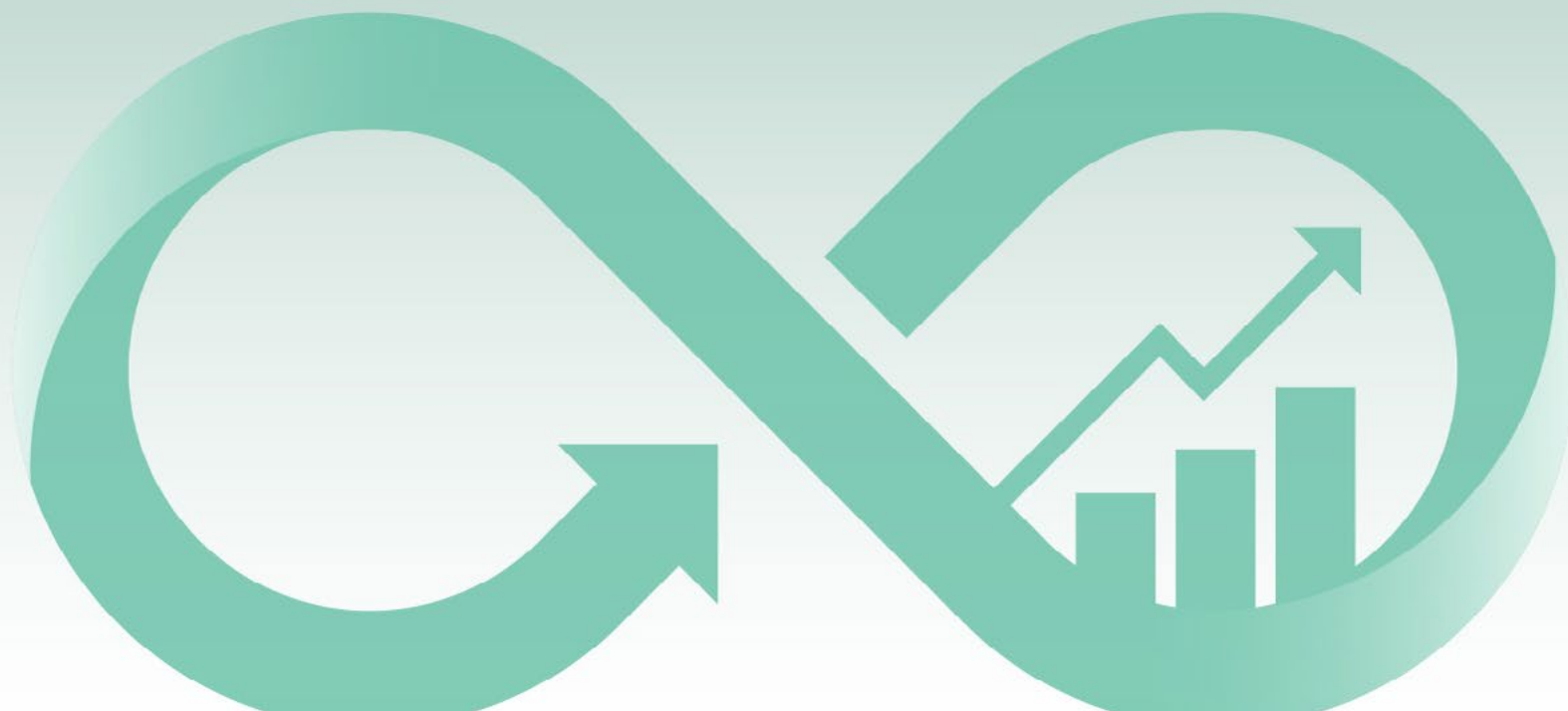
integral conversation

Guilin, China

7-9^{11/2019}



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2019 Integral Conversation

Accelerating Action for People, Planet And Prosperity



The sixth Integral Conversation was convened between November 7 and 9 under the theme of “Sustainable Development Goals: An Inflection Point – Accelerating Action For People, Planet and Prosperity”. Hundreds of prominent business leaders, scholars, policymakers and influencers took part in thought-provoking discussions to magnify the impact of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 - decent work and economic growth, and SDG 12 - responsible consumption and production.

Welcome Dinner and Fireside Chat



At the welcome dinner, Dee Poon, Managing Director of Brands and Distribution of Esquel Group, highlighted this year's conference as an especially exciting one, as Integral's manufacturing facilities have finally been open and in operation. Guilin's Executive Vice Mayor Xiaowu Zhang is one of our prominent VIP guests at the dinner.

Dee Poon



From left: Vice Chairman and CEO of Esquel Group John Cheh and Guilin's Executive Vice Mayor Xiaowu Zhang



Guymo Wong, Vice President and General Manager (RLP China) of Ronald Lu & Partners, shared the design concept and construction of Integral during the fireside chat session. He hoped that this project could serve as a role model for sustainable manufacturing.

Opening Remarks



Teresa Yang, Vice Chairman of Esquel Group, kicked off the main conference on Friday by explaining why SDG 8 and 12 were the focal points for this year's discussions. "These two goals offer the biggest opportunities for corporations to make a difference. Chasing profit should not be the only objective for enterprises. We should be held accountable to a sustainable future."

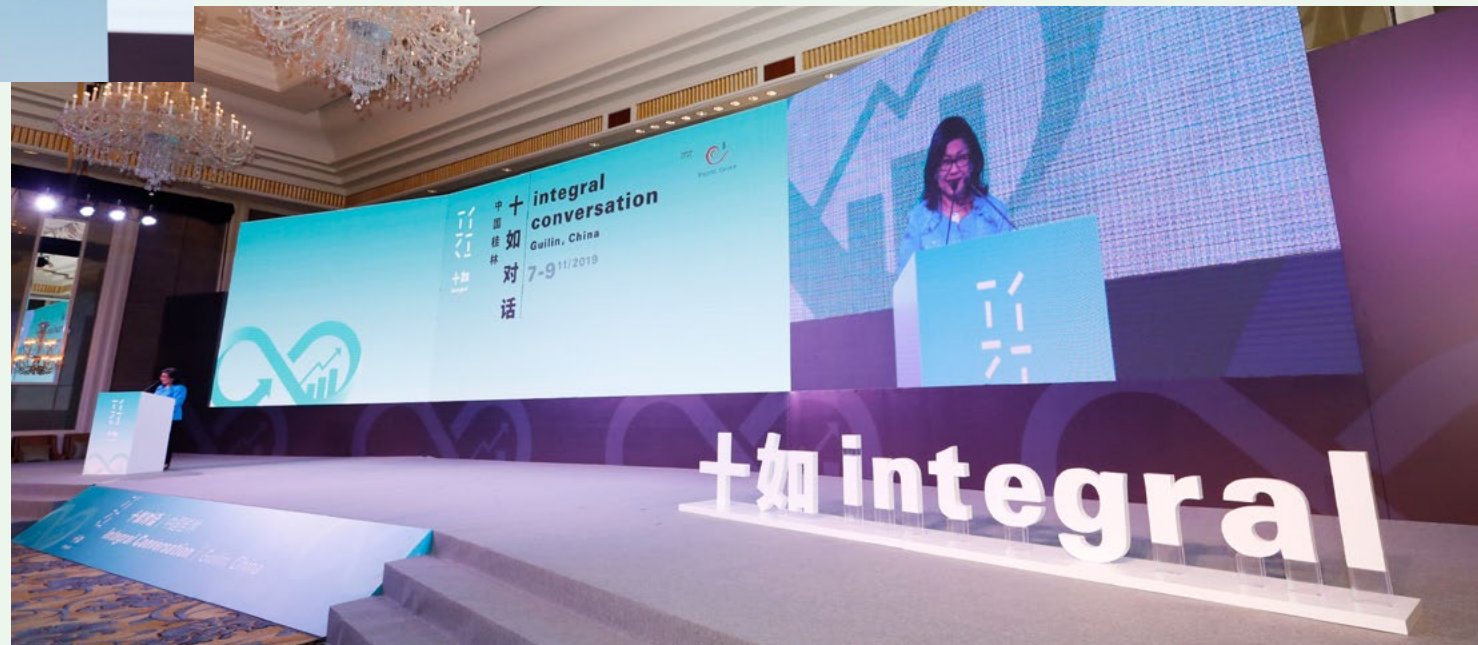


Hong Zhong, Vice Mayor of the Guilin Municipal Government, congratulated Esquel Group on another successful opening of the Integral Conversation. He said with the government's strong support for sustainability, the city is progressing steadily towards its goal of becoming a pilot city for tourism and innovation.

Opening Keynote



Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz, Former Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia, reminded us sustainability begins at an individual level, specifically in the decisions we make in our own home and way of living. “As joint custodians of this global village, sustainability is a goal for all of us. It is an all-encompassing concept that extends beyond environmental conservation to include values such as equality, inclusivity and diversity.”



Panel 1

Role of Corporations – Inclusive Economic Growth to Accelerate Impact



From left: Hans Michael Jebsen, Angela Chan, Hau Lee and Xudong Yin

Moderated by Hau Lee, Professor of the Stanford Graduate School of Business and Chairman of the Esquel Sustainability Council, this panel discussed the role of corporate leaders in pushing forward the global agenda of quality employment and inclusive economic growth.

Hans Michael Jebsen, Chairman of Jebsen Group, emphasized that sustainability is rooted in individual mindsets rather than measurable and tangible things. Angela Chan, Managing Director & President of Worldwide of CHARGEURS * PCC Fashion Technologies, a Division of Chargeurs Group, said fashion is about creating things with a purpose. Xudong Yin, President APMA Region (Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa) of Novartis Pharmaceuticals, shared with the audience Novartis' key pillars in approaching sustainability as a corporation: through the lenses of the environment and public health.



Panel 2

Sustainable Development Goals – The Way Forward

This panel was hosted by Janet Pau, Program Director of the Asia Business Council. Speakers delved into the challenges of the current SDG framework, and identified ways to achieve a better and more sustainable future.

Nannan Lundin, Counsellor and Head of Section of Science and Innovation of the Embassy of Sweden in Beijing, said a transformative innovation agenda is in place to make Sweden one of the world's first fossil-free welfare states, as well as a global leader in innovation and sustainable industry. Jianyu Zhang, Vice President of the Environmental Defense Fund, called for a new pricing mechanism in every country and corporation to stimulate human ingenuity in discovering sustainability solutions. Zhirong Hao, Head of the Division of Outreach and Cooperation of the China Center for International Knowledge on Development, gave an overview of the strategies employed by the Chinese Government in accelerating sustainable development.



From left: Nannan Lundin, Zhirong Hao, Jianyu Zhang and Janet Pau

Luncheon Keynote

Be Resilient



David Wei, Chairman & Founding Partner of Vision Knight Capital, shared his insights on the future of Chinese economy. He highlighted the changing lifestyles, mindset and consumption pattern of the millennial generation, and noted efficiency is king in an atmosphere of declining growth rates and online traffic.



Panel 3

Closing the Loop - Responsible Consumption and Production



From left: Francois Souchet, Anurag Bajpayee, Cyrus Wadia and Toby Usnik

Toby Usnik, Author of *The Caring Economy* and Founder and Principal of PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT (π), hosted the last panel which revolved around innovation and how partnerships can ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Anurag Bajpayee, Co-founder and CEO of Gradient Corporation; Cyrus Wadia, Former Nike Vice President of Sustainability and White House Assistant Director of Clean Energy; and Francois Souchet, Lead of Make Fashion Circular at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation joined the free-flowing dialog as they highlighted the importance to empower customers to vote with their dollars, the scalability of sustainable manufacturing solutions, the role technology plays in sustainability and the possibility of open knowledge exchange within industries.



Business in Action



This session unveiled Esquel's leading participation in the Initiative for Sustainable Development Actions from Businesses, a commitment signed by 16 prominent mainland and overseas enterprises at the first Sustainable Development Forum in Beijing in October this year. Together with Alibaba, China Three Gorges Corporation and Yili Group, Esquel is among the four enterprises that took the lead in this collective declaration to push forward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Business in Action



From left: Marjorie Yang and Songtao Bai

Marjorie Yang, Chairman of Esquel Group, took the opportunity to announce that Integral is now positioned as our Sustainable Development Garden. The Integral Conversation, meanwhile, will continue to flourish as a platform, where Esquel will provide updates of our work on the SDGs every year.

Songtao Bai, Deputy Party Secretary of Guilin Municipal Committee, extended appreciation to Esquel Group and Marjorie Yang's solid support for the sustainability cause.



Closing Remarks



John Cheh, Vice Chairman & CEO of Esquel Group, said the positioning of Integral as Sustainable Development Garden - a fine coincidence in initials with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), demonstrates Esquel's commitment to the sustainability cause.

"Climate change and non-inclusive growth pose a real threat to our future. But indifference is our greatest enemy. It is only with the collective efforts and commitment of governments, enterprises and individuals that we can achieve the goal of sustainable development."



Integral Visit

The day ended with a guided tour and a sumptuous dinner at Integral, where our guests gained first-hand experiences of the fruits of years of efforts by Esquel: an innovative manufacturing model that promotes quality employment as well as responsible production and consumption.



As part of the tour, our guests were guided to a special showroom at the rooftop of the Specialty Spinning Operation. With displays showcasing Esquel's sustainability efforts, information about our vertical supply chain From Seed to Shirt, and an intricately constructed traditional circular fan decorated with artwork, the exhibition offered a glimpse into both the past and the future of Esquel.

Conference Dinner



Healthy dishes and local delicacies were served during the dinner at Integral's Dining Hall. Most of the ingredients used in the dinner were locally sourced from nearby farms. The Dining Hall was designed to give Integral colleagues a holistic dining experience that combines nutrition, comfort and nature. Our guests certainly had an enjoyable and enriching evening with the soothing live jazz music!



Saturday Program

Scenic Bike Tour

Guilin is well-known for its picturesque landscapes, and it retains much of its natural beauty today. Our guests travelled like locals on our scenic bike tour this morning, soaking in the beautiful views along the Li River and visiting several rural villages. Blessed with the beautiful weather, everyone enjoyed working up a light sweat in the fresh air!





Hosted by Esquel Group, 2019 Integral Conversation came to a successful end.

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Guilin, China

See you next year
November 12-14, 2020

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