

## PRESSRELEASE

# SUSTAINABLE TEXTILE SCHOOL 2018

### Main topic: REAL CYCLING & NEW SOURCES

- **The second edition of Sustainable Textile School successfully focused on the development of a genuine recycling economy in the textile (recycling) chain.**
- **150 participants from more than 30 countries exchanged views in a total of eight different lectures, discussions and workshop formats**
- **Presentations of technologies, processes and business models**
- **Integrated student programme with 20 international students of textile subjects**
- **Winners of the second Environmental Innovation Prize are rhubarb technology - deepmello and the Chetna Organic initiative**
- **Delegation from the textile hotspot of Africa, Ethiopia, with representatives of the government, companies and associations as well as entrepreneurs from India, Vietnam, Turkey and China were also guests in Chemnitz.**

The second Sustainable Textile School welcomed around 150 participants from more than 30 countries to Chemnitz from 10 to 12 September. In the Hartmannfabrik, a total of eight different lecture and workshop formats discussed topics and approaches to solutions for sustainable technological change in the textile value-added chain.

The aim was to exchange practical information on new technologies, chemical processes and procedures based on scientifically supported facts, as well as on changes in textile business models through digitisation and innovative, networked production technologies. Sustainable Textile School experts came from all these fields. In addition to technical aspects, social and educational topics were also discussed. Speakers and experts included:



- **Heinz Zeller** (Hugo Boss)
- **Prof. José Teunissen** (London College of Fashion)
- **Dorothy Lovell** (OECD)
- **Bishop Theotonius Gomes** (Dhaka, Bangladesh)
- **Karla Magruder** (Fabrikology)
- **Anne Prah** (Sustainable Design Innovation)
- **Caroline Ledl** (Lenzing)
- **Rolf Heimann** (Hessnatur Foundation)
- **Kuo Shih Yun** (Lablaco)
- **Allison Tate** (Spoonflower)
- **Dr. Reiner Hengstmann** (go4more.global)
- **René Bethmann** (VAUDE)
- **Tom Schneider** (ISA Tantec)
- **Robert Anthoshak** (Olah Inc.)
- **Luke M. Haverhals** (Natural Fiber Welding)
- **Tobis Duke** (Tailorlux)
- **Hendrik Alpen** (H&M)
- **Dr. Thomas Schäfer** (Bluesign)
- **Paolo Foglia** (ICEA)

The complete list of speakers can be found at: [sustainable-textile-school.com/speaker](https://sustainable-textile-school.com/speaker)

### Student Programme

This year, the Sustainable Textile School's student programme was expanded. Now 20 students from 6 countries had the opportunity to talk directly with entrepreneurs, scientists and representatives of international organisations about the future of the textile industry. In addition, they were able to learn the didactic basics of building the Sustainable Textile School learning platform in a course and help to further develop the platform with their feedback on the learning environment and the content. The students had applied for this programme and had finally been selected from almost 40 applications.

## **Environmental Innovation Prize**

As part of the Sustainable Textile School, the Environmental Innovation Prizes, each worth EUR 500, were awarded once again this year. The 2018 winners are the initiative for sustainable cotton cultivation "Chetna Organic" from India and the German company "rhubarb technology GmbH - deepmello", who presented an innovative and environmentally friendly technology approach to the leather industry with their process of tanning leather with rhubarb root ingredients. The prizes were donated by the Gesamtverband textil+mode and the Gherzi Textil Organisation.

## **Guests from Ethiopia and Asia**

At the events we welcomed a delegation from Ethiopia, one of Africa's up-and-coming textile locations. Among others, representatives of the Ministry of Industry, textile associations and economic development societies were our guests. During their one-week stay in Saxony, the group of visitors also visited the Saxon Textile Research Institute (STFI) and innovative textile companies in the region. The group included guests from internationally renowned textile companies from India, Vietnam, Turkey and China.

## **Background**

Dozens of conferences, including in the textile industry, reaffirm the need and will for sustainable development. The level of knowledge is high: one of the world's dirtiest industries must not remain as it is today. We need new solutions for a sustainable textile industry embedded in a regenerative system!

The question is: How do we get this will on the machine, in the processes, in every single design, in every stage of the value chain?

One solution is: through good training and further education. The Sustainable Textile School offers the right platform to bring together a community of solution-oriented and collectively thinking people and to create new ways of education for the textile industry.

A group of experienced professionals from the textile industry, the Chemnitz University of Technology, supported by a university network from Great Britain, Scandinavia, Central Europe, Asia and the United States, is organising the annual conference with the help of the economic development agencies of Chemnitz and Saxony, as well as setting up and expanding an online learning platform.

In the medium term, an internationally recognised Master's degree is also to be offered via the online learning platform. The next Sustainable Textile School will take place on 9 and 10 September 2019 in Zurich and then commute every two years between Chemnitz and a European and later worldwide conference location. Individual STS classrooms at international trade fairs and conferences are also planned.

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