



Press Release

For Immediate Release

2020 Integral Conversation

Transform and Thrive: exploring the roadmap for a greener economy

Hong Kong, November 16, 2020 – On November 13, visionary leaders in business and academia exchanged a variety of insights and learnings at this year’s virtual 2020 Integral Conversation. Under the theme “Transform and Thrive”, the conference sought to explore how governments, corporations and individuals can lay the foundation for a greener economy that is anchored in solutions geared towards public wellbeing.

Teresa Yang, Vice Chairman of Esquel Group, kicked off the conference with her opening remarks. Yang highlighted that even though the pandemic has cast a shadow over global socio-economic development, many businesses strived to stay resilient and seek opportunities to transform themselves in the crisis. Yang said, “No matter how technologies advance, humans will always be a part of nature. Only when we take wisely and use sensibly, can we create a sustainable future.”

Following Yang’s opening remarks, Peng Daiyuan, Executive Deputy Mayor of Guilin, China, gave his warm remarks in a video, recognizing Esquel’s commitment to sustainable development and continuous efforts to become an industry leader in environmental protection.

Inez Fung, Professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of California, Berkeley, delivered the Keynote Speech on climate change, in which she dissected the challenges brought by global temperature rise and encouraged us to engage in innovative and transformative solutions. To bend the curve of global warming, she said we must focus on improving energy efficiency, mitigating waste, sourcing alternative energy, and developing geoengineering.

The conference explored pressing topics in the realms of the role of corporation, environment, and health with a series of panel discussions joined by leading experts.

- The panel **“Redefining corporate purpose in the new normal”**, moderated by Hau Lee, Professor at Stanford Graduate School of Business and Chairman of Sustainability Council of Esquel Group, sparked a thought-provoking discussion on transforming corporates’ value creation model to solve social challenges through their business. Jan Craps, Co-Chair & Chief Executive Officer of Budweiser APAC and President of APAC AB InBev spoke about the company’s different approaches to ensuring employee safety and wellbeing during the pandemic. William Fung Kwok-lun, Deputy Chairman of the Fung Group stated that businesses should strive for a more diversified supply chain to cope with various uncertainties, even though it might not be the most cost-effective. Mei Yan, Senior Partner and Chair of China, Brunswick Group, believed that the strength of a corporation should be its employees, and employers needed to take a more proactive role in supporting and taking care of their people in challenging times.
- The panel **“Driving the green economy through environmental action”** delved into the immediate climate actions we need to help us achieve the SDGs and thrive in a post-pandemic green economy. Moderated by Norman Tien, Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Institutional Advancement) and Taikoo Professor of Engineering and Chair Professor of Microsystems Technology, The University of Hong Kong, this panel shed light on what businesses and individuals could do across the value chain to help mitigate the effects of climate change. James Bishop, Professor of Marine Science at the University of California, Berkeley and Faculty Senior Scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory provided an in-depth analysis of developing ocean-based climate solution with effective and predictable results. John S. Wadsworth, Jr., Honorary Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia projected that carbon emission could be driven to zero by 2050 with the help of sustainable energy and energy-saving endeavors. Alasdair Morrison, Former Group Managing Director of Jardine Matheson

Group, and former Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia talked about his project of rebuilding a previously demolished rainforest in Emerald Valley, Australia and bringing extinct species back to the region.

- Moderated by Yin Xudong, President of Novartis Group (China) and President APMA Region (Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa), Novartis Pharmaceuticals, the panel **“Re-prioritizing good health and wellbeing”** revolved around an informative exchange among leading health experts on the key learnings from this health crisis and effective measures to prevent the emergence of future pandemics. York Chow Yat-ngok, former Secretary for Food and Health of HKSAR and former Chairperson of Equal Opportunities Commission, Hong Kong projected that unless World Health Organization (WHO) gave Hong Kong priority status, it might be mid-2021 before vaccines for COVID-19 become accessible to the general public in Hong Kong. Fock Kwong Ming, Emeritus Consultant of SingHealth and Clinical Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of National University of Singapore talked about the recent vaccine development and key COVID-19 learnings from Singapore's public health sector. Joseph Tucker, Associate Professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine believed that apart from government efforts, different stakeholders in society must work together to resolve the vaccine supply problem.

As a special segment of the conference, a virtual tour of Integral, Esquel's Sustainable Development Garden, gave the speakers and guests an exciting glimpse into Esquel's latest development in sustainability, modern manufacturing, quality employment, and innovation.

In the closing remarks, Dee Poon, Managing Director of Brands and Distribution of Esquel Group, commented the ethos of the conference “Transform and Thrive” has provided a viable roadmap for building a sustainable socio-economic model post-pandemic. Looking to the future, she called on both individuals and businesses to restore a harmonious relationship with the environment, redefine our purpose to society, and turn challenges into opportunities to thrive.



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About Integral Conversation

Integral Conversation aims to establish an independent platform bringing together experts from a wide range of fields to explore a more holistic approach to sustainable development. The dialog takes place in Guilin, a city known for its well-preserved stunning landscape and waters. This location provides a backdrop for the meaningful dialogs while allowing us to reflect on the future of sustainable development.

First launched in 2014, Integral Conversation attracts around 300 leaders and experts every year from the public, private and academic sectors attending the annual events and discussing sustainable development in multi-facets. Past conferences explored topics including the Integral philosophy, sustainability and living, connectivity and sustainability, reimagining health, Industry 4.0, and SDGs: an inflection point – accelerating action for people, planet and prosperity.

For more details, please visit [2020 Integral Conversation](#).

About Integral

In 2011, Esquel Group acquired the Guilin Yin Hai, a textile group with a history of more than half a century and established Guilin Esquel Textiles Co. Ltd. The Group announced the Integral project in Guilin in 2012. It is positioned as a Sustainable Development Garden that envisions a pioneering development model for the future that extends beyond the textile industry. With an investment of RMB 2 billion, Integral is a combination of modern technologies, quality employment, innovation and environmental sustainability that showcase how manufacturing and nature can coexist in perfect harmony.



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Guilin, China



About Esquel Group

Established in 1978, Esquel Group is a leading textile and apparel manufacturer with a vertically-integrated supply chain from cottonseed research to retailing. With around 35,000 employees globally, Esquel has manufacturing facilities located in China, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, and merchandising offices servicing markets worldwide. We produce for the biggest names in the fashion world such as Anta, Hugo Boss, Muji and Ralph Lauren.

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

Through our retail brands PYE and DETERMINANT, we communicate our belief in sustainability and the promotion of advancement directly to the world.

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Captions:



1.

Opening:

Teresa Yang, Vice Chairman of Esquel Group, kicked off the 2020 Integral Conversation with her opening remarks.



2.

Guilin Official:

Peng Daiyuan, Executive Deputy Mayor of Guilin, gave his warm remarks in a video, expressing his appreciation to Esquel Group for hosting the annual Integral Conversation and recognizing Esquel's accomplishment in sustainability with Integral, Esquel's Sustainable Development Garden in Guilin.



3.

Keynote:

At the Keynote Speech, Inez Fung, Professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of California, Berkeley, shared her insights on the pressing challenges of climate change and pointed out the actions needed to transform and thrive.



4.

Panel 1:

Hau Lee, Professor, Stanford Graduate School of Business and Chairman, Sustainability Council of Esquel Group (top left) moderated the first panel “Redefining corporate purpose in the new normal”, with panelists Mei Yan, Senior Partner and Chair of China of Brunswick Group (top right); William Fung Kwok-lun, Deputy Chairman of Fung Group (bottom right); and Jan Craps, Co-Chair & Chief Executive Officer of Budweiser APAC and President of APAC AB InBev (bottom left).



5.

Virtual tour:

The conference's special virtual tour segment walked the participants through the passionate stories of Integral.



6.

Panel 2:

The panel "Driving the green economy through environmental action" was moderated by Norman Tien, Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Institutional Advancement), Taikoo Professor of Engineering and Chair Professor of Microsystems Technology, The University of Hong Kong (top right). The panel was joined by John S. Wadsworth, Jr., Honorary Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia and Advisory Director of Morgan Stanley (bottom right); James Bishop, Faculty Senior Scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (bottom left); and Alasdair Morrison, Former Group Managing Director of Jardine Matheson Group and former Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia (top left).



7.

Panel 3:

Yin Xudong, President of Novartis Group (China) and President APMA Region(Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa), Novartis Pharmaceuticals (top right) hosted the final panel “Re-prioritizing good health and wellbeing”, which was joined by panelists Joseph Tucker, Associate Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine (bottom right); Fock Kwong Ming, Emeritus Consultant, SingHealth (bottom left); and York Chow Yat-ngok, Former Secretary for Food and Health, HKSAR and Former Chairperson, Equal Opportunities Commission, Hong Kong (top left) .



8.

Closing:

Dee Poon, Managing Director (Brands and Distribution) of Esquel Group, delivered the closing remarks for 2020 Integral Conversation.



9.

Integral:

Set in the scenic landscape of Guilin, Integral is Esquel's Sustainable Development Garden that combines modern technologies, quality employment, innovation and environmental sustainability, reflecting the company's belief in sustainable economic development.

Please download hi-res images from the [link](#).