Crafting a Sustainable Future: Insights from the Conference on Sustainability in Textiles & Clothing

The North India Section of The Textile Institute (NISTI), in collaboration with the Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering, IIT Delhi, successfully hosted the **Conference on Sustainability in Textiles & Clothing** on 14th December 2024. This landmark event served as a vibrant hub for policymakers, industry leaders, academicians, researchers, and students to explore innovative pathways towards a sustainable future for the textile industry.

Inspiring Leadership and Thought-Provoking Discussions

The conference was inaugurated by **Ms. Roop Rashi, IA & AS, Textile Commissioner, Government of India**, whose keynote address set an inspiring tone. She emphasized the critical need for policy-driven initiatives and collaborative efforts to achieve sustainability in the textile sector. Acknowledging the organizers, Ms. Rashi praised the platform for uniting thought leaders, industry pioneers, and young innovators to tackle the pressing challenges of sustainable practices.

The event was further enriched by special addresses from the esteemed Guests of Honour:

- **Prof. R. Alagirusamy**, Head of the Department of Textile and Fibre Engineering, IIT Delhi, highlighted academia's role in driving sustainable technological advancements.
- **Mr. Anil Jain**, Chairman of Jain Cord Industries Pvt Ltd., shared practical insights on industry innovation and resource-efficient practices.
- **Mr. RK Vij**, General Secretary of the Polyester Textile Apparel Industry Association, stressed the importance of cross-industry collaborations in achieving sustainability goals.

Fostering Collaboration Between Academia and Industry

In his welcome address, **Dr. RA Lal, Chairman of NISTI**, underscored the significance of academia-industry partnerships in transitioning towards a sustainable and circular textile ecosystem. The event exemplified the power of collaborative efforts in addressing critical issues.

Showcasing Innovation: Poster Presentations and Exhibitions

A highlight of the conference was the **poster presentation session**, where 20 students from colleges across India showcased groundbreaking research on sustainability and innovation. Their creativity, technical expertise, and futuristic ideas were widely commended by attendees. Winners were celebrated for their innovative solutions, inspiring continued pursuit of excellence.

Innovative designs and eco-friendly products were also on display, featuring contributions from **Covation Biomaterials LLC** and students of the **JS Institute of Design**. Covation Biomaterials demonstrated cutting-edge biomaterial solutions, while the students showcased sustainable textile designs, reflecting ingenuity and commitment to sustainable fashion.

Honoring Visionary Leaders

The conference celebrated the lifetime achievements of stalwarts who have significantly contributed to advancing textile research and education:

- **Prof. VK Kothari**
- **Dr. Sailen Chaudhury**
- **Prof. Vinod Shanbhag**
- **Mr. Vijay Bhalla**
- **Dr. Kuldip Sharma**

These visionary leaders were felicitated for their relentless dedication, serving as an inspiration for future generations.

Recognizing Contributions and Support

Special facilitation was extended to industry sponsors and individual contributors, whose support was instrumental in the event's success. Sponsors included:

- Grasim Industries and Birla Cellulose
- RSWM Limited
- Covation Biomaterials LLC
- Anubha Polyweaves Pvt. Ltd.
- Zydex Industries Pvt. Ltd.
- Jain Cord Industries Pvt Ltd
- Trident Group
- Intagartek
- Polyester Textile Apparel Industry Association
- JS Institute of Design

The dedicated efforts of the organizing team and volunteers were also recognized and lauded for ensuring the seamless execution of the conference.

Driving Towards Actionable Outcomes

The conference proceedings were summarized by **Dr. Abhijit Mazumdar**, who emphasized actionable outcomes and sustained collaboration among stakeholders to advance sustainable practices. The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks by **Dr. Vijay Yadav, Hon. Secretary, NISTI**, acknowledging the collective contributions of all participants and encouraging ongoing engagement with NISTI to drive innovation and sustainability.

Conclusion: A Platform for Progress

The **Conference on Sustainability in Textiles & Clothing** provided an invaluable platform for knowledge sharing, showcasing innovations, and fostering collaborations. The event concluded with a networking session over high tea, paving the way for future partnerships and collaborative efforts to shape a greener, more sustainable future for the textile industry.

Inauguration of the Conference: A Milestone Moment!



Celebrating Success: Winners of the Poster Presentation Competition



Engaging and Thought-Provoking Discussions During the Panel Session.

