



**Accelerating the  
Green Transition**

**ITMA  
SUSTAINABILITY  
FORUM**

30 October 2025  
Peridot Room 201-202  
Singapore Expo

**Register Now**



# Accelerating the Green Transition: Preparing for the EU Textile Strategy 2030

Sustainability is now a global priority. With the EU Green Deal and the Textile Strategy 2030 approaching, textile and garment manufacturers must accelerate efforts to modernise production and adopt circular practices, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Digital Product Passport and eco-design requirements.

To support the industry, CEMATEX presents a half-day forum alongside, ITMA ASIA + CITME, Singapore 2025. The forum will explore how upcoming EU policies will impact the textile and fashion industry, and what companies must do to stay competitive in a circular economy.

## Programme

- 8.30am Registration & Welcome
- 9.15am Introduction by Master of Ceremony
- 9.20am Welcome by Local Programme Partner  
Ms Sharon Lim | President, Singapore Fashion Council
- 9.25am Speech by CEMATEX President  
Mr Alex Zucchi | President, CEMATEX
- 9.30am Keynote Presentation by European Commission  
Ms Kristin Schreiber | Director, European Commission (DG GROW)

## Shaping Sustainability: Responding to EU Policy Changes

- 10.00am Presentation 1: Leveraging Sustainable Textile Technology to Future Proof the Industry  
Mr Robert Van De Kerkhof | Chief Executive Officer, ReHubs
- 10.15am Presentation 2: Transitioning to Circular Textiles: Innovation Towards Sustainable Materials  
Mr Mukesh Sharma | Senior Material and Innovation Developer, IKEA of Sweden AB
- 10.30am Presentation 3: Green Transformation of India's Textile Industry  
Shri Rohit Kansal | Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India
- 10.45am Panel Discussion
- 11.30am Networking Coffee/Tea Break

## Profit Meets Purpose: Financing Sustainability

- 11.50am Presentation 4: Towards a Circular Textile Economy: Business Benefits of Sustainable Transformation  
Dr Rene Van Berkel | Senior Circular Economy Expert, EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component
- 12.05am Presentation 5: Supporting the Greening of Asia's Textile Industry  
Ms Iris Ng | Head of Emerging Business, Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited (OCBC)
- 12.20am Presentation 6: Driving Industry Transformation with Development Funding  
Mr Michael Rattinger | Senior Climate Change Specialist, Asian Development Bank
- 12.35pm Panel Discussion
- 1.20pm Closing Remarks

## Keynote Speaker



### Ms Kristin Schreiber

Director  
European Commission (DG GROW)

Kristin Schreiber leads the European Commission's work on chemicals, food, retail and health within DG GROW. She plays a key role in shaping EU sustainability and industrial policy, and has held senior positions in SME policy, international affairs and employment. She holds degrees in international relations, economics and European law, and serves on the boards of several EU sustainability and health initiatives.

Programme accurate as of 30 September. Subject to changes.

# Speakers, Panellists & Moderators

## Shaping Sustainability: Responding to EU Policy Changes



### Speaker & Panellist

#### Mr Robert van de Kerkhof

Chief Executive Officer, ReHubs

Robert is a recognised leader in sustainability and circularity with over 25 years of experience in the fibre industry. He is the founder of PEPPER-i2 and serves as President of the Austrian Fiber Institute and a Board Member of the Global Fashion Agenda.



### Speaker & Panellist

#### Mr Mukesh Sharma

Senior Material and Innovation Developer, IKEA of Sweden AB

Mukesh is a textile engineer with a master's in business management and extensive experience in product development, sourcing, and innovation across global markets.



### Speaker & Panellist

#### Shri Rohit Kansal

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Shri Kansal leads sustainability and industrial policy in textiles, fashion and infrastructure, and heads the Ministry's ESG taskforce. With over 30 years in public service, he has held key roles in clean energy and education, and represented India at global forums including SE4ALL, IRENA, WIPO, and the Clean Energy Ministerial.



### Panellist

#### Mr Peter Decorte

Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Viva Aviv Asia Co. Ltd

Peter has over 30 years of experience in Asia's textile and apparel industry, including roles at FILA, Adidas and Puma shaped his conviction that conventional production methods pose long-term risks.



### Moderator

#### Ms Nicole van der Elst Desai

Founder & Principal Consultant, VDE Consultancy

A leader in sustainable fashion, Nicole chairs the Singapore Fashion Council's Sustainability Committee and mentors at Fashion for Good.

## Profit Meets Purpose: Financing Sustainability



### Speaker & Panellist

#### Dr Rene Van Berkel

Senior Circular Economy Expert, EU SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component

Rene has over 35 years of experience in resource efficiency and clean technology innovation. He has held leadership roles at UNIDO, Curtin University and the University of Amsterdam.



### Speaker & Panellist

#### Ms Iris Ng

Head of Emerging Business, Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited (OCBC)

Iris focuses on digital-first SME solutions and drives sustainable finance initiatives supporting SMEs in their green transition.



### Speaker & Panellist

#### Mr Michael Rattinger

Senior Climate Change Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Based in Bangkok, Michael works on private sector development within the Asian Development Bank's Southeast Asia Department.



### Panellist

#### Mr Phil Morle

Partner, Main Sequence Ventures

Main Sequence is founded by Australia's national science agency, CSIRO. He invests in deep tech start-ups with strong research ties, including sustainable fashion innovators like Ulloo, Samsara Eco and Xefco.



### Moderator

#### Mr Brandon Courban

Senior Advisor, Climate, Openspace Ventures

Brandon is a climate-focused private equity advisor with 25 years of experience in the Asia-Pacific region. He advises Actis and Muzinich & Co., and serves on the board of EB Impact.

## Forum Details

### Why Participate

Be a part of a global community focused on sharing and discussing the latest ideas and solutions for achieving a sustainable industry.

The forum will enable participants to:

- Share experiences and best practices
- Connect with peers to exchange insights that can spark future collaborations
- Connect with peers to discuss common challenges and solutions
- Build new contacts and partnerships across the value chain

The forum is open to ITMA ASIA + CITME, Singapore 2025 exhibitors and registered visitors.

### Registration Fee

S\$35 (includes 2 coffee/tea breaks. GST included)

Join the discussions. Sign up now!

*"The textile industry has a critical role to play to protect the planet. As Europe takes a lead to regulate the industry, all stakeholders have to ensure that we are ready to journey towards a circular economy. The forum will facilitate engaging discussions and exchange of ideas as the industry urgently accelerate its transition to a greener future."*

*Mr Alex Zucchi, President, CEMATEX*

### Grow Your Business Sustainably With Advanced Technologies



### ITMA ASIA + CITME, Singapore 2025 28 - 31 October 2025 | Singapore Expo

As the leading textile technology exhibition driving regional growth, ITMA ASIA + CITME, Singapore 2025 will feature over 800 exhibitors from 30 countries.

Visitors can source cutting-edge textile and garment technologies across 19 product sectors and experience live machinery demonstrations, providing a unique opportunity to see technologies under one roof.

For more information, visit [www.itmaasiasingapore.com](http://www.itmaasiasingapore.com).

Presenter



Organiser



Programme Partner

Singapore  
Fashion  
Council

Held Alongside



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