

ZDHC forms alliance of resources with three organisations



Pic: ZDHC

The [Sustainable Apparel Coalition \(SAC\)](#), ZDHC Foundation, Textile Exchange and Apparel Impact Institute, have announced new partnerships in order to accelerate impact and drive new efficiencies for the industry. Based on core competencies and complementary efforts, the organisations are forming an alliance of resources and offerings for global value chain.

“Covid has been a very negative backdrop to so much industry news and it’s true that it has accelerated our views on the potential for transformational partnerships, but together we’ve been contemplating deeper integrations for years. The timing finally seems right,” [Amina Razvi, SAC’s executive director](#), said in a press release.

The four organisations have documented their efforts with letters of intent clarifying their roles and commitments to cooperation in the following four areas: programmes and tools - the organisations will seek to connect complementary frameworks (like the Higg Facility Environmental Module and ZDHC’s Roadmap to Zero Programme, and the Higg Brand and Retailer Module and TE’s Corporate Fiber and Materials Benchmark), coordinate subject matter governance in the relevant content areas, and engage the industry together much more efficiently; impact management and funding - the organisations will seek to consolidate their efforts to benchmark impact improvements in key areas, prioritise the projects and programmes that will most accelerate impact for the value chain, directly partner in strategic fundraising in support of these efforts, and collaborate to create an annual report of results; global implementation - the organisations will seek to defragment efforts and establish global implementation as a shared industry resource, by co-investing in infrastructure, training, education, and regional access; and administration and infrastructure –

No.315 Sep, 2020

the organisations will seek a substantial decrease in resource expenditure on operational matters by engaging in shared services and creating economies of scale with external service providers.

“Credit is due to the efforts through the years advocating for more effective partnerships, such as the recent work of the Fashion Conveners,” James Schaffer, managing partner, of Schaffer&Combs, the strategy consultancy designing the agreements and facilitating the endeavour, said in a press release. “These four organisations are showing a lot of courage and service to the industry today, building on the professional relationships and trust they’ve developed. The vision of a much more effective ecosystem of impact is closer to reality. We’re very excited to keep pushing and deliver on the promise of these Letters of Intent.”

“Our ultimate objective is to increase efficiency near term to accelerate our collective impact,” Frank Michel, executive director of ZDHC said. “There are some very exciting points of complementarity possible, and I think we have the right initial organisations at the table to do that.”

“Ultimately, we see this alliance as an open resource for the industry’s sustainability initiatives, a platform for long-term, efficient industry engagement.

Covid is a wake-up call. We have to continually innovate to preserve our work as a core industry investment,” Lewis Perkins, president of Apparel Impact Institute, said in the release.

The organisations have also highlighted their commitment to resolve persistent barriers between areas of impact and tiers of the supply chain.

“For so long, the mainstream conversation has underemphasised the role of fibre production and textile manufacturing, not to mention what happens at the farm-level itself. We’re excited about what these new partnerships can mean for the industry driving holistic and scalable solutions,” [La Rhea Pepper, managing director of Textile Exchange](#), said.

The organisations expect to release more detail about their collective efforts before year-end and will announce engagement opportunities for the industry and other stakeholders in the weeks to come.

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No.315 Sep, 2020