

Seminar Summary

Moving the needle #9

Water efficiency in the textile industry - Best practice and future directions

Asian Dialogue on Sustainability in the Textile and Garment Industry Series

July 2022



Seminar summary

Experts from leading manufacturers, sustainability organisations, and technology providers share insights on best practices, challenges, and the future of water efficiency in fashion supply chains.

Discussion topics:

- Cutting water use & recycling – Strategies for reducing water consumption and implementing closed-loop systems.
- Innovative technologies – Advanced dyeing processes, ozone treatments, and nanobubble applications.
- Brand & policy impact – How brands, government regulations, and global sustainability goals are shaping industry practices.

Speakers

Stephen Frost (Moderator)

Expert in sustainable supply chains and corporate responsibility.

Pepa Silla Casanova – Jeanologia, innovator in water-efficient textile technologies, leading sustainable denim solutions.

Nga Hoang – WWF Vietnam, water stewardship expert driving industry-wide change in water efficiency.

Dinh Tam Nguyen – Confucian Fiber Industry, leading sustainable textile manufacturing in Vietnam, focusing on water and energy efficiency.

Raffay Bin Rauf – Nishat Chunian Group, sustainability and compliance head, implementing large-scale water-saving initiatives in Pakistan.

Seminar key takeaways

- **Water efficiency is non-negotiable:** Brands, manufacturers, and policymakers are pushing for drastic reductions in water use.
- **Technology is driving change:** Innovations like nanobubble technology, ozone treatments, and closed-loop water recycling are transforming production.
- **Government regulations are tightening:** In Vietnam and beyond, water use policies are becoming stricter, requiring factories to adapt.
- **Brands set the pace:** ESG requirements from major brands push suppliers to meet higher sustainability standards.
- **Collaboration is key:** The industry needs joint efforts across brands, manufacturers, policymakers, and NGOs to drive meaningful change.

The future of water efficiency in textiles

Where we are heading:

Near-Term (1-5 Years):

- Stricter water regulations & compliance requirements.
- More brands committing to net-zero water waste goals.
- Increased funding for water-saving innovations.

Long-Term (5-10+ Years):

- Global industry standardisation for water efficiency.
- Factories achieving near 100% water recycling.
- AI & data-driven optimisation of water use.

Calls-to-action

For brands and retailers:

- Invest in water-efficient supply chains.
- Support suppliers in adopting sustainable practices.
- Set clear water efficiency goals & track performance.

For suppliers and manufacturers:

- Upgrade to water-saving technologies (e.g., closed-loop systems, ozone treatment).
- Train employees in water stewardship & efficiency.
- Engage in collective action with industry groups.

Calls-to-action

For policymakers & NGOs:

- Enforce stricter water use regulations.
- Support industry-wide adoption of sustainable water management.
- Drive investments in green textile innovation.

For consumers:

- Choose brands committed to sustainable water use.
- Support transparency in textile production.
- Advocate for responsible manufacturing.

About the Asian Dialogue Series

The “Asian Dialogues on Sustainability in the Textile and Garment Industry” series was initiated to foster collaboration and strengthen regional knowledge exchange for greater social, environmental and economic sustainability in the sector. Launched in 2015, the series aimed to cultivate regional, sector-specific dialogue and promote cooperation between actors from across the supply chain.

About Asia Garment Hub

The Asia Garment Hub is a digital one-stop shop tailored to the garment and textiles sector in Asia, viewed through a lens of Decent Work and Sustainability.

Join the AGH Circle

The AGH Circle is a dedicated discussion forum - where you can network and engage with industry professionals in discussions on decent work and environmental sustainability for free.

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