

# “Getting through the crisis together”

Asian Dialogues on Sustainability in the Textile and Garment Industry  
Webinar Series

Webinar 3:

## Business Resilience: How can factories bounce back from COVID-19?

Webinars are free to attend.  
To register, please [click here](#).

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 6 am (Houston) / 1pm (Berlin) / 6pm (Bangkok) / 7pm (Beijing) – 90 Minutes

COVID-19 has disrupted supply chains globally, resulting in reduced orders and incomes, factory closures and job losses. The implications for developing countries are enormous, potentially leading to strikes and social unrest. This webinar series sheds light on the pandemic's impact on the textile and garment industry in Asia.

The third webinar, which is jointly organized by [GIZ FABRIC](#) and [ILO's Decent Work in Garment Supply Chains Asia programme](#), will examine business resilience amidst the crisis, and what it takes for manufacturers, small and large, to survive now and thrive in the future. Three experts will share insights on what makes factories more resilient, speak about what measures they have taken to respond to COVID-19, and discuss possible steps to address the impacts the industry now faces, including partnerships, production, management systems, financing, and how to reopen factories while prioritizing worker safety.

This webinar is for all industry stakeholders and observers, particularly producers – from small and independent export factories to diversified manufacturing groups – and their respective business membership and sectoral associations. To allow more time for questions, we will keep the Q&A chat open for an additional 30 minutes after the scheduled end of the webinar.



### Dr. Raymond Robertson,

Director, [Mosbacher Institute for Trade, Economics, and Public Policy, Texas A&M University](#)

Dr. Raymond Robertson is Professor and holder of the Helen and Roy Ryu Chair in Economics and Government in the Department of International Affairs at the Bush School of Government and Public Service and the Director of the Mosbacher Institute for Trade, Economics, and Public Policy in Texas. He widely published in the field of labor economics and international economics including a [discussion paper](#) using data from the ILO's Better Factories Cambodia and Better Work Global programmes, looking at factory compliance and determinants on what makes these factories resilient. He is a research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor in Bonn, Germany.



### Ms. Nicole Chu,

Director Corporate Compliance, [Sabrina Fashion Industrial Corporation](#)

As Director for Corporate Compliance at Sabrina, a Taiwan based apparel manufacturing group with factories in China and Cambodia, Nicole believes that the company's approach, mixing worker welfare and responsible relationships with buyers, is key to making sure that productivity is valued alongside workers, not in expense of them. ILO's Better Factories Cambodia has recognized this approach, inducting Sabrina's factories to be part of its 'High Performing Factories' programme. Nicole's approach sees production supervisors and union representatives working together in a social dialogue model. She also oversees nutrition, health, and hygiene programs for workers and children in rural Cambodia.



### Ms. Kim van der Weerd,

Writer, Podcaster & former garment factory general manager

Kim van der Weerd is an advocate of equal partnership in the fashion supply chain. She recently wrapped up five years of living in Cambodia where she worked first as Chief Operating Officer of Tonlé, a zero-waste manufacturing brand, and later as General Manager of [Pactics](#), a company producing primarily for the luxury eyewear industry. She is co-host of "[Manufactured](#)", a new podcast about sustainability and the making of fashion which will be launched in June. Kim regularly publishes about her experiences managing a garment factory and advocates for more manufacturer perspectives on sustainability.