

“Getting through the crisis together”

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

Webinar 4:

Sustainability: How to stay on course during COVID-19?

The webinar is open for all industry stakeholders and free to attend. To register, please [click here](#).

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 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 fourth webinar is jointly organised by [GIZ FABRIC](#) and the [Sustainable Apparel Coalition \(SAC\)](#). Based on an introduction by SAC on findings from its recent member survey on the implications of COVID-19, our guest speaker from SAC and two representatives from manufacturers will discuss the implications for facilities, especially on ensuring worker safety. Finally, we will debate how facilities and other industry stakeholders can stay committed to sustainability during times of crisis and what it means for tools such as the Higg Index by SAC and the way it is implemented across the industry.



Ms Eranthi Premaratne, Director Facilities, [Sustainable Apparel Coalition \(SAC\)](#)

Eranthi is director facilities - Higg Index at the Sustainable Apparel Coalition. She has over 20 years work experience specialising in incorporating sustainable business practices into manufacturing. Eranthi lives in Colombo, Sri Lanka and has extensive experience and exposure to the global apparel and footwear industry formulating sustainability strategy and overseeing the implementation of same into operations. At the SAC she is engaged in improving social & labour conditions in the industry while working towards reducing the negative global environmental impacts. She currently serves as a council member of the Social & Labour Convergence Project. Eranthi is an advocate for working women and volunteers her time for women empowerment programmes.



Mr Matthew Guenther, Senior Environmental Sustainability Manager, [TAL Apparel Limited](#)

As senior environmental sustainability manager of TAL Apparel, a multi-national garment manufacturer, Matthew helps set the company's sustainability strategy and KPIs, while also overseeing the implementation of the company's environmental sustainability initiatives with a focus on decarbonising the company's operations, reducing freshwater use, and eliminating waste. Previously, he was the sustainability manager for Williams-Sonoma, a home furnishing retailer, working to incentivise the use of more sustainable raw materials, such as wood and cotton, and identifying opportunities to reduce the environmental footprint of its manufacturing base across Asia. He is an active participant within the Sustainable Apparel Coalition, working to build Higg Index tools to measure, manage, and improve the sustainability of the global textile industry. He is based in Bangkok, Thailand.



Mr Vijay N. Suvarna, Sustainability & Compliance, [Asiatan / TecTuff](#)

Vijay Suvarna has performed various roles in production before taking up the responsibility of sustainability and CSR at Asiatan & TecTuff, owing to the increased focus on sustainability from brand customers. His previous roles in production have given him technical expertise and a unique insight into the areas where sustainability via reduced facility and product environmental footprints can create additional value. A master's degree holder in actuarial science from Temple University, Philadelphia, he has always strived to implement a data-oriented process in decision making, be it in production or sales, and now in environmental and social sustainability. "Measure, assess, plan and execute through a data driven analysis" is at the core of his drive to achieve the facility's sustainability goals.