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# ► Mapping and analysis of environmental initiatives and tools in the garment sector in Asia

## Technical Webinar

Presented by: Dr Samantha Sharpe and Fiona Berry, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney

This project is funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) as part of the “Decent Work in the Garment supply chain in Asia project  
Date: Tuesday / 15<sup>th</sup> September / 2020



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## DECENT WORK IN THE GARMENT SECTOR SUPPLY CHAINS IN ASIA

OUTCOME 4: Industry stakeholders can more *effectively* apply knowledge and tools to promote environmental sustainability across the sector

Dr Cristina Martinez  
Sr Specialist Environment & Decent Work



## Project focus areas

1. **STRENGTHEN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS** through comparative data and knowledge to support effective social dialogue in the sector
2. **CLOSE GENDER GAPS** by developing knowledge, training and advocacy to address violence and harassment, promote equal pay, support maternity protection and work-family balance, and strengthen women's voice and representation in the workplace
3. **IMPROVE ENTERPRISE PRODUCTIVITY & COMPETITIVENESS** through concrete tools and insights to drive factory upgrading and improve working conditions and sustainability
4. **ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY** by strengthening (a) policy and regulatory guidance, and (b) tools and knowledge to support eco-innovation and the Just Transition
5. **IMPROVED PLATFORMS & MECHANISMS FOR REGIONAL INDUSTRY EXCHANGE & KNOWLEDGE SHARING**

Outcome 4

# Enhanced environmental sustainability

**Output 4.1**

Gaps and weaknesses in national environmental regulation identified and country level good practices developed.



**Output 4.2**

Knowledge on eco-innovation and greener production in the garment industry developed



**Output 4.3**

Industry-relevant guidance and support provided to help manufacturers understand and apply environment and decent work principles in the workplace.



**Output 4.4**

A Just Transition guidance for the garment sector developed, including analysis and options for future priorities and activities







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## ▶ Outline of webinar

- ▶ Introduction (context and method)
- ▶ Characteristics of environmental initiatives
- ▶ Comparative analysis
- ▶ Barriers to eco-innovation for SMEs
- ▶ Gaps and next steps

## ▶ Context and definitions

- ▶ **Environmental initiatives** have been introduced to address environmental and social sustainability challenges in the textile and garment sector. Many multi-stakeholder initiatives, tools and assessment platforms have been developed and implemented throughout the supply chain.
- ▶ **Why analyze environmental initiatives?** diversity in these initiatives including differences in focus, actors, beneficiaries, longevity and definitions and measures of success which creates confusion for stakeholders.
- ▶ **Why address (MSMEs and SMEs)?** They make up the majority of firms within the supply chain and where the sustainability need is greatest, important to understand their sustainability challenges, knowledge and learning needs.
- ▶ **Why compare?** highlight where there might be gaps in initiatives and what types of initiatives have alignment with SMEs needs, as a way to highlight where future attention in developing new or enhanced initiatives might lie.

## ▶ Method

- ▶ **Desktop-based identification, documentation and review of existing and planned environment advisory tools, activities and initiatives**
  - Identified 35 initiatives, shortlisted 17 initiatives
  - Comparative analysis framework
    - Form and implementation
    - Success criteria
    - Membership
  
- ▶ **Literature review of barriers and enablers to environmental sustainability**





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## ► Characteristics of textile and garment sector environmental initiatives

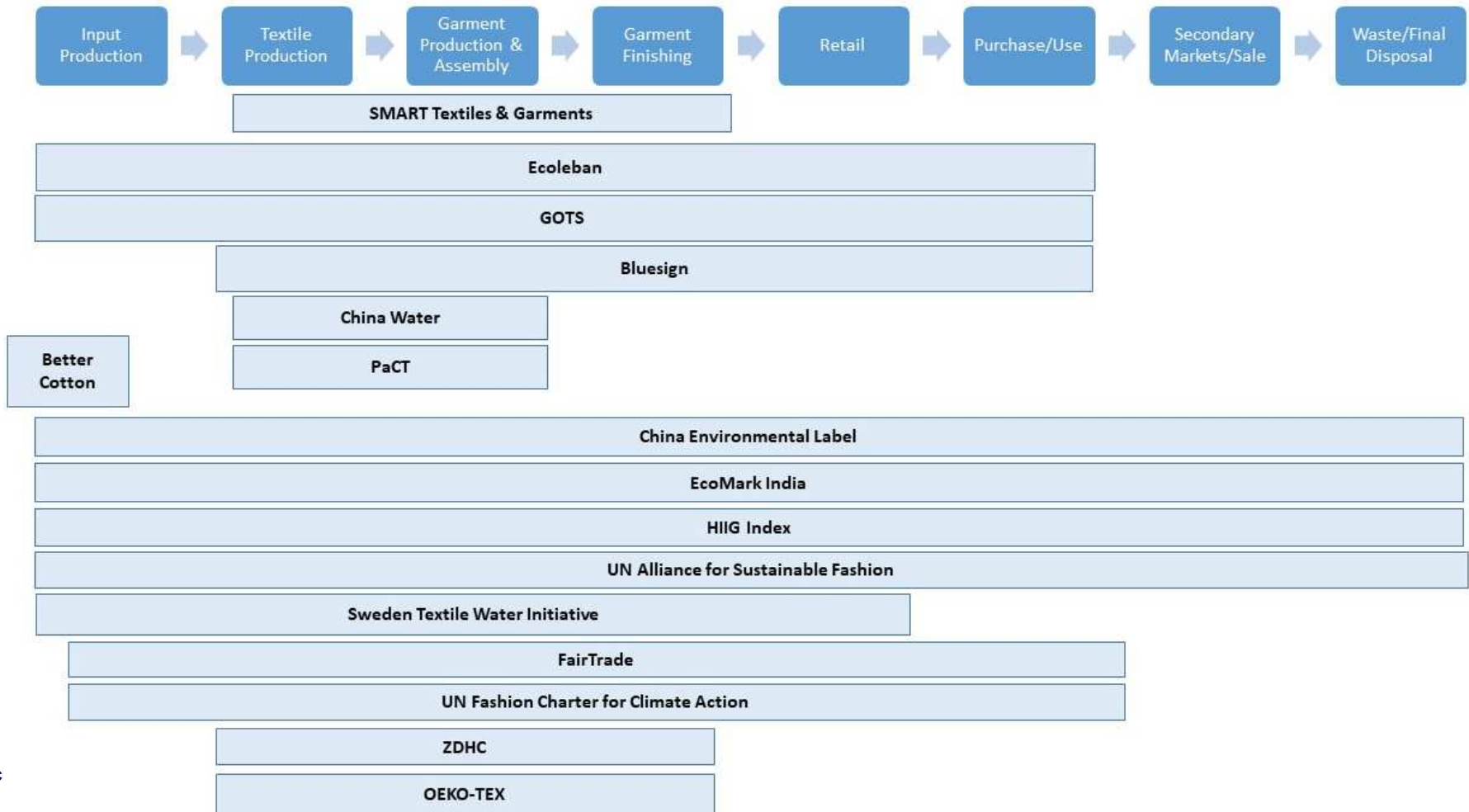
## Initiatives analysed

	Initiative Name	Brief Description
1	Partnership for Cleaner Textile (PaCT)	Cleaner production tools, guidance and support for textile sector
2	Better Cotton Standard System	Farm-level licensing standard for sustainable cotton production. Not applicable to the cotton supply chain.
3	Higg Index	Suite of tools for apparel, footwear and textile brands, retailers, and facilities to measure and score company or product
4	Fairtrade Textile standard	Standard for producing and buying Fairtrade textiles - engages producers and workers in the chain, engages brands to commit to fair terms of trade
5	China Water Advisory Services Project	One-off 3 yr project to promote water and energy efficiency as well as other resource savings in China textile mills via demonstration projects
6	Ecoleban Guidelines	Guidelines on best Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) practices for the leather sector in Bangladesh. Output of a one-off 4 yr project.
7	Bluesign	Standard for sustainable processing and manufacturing to industries and brands
8	Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)	Standard for organic fibres

## Initiatives analysed (2)

	Initiative Name	Brief Description
9	SMART Myanmar - SMART Textiles & Garments	2 yr project aimed at improving working conditions, promoting labour and environmental standards in Myanmar.
10	Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC)	Guidelines, standards, certification and training on sustainable chemical management in textile and leather manufacturing
11	OEKO-TEX® Standards	Comprehensive certification system for brands, retail companies and manufacturers from the textile chain
12	Vietnam Green Label (not current)	Product label - not yet covering textile or leather products.
13	Ecomark India	Eco-label for products, including textile & leather products
14	China Environmental Label (not current)	Eco-label for products including textiles
15	The Sweden Textile Water Initiative (STWI)	Focuses on the reduction of water use as a way of cleaning textile production.
16	UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action	Charter document containing principles to which Signatories and Supporting Organizations commit to and implement through Working Groups
17	UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion	An initiative UN agencies and organisations designed to contribute to the SDGs through coordinated action in the fashion sector.

# Supply Chain Coverage



## Geographic Coverage

International (or multiple countries): **2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17**

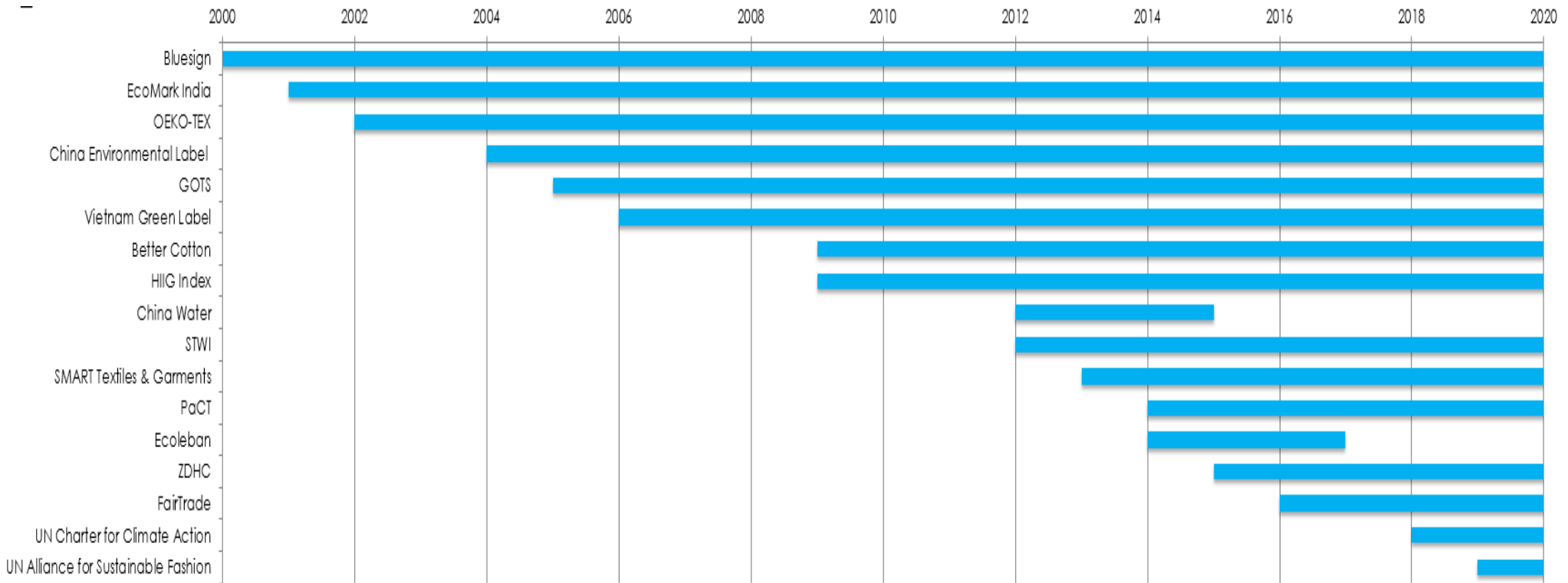


- 1 - Partnership for Cleaner Textile ([PaCT](#))
- 2 - Better Cotton Standard System
- 3 - [Higg Index](#)
- 4 - Fairtrade Textile standard
- 5 - China Water Advisory Services Project
- 6 - [Ecoleban Guidelines](#)
- 7 - [Bluesign](#)
- 8 - Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)
- 9 - SMART Textiles & Garments
- 10 - Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC)
- 11 - OEKO-TEX® Standards
- 12 - Vietnam Green Label
- 13 - [Ecomark India](#)
- 14 - China Environmental Label
- 15 - The Sweden Textile Water Initiative (STWI)
- 16 - UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action
- 17 - UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion

Initiative	No. of Organisations	No. of Countries
<b>OEKO-TEX® Standards</b>	21545 valid certificates and licenses	62
<b>Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)</b>	5760+ certified facilities	64
<b>Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC)</b>	5400	24
<b>China Environmental Label</b>	3000	1
<b>Better Cotton Standard System</b>	1400	21
<b>Bluesign</b>	600	50+
<b>Ecoleban Guidelines</b>	580	1
<b>The Sweden Textile Water Initiative</b>	277	5
<b>Higg Index</b>	212 (77 manuf, 24 svce prov, 32 ret, 79 brands)	35
<b>Partnership for Cleaner Textile (PaCT)</b>	200 textile factories	1
<b>Vietnam Green Label</b>	59 products (as of 2017)	1
<b>SMART Myanmar - SMART Textiles &amp; Garments</b>	23 factories	1
<b>China Water Advisory Services Project</b>	Unknown (estimate approximately 100)	1
<b>Fairtrade Textile standard</b>	Unknown	N/A
<b>Ecomark India</b>	Unknown	1
<b>UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action</b>	103 signatories, 32 supporting organisations	All UN countries
<b>UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion</b>	8 UN and specialised agencies	All UN countries



# Time of operation



## Funding

Initiative	Privately funded via participation, membership, license or sponsorship fees	Funding from international bodies (e.g. EU)	Private funding (income, donations)
Partnership for Cleaner Textile (PaCT)	✓		
Better Cotton Standard System	✓		✓
Higg Index	✓		
Fairtrade Textile standard	✓		✓
China Water Advisory Services Project			✓
Ecoleban Guidelines		✓	
Bluesign			✓
Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)	✓		
SMART Myanmar - SMART Textiles & Garments	✓	✓	✓
Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC)	✓		
OEKO-TEX® Standards	✓		
Vietnam Green Label	✓		
Ecomark India	✓		
China Environmental Label	✓	✓	
The Sweden Textile Water Initiative (STWI)	✓	✓	
UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action		✓	✓
UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion		✓	✓

# Sustainability elements

	Waste / Recycling	Water Use	Energy Use	Wastewater/ Water Pollution	Chemicals/ Hazardous Substances	GHG Emissions/ Air Pollution	Crop/ Soil Health	Biodiversity	Deforestation	Environmental Policy/ Management Systems	Fibre Quality	Materials
PaCT												
Better Cotton												
Higg Index												
Fairtrade Textile												
China Water												
Ecoleban Guidelines												
Bluesign												
GOTS												
SMART Myanmar												
ZDHC												
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Vietnam Green Label												
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China Env Label												
STWI												
UN Fashion CCA												
UN Sust Fashion												



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## ▶ Comparative Analysis

## Comparative Analysis - Three Operating Models

### 1. Performance Standard

- ⑩ Certification and sometimes capacity building activities
- ⑩ Ecolabelling initiatives to complex and comprehensive performance standards (guidance materials, technical capacity building and audit activities)
- ⑩ e.g. Higg, Bluesign

### 2. Programme Offer

- Time-limited programme of activities
- ⑩ Brand-level dialogue and tool/ advice development, factory audit and engagement activities, policy system analysis and advocacy, access to finance for sustainability investments
- e.g. Swedish Textile Water Initiative, PACT

### 3. Social Dialogue/ Knowledge sharing

- Knowledge sharing & advocacy focusing up and down the supply chain
- Linked with wider sustainability goals such as SDGs, strong role for multi-stakeholder dialogue
- e.g. UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion, UN Fashion Charter for Climate Action

## ▶ SMEs and barriers to environmental sustainability

- ▶ **Awareness:** lack of awareness about environmental issues and their impacts including social impacts; as well as awareness of options for eco-innovation, and how could be integrated into strategic business planning activities and contribute to productivity and competitiveness
- ▶ **Environmental regulatory compliance:** responsibilities in complying with environmental legislation, and know-how in investing beyond compliance
- ▶ **Access to knowledge, skills and networks:** seeing how best practice is implemented in other businesses and capacity to adapt and adopt
- ▶ **Access to finance:** affordable and accessible
- ▶ **Poor infrastructure:** access to water systems and waste water filtration systems



## ► Where are the gaps?

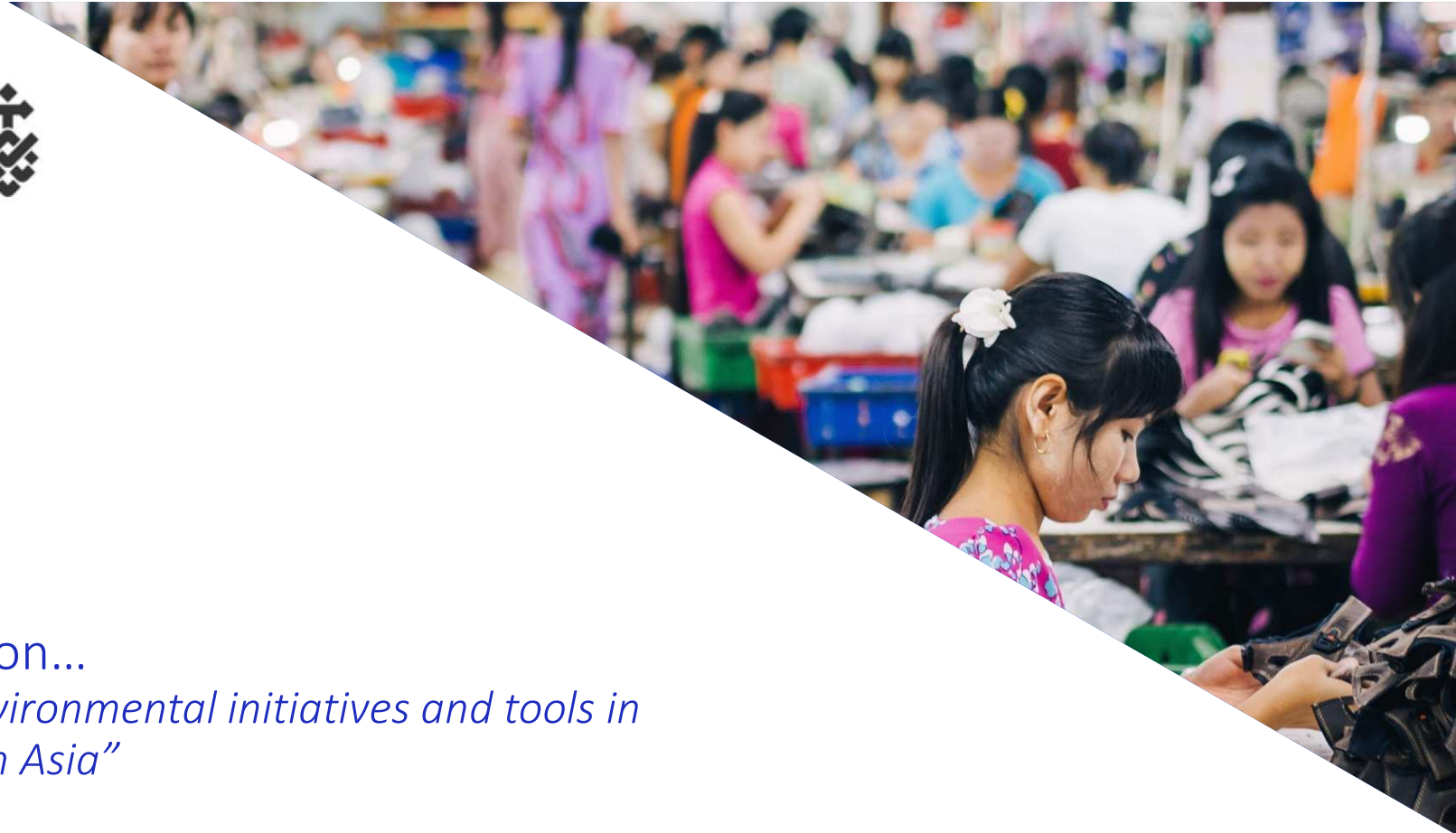
- **Performance standard model:** lack of internal absorptive capacity to bring in, integrate and use the performance standards in a way that develops the environmental sustainability of the firm
- **Programme offer model:** if SME is within the target group for the initiative they will benefit due to mix of offerings but due to resource intensity only small number of firms benefit
- **Social Dialogue, Knowledge Sharing and Advocacy model:** useful in sharing 'best practice', but limitation on who is included and considered 'best practice' (e.g. SMEs) and need for processes to address and moderate other issues of inclusive such as power imbalances and knowledge base



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▶ Thank you

Report coming soon...

*“Greener clothes: Environmental initiatives and tools in the garment sector in Asia”*

Webinar Survey: please click [here](#)