

# INNOVATE

# CARE NEW NORMAL



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# We Innovate and Care in the New Normal

This Sustainability Report 2020 ("**Sustainability Report**" or the "**Report**") is prepared in compliance with the Environmental, Social and Governance ("**ESG**") Reporting Guide set out in Appendix 27 to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "**Stock Exchange**"), as well as with reference to the Global Reporting Initiative ("**GRI**") Standards. This is the twelfth Sustainability Report for Crystal International Group Limited ("**Crystal**" or "**Crystal International**" or the "**Company**" or "**we**" or "**our**" or "**us**") (Stock code: 2232), covering Crystal's sustainability performance for the calendar year from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

We have all gone through a unique year in 2020. While we faced the unpredictability and challenges from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, our pursuit of sustainability remained unchanged. The pandemic has further highlighted to us the significance of cultivating a lasting relationship with the natural environment, how crucial it is to deal with the foreseeable climate crisis, the importance of working together to overcome adversity and to be resilient.

To echo the theme "Innovate in the New Normal, Care through Action", this Report addresses the challenges we faced during the unprecedented year and how we worked together to embrace the new normal with care and innovation. The Report summarises our performance and key achievements in 2020 in the areas of employee care, community engagement, and environmental stewardship. We illustrate how we have directed our efforts on digitalisation within our business to make advancements with our work and how we continue to make progress in the areas of diversity and inclusion, circular economy, and green building design to address social and environmental concerns that are imperative to our business.

This year, the number of our factories changed from 20 to 18 owing to operational optimisation. The reporting boundary of our Sustainability Report 2020 covers all 18 factories across five countries - Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. This Report summarises the positive steps and efforts we have made and how we will navigate the risks and opportunities in the post-COVID-19 world.

Your feedback will help us refine future sustainability plans and we welcome your valuable comments on this Report in relation to our sustainability work, standards and policies.

For any related enquiries, please contact us at sustainability@crystalgroup.com.

Catherine Chiu General Manager Corporate Quality and Sustainability



# **CEO Message**

*"Sustainability is embedded in our culture even under the new normal and we will continue to rebound sustainably."* 



#### **Embracing the New Normal**

We have experienced an exceptional year full of challenges and changes amid the pandemic in 2020, which has created headwinds for all businesses and people worldwide. As we navigate through the uncertainty of the COVID-19 crisis and the challenges of the trade war, global apparel retailers and manufacturers are experiencing a tough period. There is a strong momentum for change and the crisis has highlighted the importance of innovation and resilience in the new normal to sustain business growth.

Our industry has undergone a transformative change and there is a rapid shift in sustainability to meet the requirements of our customers and stakeholders. 2020 has seen how digitalisation has changed the way we work and has accelerated our transformation to digitalising and streamlining our operations to maintain operational excellence. In a year of travel restrictions and social distancing, technology has greatly facilitated our daily business operations and we have transitioned to using digitalisation tools in many of our product development and manufacturing processes, such as automation, virtual sampling and digital showrooms. Virtual audits have been arranged to monitor product quality, social compliance and to ensure we are running an environmentally friendly operation. These measures are in place to enhance our efficiency and transparency, and to reduce environmental footprint.

#### **Creating Social Value**

Managing health and safety risk was central to our response to the pandemic and our top priority was employee health and safety. A Crisis Management Committee was set up to ensure stringent and comprehensive anti-epidemic measures were in place in all our offices and factories. Our Innovation Team developed our own Crystal face cover for all employees and wider communities. Aside from the welfare of our employees, we continue to create a working environment that fosters trust between us and our employees and supports diversity. Throughout the year we have helped to develop the skills and talents of our employees through our online training and recruitment programmes.

In 2020, we also signed the International Labour Organization ("**ILO**")'s call to action "COVID-19: Action in the Global Garment Industry" to protect garment workers' income, health and employment.

#### **Creating Environmental Value**

We did not slow down and even stepped up the pace of environmental protection. We signed the United Nations Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action and committed to reducing 30% aggregate greenhouse gas ("**GHG**") emissions by 2030 and set up a decarbonisation pathway. To accomplish the long-term climate ambition, we have completed a study to develop a carbon reduction roadmap.

As part of achieving a more sustainable manufacturing business, we have optimised our production processes where we have developed new eco-products and adopted more renewable energy sources. Our sustainability efforts go beyond the production processes into green building design, where our lifestyle wear factory in Vietnam was awarded the international green building certification – Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies ("**EDGE**") in 2020.

Last year when the world experienced a reduction of global carbon emissions as numerous social and economic activities were suspended, that reinforced our determination to build a more sustainable and resilient future after the pandemic. To demonstrate our commitment to sustainable recovery, we signed WWF's open letter "Sustainability to be central to post-COVID recovery" to tackle the climate and nature crises.

#### **Being Resilient Together**

The innovative changes we made last year have led to the theme of our Sustainability Report this year "Innovate in the New Normal, Care through Action". We wholeheartedly appreciate the dedication of all our employees and the support from our considerate customers and stakeholders who walked with us through our sustainability journey during this challenging year, allowing us to react promptly in operation, sustain business growth, and foster recovery.

#### **Moving Forward**

Looking ahead, we will keep driving manufacturing excellence to achieve Industry 4.0, enhance our competitiveness with the adoption of lean operation, digitalisation and automation, and launch a series of innovations. We will continue to spearhead decarbonisation and circular economy over the next few years.

Selection by the World Benchmarking Alliance ("WBA") as a keystone company of the SDG2000: the most influential 2,000 companies for a sustainable future has been a validation of our efforts. We aim to scale up our strategic planning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs"). In addition, the honour of Best ESG Report and Excellence in Environmental Positive Impact Commendation awarded at the Hong Kong ESG Reporting Awards 2020 ("HERA") has greatly encouraged us to push forward ESG governance, strategies, transparency and risk management within our business.

I am pleased to share the highlights of our sustainable journey so far as well as our vision and commitment to action for the years ahead. It will be difficult to know how severe the long-term consequences of the pandemic will be, but we know that together with our employees, communities, and stakeholders, we can become more resilient and sustainable driving positive changes in our industry.

#### Andrew Lo

CEO

# **Combating COVID-19 and Embracing the New Normal**

Creating social and environmental value is imperative for sustainable resilience. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the global apparel industry, our employees have remained dedicated and determined to do their jobs. We have been concerned about how our people and the communities are coping with the new normal and their well-being. During this period, we have placed a firm focus on safeguarding employees' health, extending our care to the communities and preparing for a sustainable recovery. We supported our employees through innovation and various care initiatives, as well the wider communities worldwide that had been affected to implement and reinforce social and environmental values during a time of great uncertainty.

### **Protecting Employees and Communities**

#### **Tightening Pandemic Control Globally**

#### **Crisis Management Committee**

We set up a Crisis Management Committee, comprising the Group Executive Director, Line Presidents, the Head of Corporate Human Resources, Corporate Sustainability and Human Resources Executives of all our factories at the beginning of the pandemic to oversee the situation, closely monitor the circumstances, make strategic decisions, and formulate the required plans for taking preventive measures in the factories.

#### **Stringent Visitor Control**

To safeguard the health of our employees and visitors, the Crisis Management Committee developed visitor control guidelines to reduce the risk of virus transmission. Meetings were conducted daily to review the pandemic situation and visitor control guidelines were adjusted timely as per the local circumstances.

#### **Rigorous Precautionary Measures**

Comprehensive pandemic control measures were strictly implemented to control the epidemic situation and to prevent the spread of virus within the factories. Sufficient fabric masks were also provided to all employees to safeguard their health.

#### **Proper Personal Hygiene**





#### **All-round Protection**









#### **Social Distancing**





Distribution of meal boxes to our workers in Bangladesh with social distancing measures





#### **Comprehensive Disinfection**





#### **Distributing Masks and Anti-epidemic Supplies to Communities**

In addition to the masks distributed to employees, we have also donated face masks and anti-epidemic supplies such as hand sanitisers, digital thermometers and financial aid to wider communities and our stakeholders, including non-government organisations ("NGOs"), customers, local governments and local vulnerable groups. Leaflets giving precautionary advice were also included with the masks along with anti-epidemic supplies.





Employees and their family members received face masks from our lifestyle wear factory in Cambodia.

### Innovation

#### **Development of Crystal Face Cover**

As part of our care for our employees and to provide them with a high level of protection, we expanded the production line to produce a self-developed reusable and high-performance face cover - our own Crystal face cover under the brand name SoterTex.

The Crystal Innovation Team undertook a comprehensive research and design process over a five-month period. Substantial manpower and a tremendous amount of resources were invested into sourcing fabrics and filtration materials from different countries and running prototypes through a series of international laboratory tests and wearer trials before a final product was achieved.

As a sustainable and high-performance face cover, we made Crystal's SoterTex face cover available to other stakeholders and the public.

#### **PPE Advisory Engagement with the** International Finance Corporation ("IFC")

We also undertook a personal protective equipment ("PPE") advisory engagement with IFC, aiming to seek technical assistance and advisory services to enhance our capability and collaboration in the field of recycled fabric masks.

>300,000 Crystal face covers were distributed to employees ~250,000 Crystal face covers were donated to communities





SoterTex was named by Forbes as the stylish PPE with the power to protect.

#### **Superior Features with High Protection**

Competitive attributes of the Crystal face cover are:

- · Same standards as an ASTM F2100 Level 2 medical mask. Tested by Nelson Labs in the United States
- 98% Bacterial Filtration Efficiency ("BFE") and Particle Filtration Efficiency ("PFE")
- Ionised copper with natural anti-bacterial properties
- Water repellent
- Sustainable functional properties can be maintained for up to 60 hand washes
- 3D ergonomic design



#### We Care. We Mask Up Together

To encourage all employees to wear the Crystal face cover in their daily lives to safeguard their health and that of others, and to spread the word on the importance of wearing a mask, we launched a global campaign "We Care. We Mask Up Together", involving the distribution of our self-developed, high-performance sustainable Crystal face cover exclusively to all our employees.







- The Crystal face cover is more than an ordinary mask it signifies our genuine care for each of our employees, embodies our love of the planet, and embeds the essence of Crystal's innovation and capabilities.
- For further details on our initiatives and engagement activities by our offices and factories, please refer to the section of "Pioneering Social Responsibility" in this Report.
- Scan the QR code to watch a fascinating video about our Crystal face cover!

# Digitalisation

Digitalisation offers versatility and flexibility and enhances efficiency in today's digital era, especially when practising social distancing. Digital technologies, including virtual sampling, digital showroom, digital library, and virtual audits were extensively utilised during 2020.

#### **Digitalisation in Product Development**

We started to adopt virtual sampling in 2017, and further scaled it up in 2020. By expanding our digital capabilities, we have been digitalising our whole product development process, starting with the initial design concept through to producing the first sample. Our digital showroom provides higher transparency throughout each product design stage where fabric and material selection can be viewed, and mock ups of 3D virtual samples can be created for review just like a physical prototype.





#### **3D Virtual Sampling**

Using a shared online platform, digital sampling has allowed us to speed up the product development process time by 50%. By using 3D virtual sampling, we eliminate the need for multiple physical samples to be produced as we are able to correct design inaccuracies on the go, modify styles virtually, and allow customers to preview their product instantly using various digital platforms. In addition to offering greater versatility and flexibility, we expect to reduce 75% of physical samples being made, which also means a significant reduction in energy, water and raw material consumption.

#### Digital Showroom for a Sustainable Collection – 4Zero

Our denim division launched a digital showroom for its 4Zero sustainable collection. The digital showroom allows customers to view information about their products, including the fabric source, materials and the manufacturing processes of their pair of jeans in the 4Zero sustainable collection, offering higher transparency. Customers are also able to receive seasonal collection inspirations, market news and the latest information of our sustainable collection using this one-stop online platform anytime and anywhere.

#### **Virtual CSR and Quality Audits**

We adopted digitalisation for performing virtual CSR and quality audits in our factories. Our factory in Cambodia partnered with Better Work to conduct a pilot online CSR audit, which assessed all CSR-related aspects, including labour compliance, occupational health and safety, and fire safety.

Virtual audits were also used to assess product quality. We worked with customers to conduct virtual quality audits in our factories in Bangladesh, Vietnam and Cambodia by using electronic devices and apps. During the virtual audits, both auditors and customers were able to see the real-time production status and onsite operation, and immediately communicate with the factories.







#### WWF's LCMP Platinum Label by Virtual Verification

Our sweater factory in China renewed its Low Carbon Manufacturing Programme ("**LCMP**") Platinum Label using remote verification for the first time.



រទូនិធីសទទុលអប់រំ ច្រើតចុលដ្ឋានតាទអ៊ីនធឺណិត

BEEP: BASIC EDUCATION

#### **Cultivating Talent via Digital Channels**

#### **People Development with Online Training**

The flexibility of technology allowed us to continue to offer training through our online programmes, such as the Basic Education Equivalency Programme ("**BEEP**") and the women empowerment programme – Personal Advancement & Career Enhancement ("**P.A.C.E.**") where employees were provided with opportunities to enhance their personal skills and receive guidance on their individual career paths.

To equip our employees with specific job skills, we provided virtual training workshops, such as training on quality inspection skills for local inspectors.

#### Harvard ManageMentor Training

We also provided Harvard ManageMentor training, a popular on-demand learning and performance support resource for leadership and management skill development, to 191 members of staff in our headquarters and factories. All the topics such as career development, project management and digital intelligence were designed to help enhance trainees' management capabilities and to drive work efficiency.

P.A.C.E.

Gap Inc.

42 online courses by Harvard ManageMentor

#### **Online Talent Acquisition**

Due to the restrictions last year, our talent recruitment programme shifted from being face-to-face to online. The annual recruitment of the Associate Programme<sup>1</sup> for different divisions took place online to attract high-calibre talent globally.

# **Committing to Sustainable Recovery**

# Supporting "COVID-19: Action in the Global Garment Industry" by ILO

We understood the drastic consequences caused by the pandemic to the garment industry. To support the action "COVID-19: Action in the Global Garment Industry" initiated by the ILO, we are committed to ensuring business continuity and maintaining stable employment opportunities for global garment workers to protect their income and health.



#### Signing up to WWF's Open Letter

With the aim of rebuilding the industry more sustainably with other leading brands, companies and organisations within the apparel and fashion sector, we signed up to the Open Letter calling for "Sustainability to be central to post-COVID recovery" initiated by WWF. This calls for more effort to be placed on better incorporation of water into the business strategy, boosting climate change adaptation and improving the resilience of ecosystems.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Associate Programme is initiated by Crystal in 2012 to recruit high-calibre graduates and cultivate them to be the next generation of company leaders. The programme unlocks the candidates' leadership potential and builds their capabilities through 30 to 36 months of training and mentoring. The learning process and experiences aim to provide them with a structured career path with the ultimate goal of leading them from being associates to executives.

# **About Crystal International**

Crystal International Group Limited is a global leader in the apparel manufacturing industry. Founded in Hong Kong in 1970, the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively, the "Group") have a diversified product portfolio categorised into five product segments, namely Lifestyle wear, Denim, Intimate, Sportswear and outdoor apparel, and Sweater, with leading positions in corresponding categories. Headquartered in Hong Kong, the Group operates a multi-country manufacturing platform, with around 18 production facilities spanning five countries, namely Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

# **MISSION**

To be the most profitable company in the industry, customer choice and employee choice.

# **OUR CORPORATE VALUES**

innovation

Energise

others



Integrity

Respect

for people



Embrace



Live

quality

our customer



**Deliver bottom** line results



**Boundaryless** enterprise

# **PRODUCT TYPES**





Multi-country network of production facilities: Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka

**GLOBAL EMPLOYEES** 

Global

~70,000







**Bangladesh** 10.9%

Sustainability Report 2020

#### WORKFORCE **BY LOCATION**



0.3%

#### WORKFORCE **BY GENDER**





Female 68.3%

### **Corporate Governance**

The Board of Directors (the "**Board**") of the Company, which comprises the Company's Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chief Executive Officer (the "**CEO**"), two Executive Directors and four Independent Non-Executive Directors, has established the following four committees to oversee particular aspects of Crystal's affairs and to assist in the execution of its responsibilities.

- Audit Committee
- Corporate Development Committee
- Nomination Committee
- Remuneration Committee

The roles and responsibilities of each committee are available in Crystal's Annual Report 2020.

### **Sustainability Governance**

The Board retains overall responsibility for overseeing Crystal's sustainability strategy, policy and annual reporting. The role of the Board involves directing and overseeing sustainability initiatives to ensure their effectiveness and relevance in light of the evolving sustainability landscape.

Our Global 5-year Sustainability Targets have been set to provide a strategic direction for all factories. The sustainability performance and progress made against the goals are reported monthly to the Executive Committee ("**Execo**") members and, half yearly, to the Board for review.

To identify and control sustainability-related risks, as part of an effective risk management system, a mechanism for internal communication and a reporting model are in place to keep the Board and Execo members informed in a timely manner. All sustainability-related key risks and opportunities, which may have a potential impact on the Group, are reported to the CEO and Execo members on a half-yearly basis.

As authorised by the Board, the Corporate Quality and Sustainability ("**CQS**") Department is delegated to develop sustainability strategies and policies, implement sustainability initiatives, provide sustainability reporting and prepare the Sustainability Report. The CQS and sustainability departments in factories are responsible for executing projects, evaluating results, monitoring potential risks and reporting on performance to senior management.

Please refer to the section of "Stakeholder Engagement" for our process used to evaluate, prioritise and manage material ESG-related issues.



# **Our Sustainability Vision** and Approach

# **Our Sustainability Framework and United Nations** Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs")

Our sustainability journey started in 2007 when we set out our sustainability framework, serving as a guiding principle when planning sustainability strategies. Our framework and initiatives align with the SDGs of the United Nations ("UN") to tackle global challenges for building a sustainable future.



#### **Highlighted Initiatives**

#### Environment

- Global 5-year Sustainability Targets
- · Group-wide roadmap study for long-term carbon reduction
- UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action
- Renewable energy
- Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures ("**TCFD**")
- Circular economy
- Eco-product development
- Holistic water conservation

#### Innovation

- · Automation for operational efficiency and effectiveness Digitalisation in product development for transparency
- and better efficiency
- Industry 4.0 for manufacturing excellence

#### **Product Integrity**

- · Quality Policy and standards as a guidance for offering products and services to heighten customer satisfaction
- Quality management system throughout our business operation
- Manufacturing Excellence to enhance quality, productivity, efficiency and profitability

### SDG2000 – The Most Influential 2,000 Companies

We were selected by the World Benchmarking Alliance ("WBA") as a keystone company of the SDG2000. Its purpose is to benchmark the impact of the UN SDGs while recognising our unwavering commitment to SDGs, global influence and the capability to move towards a more sustainable future.

Over the next few years, we will scale up our strategic planning on UN SDGs to integrate them into more specific business strategies.

#### **Employee Care**

- People-oriented culture
- · Engagement activities to promote human rights and gender equality
- Pilot projects and training on diversity and inclusion, and gender equality
- Talent development
- CARE programme for women empowerment<sup>2</sup>
- · Strict pandemic control measures and monitoring

#### **Community Engagement**

- · Creating shared values with local communities
- · Employee volunteering to address the needs of different social strata
- · Enhancing collaboration for community resilience



<sup>2</sup> CARE (Crystal Advocates Respect and Engagement) programme is an employee well-being programme initiated by Crystal which consists of 5 learning and development levels which integrate different skills, including: Level 1: Factory culture, skill set, and workplace health and safety; Level 2: Physical health and financial literacy; Level 3: Communication, problem solving and decision making, time and stress management; Level 4: Crystal's ambassador to motivate others; Level 5: Development of employees with high potential to be future leaders.

# **Third Global 5-year Sustainability Targets** (2018 - 2022)

We set our First Global 5-year Environmental Targets in 2007 and started our Third Global 5-year Sustainability Targets in 2018. These targets include both environmental and social indicators. Our third set of targets is dedicated to take our sustainable apparel manufacturing to the next level.



#### Remarks

- Base year of carbon and fresh water targets: 2017
- The figures for tree planting, women empowerment and volunteering hours are cumulative figures of activity between 2018 and 2020
  The figure for women empowerment counted the number of female employees who were engaged in level 2 or above of the CARE programme

The carbon and fresh water footprints are calculated as follows:

- Carbon intensity = total carbon emissions divided by equivalent garment piece produced
- · Fresh water intensity = total fresh water consumption divided by equivalent garment piece washed

Equivalent garment piece is a common unit to express our garments produced and washed, by normalising the carbon emissions or water consumption respectively of our different product types.

Our different product types have different levels of carbon emissions and fresh water consumption. The use of equivalent garment piece for intensity calculations representatively reflects the characteristics of carbon emissions and fresh water consumption of different product types.

### **Our Progress in 2020**

#### **Environmental Achievements**

#### **Carbon and Fresh Water Intensities**

Notwithstanding the impact of pandemic, our factories kept up progress for the accomplishment of our carbon and fresh water targets. In 2020, our absolute carbon emissions reduced by 9%, and our total use of fresh water resulted in an 18% reduction against 2019 levels.

Our product carbon intensity was reduced by 12% compared with the 2017 base year, which reflected the effectiveness of the factories' energy-saving measures and the expansion of renewable energy, such as rooftop solar photovoltaic from 2018 to 2020. To continue our positive momentum, we are now focusing on the longterm carbon reduction goal - reducing 30% aggregate carbon emissions by 2030, with a holistic planning and implementation of our decarbonisation strategy. Please explore the section of "Conserving the Environment" for details of our climate actions.

We achieved a 53% reduction in fresh water intensity compared with the 2017 base year, which signifies our unremitting efforts to expand the use of water efficient equipment and recycled water over the past three years. For instance, our lifestyle wear factory in Vietnam substantially applied water efficient "E-soft" washing equipment and ozone washing, which significantly reduced fresh water consumption by over 95% and 70% respectively compared with traditional methods. Similarly, our lifestyle wear factory in China has also applied "E-soft" equipment extensively, accounting for around 90% of its washing processes.

#### **Tree Planting**

Despite the difficulties in organising tree planting activities due to COVID-19, we planted around 40,000 trees in 2020, adding up to 2.88 million trees planted in the countries where we operate since 2007. In addition, we took 2020 as an opportunity to visit our tree planting sites in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam to understand the growth conditions and post-planting care activities. For more information and the outcomes of the visits, please refer to the section of "Conserving the Environment".



#### **Our Sustainability Vision and Approach**

#### **Social Achievements**

#### **Women Empowerment**

Women empowerment continues to be of great importance to us in bridging the gender gap and helping us educate the next generation. We have already empowered over 44,000 women in our factories to date through our self-developed CARE (Crystal Advocates Respect and Engagement) programme. The CARE programme is a well-structured learning and development programme of five levels to help employees build on their skills, promote a work-life balance, strengthen their self-respect, uplift their sense of belonging and attain self-actualisation. These 44,000 female workers have been successfully engaged in level two or above of our CARE programme, which covers P.A.C.E initiated by Gap Inc. and HERproject initiated by Business for Social Responsibility ("**BSR**"), and continue to thrive in both their career and personal lives.

We are committed to providing comprehensive training to equip our employees with professional and personal skills to enable them to unleash their overall potential. To practise social distancing, we shifted some of the training online to overcome geographical and time restrictions, offering flexibility to trainers and attendees.

#### **Community Services**

Notwithstanding the pandemic, we continue to proactively give back to our communities. For example, we supported local education, visited underprivileged people and made donations to support the communities where we operate. Although we had already exceeded the target of volunteering hours in 2019, our employees continued to participate in various types of community services which aggregated to 6,700 volunteering hours in our operating countries in 2020.

For example, our lifestyle wear factory in Vietnam, located in Lai Vu Industrial Zone, supported the construction of a new teaching building in Lai Vu Secondary School in 2020. We will continue these social initiatives to support different community groups, with the objective of building mutually



Our lifestyle wear factory in Vietnam supported the construction of a new teaching building.

beneficial relationships with our stakeholders and improving the quality of life in our communities.

#### **Risks and Opportunities in Post-COVID-19 Era**

The pandemic delivered a heavy blow to economic activities worldwide and inevitably affected the sustainability progress of different industries on many levels. Sustainability is crucial in helping our industry rebound from this devastation and strengthen our operational resilience to prepare for potential challenges in the future. It is important that we grasp fundamental sustainability opportunities amid the challenges faced.

#### **Escalating Climate Action and Circularity**

As the pandemic constrained economic and social activities worldwide, a by-product was a drop in global carbon emissions. This is an opportune time to push ahead with our decarbonisation roadmap with a vision to achieve our 2030 climate goal. Apart from the effects on climate change, COVID-19 has made the benefits of a circular economy even more evident. We are actively structuring a circular economy model, which is and will be instrumental in decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental impact.

#### **Fostering Diversity and Inclusion**

The health and safety of employees is our foremost consideration as we continue to provide a safe working environment in addition to our all-round employee care programmes.

COVID-19 is impacting progress on diversity and inclusion initiatives within many businesses worldwide. During the crisis, inclusion and diversity have been essential to respond to the needs of our employees facing disproportionate challenges. To this end, we will progress diversity and inclusion initiatives to foster a creative, productive workforce.

#### **Innovating Our Future**

With the pandemic changing the practices of businesses where remote working and virtual meetings are now the norm, we see technology no longer as an option but a necessity. To make full use of new technologies to tackle challenges and innovate sustainability practices, we will accelerate digitalisation and automation within our business.

Please see further details on our initiatives and progress to date in relation to these risks and opportunities in the sections of "Pioneering Social Responsibility" and "Conserving the Environment" in this Report.





# **Stakeholder Engagement**

# "Listening to stakeholder's concerns is fundamental for business excellence."

We identify stakeholders who are impacted by our decisions, activities and/or outcomes, and then select those with whom we frequently interact to provide feedback under the reporting principles of materiality and inclusiveness. We actively engage with different stakeholder groups through various communication channels on an ongoing basis to allow a two-way communication to understand expectations, interests, requirements and needs.

To remain connected with our stakeholders during these times where in-person meetings and engagement activities were limited, we have diversified the means of communication. Instead of face-to-face meetings, we have met our stakeholders through virtual meetings and also gathered opinions from social media outlets and other online platforms.

### **Stakeholder Groups**



### **Diversified Communication Channels**



# **Global Partnerships on Sustainability**

The Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action Signatory



Better Work (by International Labour Organization and International Finance Corporation)

Manufacturer Partner



#### The Jeans Redesign Project (by Ellen MacArthur

Foundation) Participant







.....



IFC PPE Advisory Engagement (by International Finance Corporation) Partner



Sustainable Apparel Coalition Member



**Global Fashion Agenda Associate Partner** 



The Hong Kong Research Institute of Textiles and **Apparel Limited** Corporate Member



THE HONG KONG 香港 紡織及成衣研發中ル RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL

Green Council **Corporate Member** 



# **Materiality Assessment**

We engaged both internal and external stakeholders as a fundamental part of our materiality assessment to identify issues within the environment, social and the economy that are relevant to us and our stakeholders. Through the evaluation of feedback collected and survey analysis, we have built the materiality matrix, representing opinions across our internal and external stakeholders that included senior management, employees, NGOs and business partners.



- 1. Chemical management
- 2. Circular economy
- 3. Climate change and energy saving
- 4. Emissions and discharges control
- 5. Sustainable materials
- 6. Water conservation
- 7. Automation and digitalisation
- 8. Business performance
- 9. Innovation
- 10. Market presence
- 11. Operational resilience
- 12. Building safety
- 13. Career development
- 14. Community engagement
- 15. Corporate sustainability culture
- 16. Diversity and inclusion
- 17. Employee care
- 18. Ethics
- 19. Industrial relations
- 20. Occupational health and safety
- 21. Product responsibility
- 22. Social compliance
- 23. Social justice
- 24. Supply chain management
- Environmental
- Economic
- Social



#### **Material Topics**

Most material topics identified in the materiality assessment remain similar to those from last year, with the exception of circular economy, which has grown in importance.

The following topics are identified as material to our business and sustainability:

- Climate change and energy saving
- Circular economy
- Business performance
- Innovation
- Employee care

We believe that effective engagement is the key to paving the way for continuous success, in particular during post-COVID recovery. The insights will be included in our corporate strategy with the purpose of strengthening our approaches to these topics and aligning with our long-term strategic planning in sustainability.

#### **Enabling Factors Addressing Stakeholder Concerns**

In response to the identified material topics, we have determined the enabling factors to mitigate risks and drive advancement. We will continue to increase our efforts to address the concerns of our stakeholders.

Climate Change and Energy Saving

- Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action
- Renewable energy
- Corporate carbon reduction package
- Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures
- Global greening

#### **Business Performance**

- 5-year business plan
- Manufacturing excellence continuously enhancing productivity and efficiency
- Superior quality
- · Balanced scorecard



#### **Employee Care**

- Diversity and inclusion
- · People-oriented culture
- · Employee engagement and well-being
- Talent development
- Industrial relations

External stakeholders

#### **Circular Economy**



- Partnership on circularity
- Sustainable product development
- Certifications in sustainable materials

#### Innovation

- Digitalisation and automation
- Smart factory and smart warehouse
- Manufacturing excellence to achieve Industry 4.0
- Process and material innovation
- Lean production
- Roadmap for artificial intelligence





# **Pioneering Social Responsibility**

Adhering to the philosophy "Respect for People", which is also one of our corporate values, we have been continuously striving to maintain a fair, healthy, safe and happy working environment for our employees.

# **Employee Care**

#### **Our Corporate Social Responsibility ("CSR") Policy and Practices**

In order to create a fair working environment and equal opportunities for our employees, we established our Code of Conduct ("CoC"), Social Compliance Policy, and a series of standard operation procedures based on relevant local laws and regulations in the countries where we operate, which relate to various topics including but not limited to:

- Prohibition of child labour and forced labour
- Recruitment practice to avoid discrimination and promotion •
- Compensation and dismissal
- No discrimination, harassment and abuse .
- Equal opportunities, fair compensation, freedom of association and collective bargaining .
- Working hours requirements and rest periods •
- . People-oriented culture
- Women empowerment
- Other benefits and welfare

#### **Occupational Health and Safety**

To further demonstrate our concern for employees' occupational health and safety, apart from basic health and safety controls adopted in factories to comply with the relevant laws and regulations in our operating countries, our sportswear factory in Vietnam and intimate factory in China were successfully certified by IS045001:2018, "Occupational Health and Safety Management System". The certification reinforced our occupational health and safety systems. Our plan is to have more factories receive this certification in the coming years.



#### Safeguarding Employees' Health with Crystal Face Cover

The health of all employees has always been of the utmost importance to us. We distributed the self-developed Crystal face cover to all employees worldwide, to express our heartfelt appreciation to them for staying committed to their work during these unprecedented times, and to motivate employees to wear the Crystal face cover in their daily lives to protect themselves.

#### Global Campaign, Global Engagement

We successfully launched a company-wide campaign "We Care. We Mask Up Together" where we received a tremendous number of positive responses from our employees worldwide, with huge support from our offices and factories. A series of promotion and engagement activities were organised in our factories in Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, as well as in the Singapore office and our Hong Kong headquarters, among them:

- Interactive game booths
- Photo competitions and photo collage events





- Production of face cover promotional videos
- Promotion on different social media platforms

**Pioneering Social Responsibility** 

#### Huge Response to Selfie Campaign – Lucky Draw

To encourage people to wear the Crystal face cover, we launched a "Crystal face cover selfie campaign" and held a lucky draw for all our employees worldwide. The response to the campaign was overwhelming as nearly 1,000 employees joined the activity. We hope all our employees receive the care and protection provided by the Crystal face cover and are proud to wear it every day.













#### Worker's Well-being

# Corporate Worker Engagement & Well-being Survey

Worker surveys were conducted to gather a balanced and representative view of employees and to enable factories to make data-based decisions, allocate resources more effectively, and to achieve sustainable business growth. Apart from the regular worker surveys at the factory level, our Corporate HR department conducted specific worker surveys in our knits factories in Vietnam. The surveys were available in paper and electronic versions.

We received positive feedback with over 80% of workers responding that their salary was competitive in the market, and they felt trusted and respected by supervisors and management.



#### Vitamin C Supplements – Health Blessing to Employees

To improve our employees' resistance to infectious diseases, especially with the COVID-19, our intimate factory in Vietnam distributed Vitamin C tablets to all employees.



Corporate HR department conducted worker surveys in our knits factories in Vietnam.

#### Clothing Donation to Underprivileged Employees

To provide care to our underprivileged employees, our lifestyle wear factory in Vietnam collected clothing in good condition from all employees, and distributed the clothing to the employees who were in need.



#### **Pioneering Social Responsibility**

#### **Gender Equality**

As one of the UN SDGs, gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. We took steps to improve gender equality with a series of selfdeveloped initiatives and collaborations with external organisations.

#### **Diversity and Inclusion Pilot Project**

We are highly aware that having a diverse and inclusive team of people from different backgrounds and cultures supports business success. We are committed to ensuring that every employee, regardless of age, gender, language, race, marital status, religion, political affiliation, and physical or mental impairment, feels welcome, respected and proud to be a member of our Crystal family.

Our lifestyle wear factory in Vietnam collaborated with a customer to launch a pilot project on diversity and inclusion. A series of workshops were conducted with different topics related to inclusive culture such as age, race, language, gender and food which aimed to encourage the interaction of employees of different ages, levels and educational background, and to facilitate their understanding of each other.

The project built a sense of belonging, provided knowledge of diversity and equipped our employees with skills such as communication, interpersonal and leadership skills with the aim that all employees can thrive.





Our lifestyle wear factory in Vietnam encouraged the locals from mountainous areas to join our factory as employees.



#### **Anti-harassment Training**

Ensuring a working environment where all employees feel safe and respected is important to us. Our denim factories in Vietnam and Cambodia delivered a Train-the-Trainer programme on anti-sexual harassment in the workplace, which provided our supervisors with the necessary skills in how to handle sexual harassment issues and professional knowledge on preventive measures. The purpose of the programme was to train our supervisors to become trainers themselves so they can deliver knowledge on sexual harassment and training techniques to other employees. The content of the training materials was designed with reference to our Corporate Master Policy, ILO's Code of Conduct on workplace sexual harassment prevention and Anti-Harassment Guidance from Better Work.

#### Gender Equality and Returns ("GEAR") Training

GEAR, initiated by the ILO and the International Finance Corporation ("**IFC**"), is a four-month training programme that aims to train female workers to help them progress into more senior roles and contribute to increased line-level productivity. Our intimate factory in Vietnam was one of the ten factories invited by Better Work Vietnam for this training. We had five female workers and staff who participated in GEAR Vietnam together with 24 trainees from other manufacturers. The content of the programme included:

- Line balancing techniques
- Bottleneck identification and solving

We have achieved the following:

- Production efficiency increased
- The defect rate was reduced
- Trainees gained 15 new skills
- · 33 kaizen ideas were implemented
- Three trainees were promoted to line supervisor positions

The factory plans to further develop our own line leader trainee programme, which will draw on the GEAR training programme.

#### Gender Mainstreaming Training

To promote a gender equality culture, representatives from our denim factory in Cambodia joined the gender mainstreaming training held by Better Factories Cambodia ("**BFC**"), an ILO initiative. The training provided a deeper concept of gender equality, and included the following topics:

- Difference between sex and gender
- · Gender stereotyping and its impact

We integrated the training contents into our employee care programme, CARE, to ensure that, regardless of gender, lifestyle choice and abilities, all employees feel empowered to pursue whatever career they choose where their rights, opportunities, and access to society are independent of their gender.



- Work study knowledge
- Production process

- How to achieve gender equality in the workplace
- How to integrate a gender lens into the workplace

#### **Caring for Women**

Female employees account for over two-third of our global workforce. We are determined to make a concerted effort to support them in their personal health, skills and career development, so that the full talent pool of our female employees is educated, promoted and more actively managed within our company. In addition to our existing women empowerment programmes, we keep engaging our female workers with newly developed initiatives to take care of their need.

#### United Nations ("UN") Women Survey

Our intimate factory in China partnered with a customer and UN Women China to advocate women's equality and economic empowerment with the aim to build a profitable environment in factories and communities and have a positive impact on local communities and the supply chain.

Our programme partners conducted an onsite worker interview. After the data analysis, a specific report was issued to the factory on how to empower female employees to be potential leaders. Based on the findings in the report, an improvement plan was implemented.

#### **Tetanus Vaccination for Pregnancy**

Our intimate factory in Vietnam provided tetanus vaccination for pregnant employees.

#### **HIV Training**

Our factories in Cambodia and Bangladesh provided HIV training to educate employees on how to protect themselves against and prevent the transmission of HIV.





Sustainability Report 2020

# **Community Engagement**

"10,000 volunteering hours" is one of our 3rd Global 5-year Sustainability Targets. Although we successfully accomplished this in 2019, we have continued to encourage our employees to engage in the communities in where we operate. We have been initiating and participating in projects to engage with local communities in the vicinity of our operations to create shared values. For further details of our activities to support the communities during the pandemic, please refer to the section of "Combating COVID-19 and Embracing the New Normal".

#### Supporting People Affected by Flooding in Vietnam

From August to October 2020, widespread and severe floods swept through many areas of central Vietnam. A large number of crops were flooded, many villages were destroyed and some people lost their lives. Without hesitation, all our factories in Vietnam supported employees, their families, local residents, kindergartens, and schools.

With the joint support of our employees, trade unions and local organisations, we: · Donated over one billion VND from our factories, our care fund, employees, and volunteers · Provided direct support, such as cash and food donation, to our employees and the households who were

- affected in the flooded areas
- flood
- Purchased 20 sets of computers together with the help of cash sponsors for two secondary schools
- Donated 20 tonnes of rice to the communities in urgent need of living necessities

#### **Keeping Our Living Environment Clean**

To maintain a tidy and clean living environment in the community, a volunteer team from our denim factory in Vietnam cleared litter off the main roads in the local town and promoted environmental protection practices to local citizens. In addition, our lifestyle wear factory in Vietnam donated waste trolleys to support cleaning activities in the local community.



Provided 610 sets of pillows and blankets to two kindergartens which were severely damaged by the

# **Superior Quality**

In accordance with the relevant laws and regulations, the corporate mission and the value of "Live Quality", we developed the Corporate Quality Policy, Brand Protection Guidelines and Restricted Substances List ("**RSL**") to emphasise the importance of product quality, health and safety, labelling<sup>3</sup> and privacy matters relating to products and services provided and methods of redress.

#### **Right First Time Culture**

"Right First Time" culture is adopted throughout all our business processes and at all levels. We take a holistic approach to our quality management system and implement standards throughout our operations. From product design and sourcing of raw materials, production and packaging, to inventory storage and delivery, we ensure compliance with the standards and specifications of our company, customers and supply chain.

We have adopted the ISO9001 quality management system and the 6S workplace management method to enable process effectiveness and continuous improvement. In addition, we have corporate quality indices and targets to denote Crystal quality performance for achieving customers' expectations.

#### **Quality Cost Management**

Quality cost measures have been adopted in our operations, to ensure we are producing the right quality at the right cost, while achieving customer satisfaction. We have undertaken initiatives of quality cost reduction since 2018 by incorporating innovative technology and the programme of manufacturing excellence that we are developing, bringing consistency to quality with higher efficiency.

From mid-2018 to the end of 2020, all our wholly owned factories have joined the quality cost reduction initiative to eliminate redundant checking or inspection, resulting in USD 8.12 million savings. Customer Final  $\star \star \star \star \star$ Inspection Pass Rate ("CFIR") Group target:  $\geq$  99.5% 2020 performance **99.8%** 

Observed Quality Level ("**OQL**") Group target: ≤ 4%



# Breakdown of quality cost reduction result (**USD**)



#### New Way of Garment Measurement – Electronic Tape ("E-tape")

To avoid manual deviation during measurements, we have adopted the use of E-tape to measure garments and transfer the result to an application system in real-time. This tool enhances the accuracy and efficiency of quality data analysis by saving around 40–55% of time to measure products and record measurement results.

We have adopted the E-tape in firewall inspection and quality system risk assessment and completed the trial for the measurement check in the sample rooms, on sewing lines and in final inspections in our factories in China.



of time by using the E-tape to measure products and record measurement results

#### Virtual Robot and Tool for Quality Data Recognition and Analysis

We conducted trial projects on robotic process automation ("**RPA**") and optical character recognition ("**OCR**") for quality data capture, consolidation and analysis. This type of technology helps us to avoid manual errors, saves time and achieves cost efficiency.

#### RPA

RPA is a virtual robot that collects quality reports and customer specifications from an online platform authorised by a customer at any time as set.

#### OCR

OCR is a technology to extract and recognise the data in the report with the data being input to our system for further analysis. The extracted data is used in an electronic business process without manual capture. The trial performance with one customer was satisfactory, and we plan to roll this technology out more broadly in 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Product advertising is not material for our garment manufacturing business.





### **Supply Chain Management**

We are committed to driving sustainable and responsible practices among our factories and along our supply chain. Our suppliers and subcontractors are requested to comply with our Corporate Code of Conduct and RSL.

With the guidelines contained in our Corporate Standard Operating Procedure under our social compliance framework, we have built a strict supplier approval and monitoring mechanism at a group level. We conduct annual social responsibility and quality risk assessments with subcontractors to ensure they comply with the applicable local laws and regulations, including, employment practice, human rights, health and safety, fire safety, environmental performance and discrimination. We work closely with our suppliers and subcontractors, supporting them in improving their performance by providing technical assistance, training and sharing of best practices.

#### **Monitoring of IPE Environmental Records**

By regularly monitoring the environmental supervision records published by Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs ("**IPE**"), we proactively track environmental performance, including any violation records of our subcontractors and suppliers and support them in disclosing environmental data and submitting an improvement plan if required.

### **Anti-corruption**

Integrity is one of our core values. We have established a series of Business Conduct (Integrity & Ethics) master policies which include:

- Anti-Corruption (Vendor) Policy
- Anti-Bribery Policy
- Whistle-Blowing Policy

The policies are to prevent, identify, address and handle any instance of alleged or actual bribery or corruption. We make sure that we are in compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We have also provided online training to our employees to build an ethical culture and reiterate our zero-tolerance approach to bribery while highlighting the significance of proper business ethics.



- Anti-Money Laundering Policy
- Anti-Fraud Policy

# **Conserving the Environment**

Sustainability is instrumental in leading businesses adapting to the future market, which gives rise to various opportunities. In 2020, we:

- · Escalated our climate action by signing the UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action
- Expedited digital transformation, such as virtual sampling and digital showroom
- Widened our global partnership for building a circular model
- Continued to improve our Higg Facility Environmental Module ("FEM") performance

This fruitful outcome is the result of years of effort in both capacity building and standardisation.

It is high time to chart a new course to take the industry in a more sustainable direction. We will continue leveraging our holistic sustainability practices to create shared values for our stakeholders, drive the sustainable recovery of the industry, and simultaneously enhance environmental resilience.

# **Environmental Policy and Management System Guidelines**

In these unprecedented times, we have complied with relevant laws and regulations and adhered to the principles set out in our Environmental Policy in our daily operations, managing our environmental impact through pollution prevention, resource conservation, the mitigation of climate change, waste management and global greening.

To support the implementation of the Environmental Policy, our Environmental Management System Guidelines provide factories with a thorough set of instructions to help them to establish and implement an effective and robust environmental management system.

To gain further credibility, an increasing number of our factories are now certified with international environmental standards such as ISO 14001 Environmental Management System and ISO 50001 Energy Management System.



# **Carbon Reduction and Energy Saving**

Confronting climate change was critical even before COVID-19. We pressed on with our commitment to climate action and continued to pursue the implementation of our long-term strategy.

#### **UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action**

In October 2020, we joined the UN Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action as a signatory and committed to a 30% aggregate reduction in greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions by 2030. To accomplish this target, we have:

- Developed our long-term decarbonisation strategy, comprising energy efficiency, on-site and off-site renewable energy and appropriate offsetting
- Joined the "Decarbonisation" and "Manufacturing" working groups of the Charter to join hands with more than 150 organisations on the decarbonisation journey of the industry
- Developed a set of corporate standard carbon
- reduction measures, including adopting advanced technologies, heat recovery, efficient factories starting in 2021 on into 2025.



#### **Renewable Energy**

Renewable energy is the key to long-term decarbonisation. Our factories have been actively exploring the feasibility of expanding on-site solar PV panels. For instance, our lifestyle wear and sportswear factories in Vietnam, having completed a feasibility study of rooftop solar PV panels, are targeting to finish their installation in Q3 2021. With a total capacity of 3,600 kW, it is anticipated that we will reduce over 4,000 tonnes of CO2e each year.



Our absolute carbon emissions had a





equipment, general utilities, etc. The measures are categorised into different groups, including mandatory measures, recommended measures and renewable energy, that will be progressively implemented in all

#### **Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures ("TCFD")**

To optimise the management of climate-related risks, we will commence a TCFD study in 2021 with a view to benchmarking our existing practices against TCFD recommendations then assess the potential business implications of climate-related risks and opportunities.

2,832,208 m<sup>3</sup> ot water

# ~3,800,000 **OPIC** per year.

### Water Conservation

# "The time to act is now."

Less is more. We make every effort to holistically conserve precious fresh water resources, from extensive water recycling through to using the most cutting-edge washing technologies, such as low water ratio washing, laser and ozone technologies.

By developing a water balance map, our factories can trace water intake, usage and output, identifying improvement opportunities efficiently.

Our denim factories take a holistic approach, from water-efficient washing process to reuse and recycle treated water. This approach saves 80% of fresh water consumption compared with other manufacturing factories.



The efficient fresh water resource management of our denim factory in China

#### 4Zero Sustainable Denim Collection

We have kept our momentum in developing water-saving processes. Our denim division officially launched the 4Zero sustainable denim collection, reducing water usage by 90% when compared with the conventional eco washing. In addition, 4Zero collection reduces chemical usage by 70% which is beneficial to the environment and workers' health.



#### WWF Water Risk Filter 5.0

We applied WWF's Water Risk Filter 5.0 for water risk screening and it showed that none of our factories are located in regions with a high risk of water depletion.

### **Air Emission Control**

#### **Clean Fuel**

We continue to encourage the adoption of cleaner fuels for combustion equipment, for instance, all our factories in China are using natural gas as their boiler fuel. We also promote a wide range of control measures for indoor air quality improvement and flue gas treatment.

#### **Prudent Monitoring and Treatment**

All our factories regularly monitor and test air emission sources, including boilers and generators, according to the local legal requirements. In 2020, all our factories fully complied with the relevant legal standards.

Our lifestyle wear factory in Vietnam also further installed a bag filter in its boilers. Together with the original scrubber treatment, it can further reduce air emissions.

In 2020, our factories emitted around 219.1 tonnes of nitrogen oxides ("NOx"), 6.4 tonnes of sulphur dioxide ("SO<sub>2</sub>"), and 91.6 tonnes of particulate matter ("PM")<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> The amount of air pollutant emissions were estimated by fuel consumption and equipment condition with reference to the methodologies of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the European Union's European Environment Agency.





### **Waste Management**

#### **Corporate Waste Management Guidelines**

Our Corporate Waste Management Guidelines set out a framework of how to trace and assure the efficient use of materials, as well as managing operational waste in compliance with legal requirements and applying environmentally friendly production practices.

#### Zero Operational Waste to Landfill

We are working towards "zero operational waste to landfill". Our sportswear factory in Vietnam diverted 100% of its production waste away from landfill in 2020 by working with a qualified waste coprocessing partner.

In addition, we are embarking on a number of projects and partnerships to move ahead with building circular economy practices. Please refer to the section of "Highlighted Projects and Initiatives" for more information.

In 2020, around 12.3 kilotonnes of paper products, mainly carton boxes and 5.0 kilotonnes of plastics were consumed for the purpose of packaging finished products.

All waste streams were handled and treated properly in accordance with local legislation and met stringent internal guidelines to minimise our impact on the environment.



# **Chemical and Wastewater Management**

**Crystal's Corporate Chemical Management Guidelines** 



- Group Manufacturing Restricted Substance List ("**MRSL**")
- Green chemical procurement and screening

All our factories regularly monitor and test the wastewater according to the local legal standards and requirements.

# Key highlights in 2020



Group MRSL fully aligned with ZDHC MRSL v2.0 and customers' requirements

60–70% green chemistry screening of our denim laundries

#### Support for Research of Wastewater Treatment – HKRITA

We supported and sponsored a research study into "Removal of Indigo Blue Colour in Denim Plant Wastewater by Macroalgae" initiated by the Hong Kong Research Institution of Textiles and Apparel Limited ("HKRITA"). The study is now in lab-scale testing to select and test algae for the degradation of dyes via photosynthesis for treating the indigo blue colour of wastewater from denim production.

# Waste data 2020





Regular testing according to Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals ("ZDHC") Wastewater Guidelines and legal requirements



**Application of ZDHC** Wastewater Guidelines v1.1



Expansion of the use of ZDHC conformance chemistries

# **Certifications in Sustainable Materials**

Most of our factories received certifications such as Better Cotton Initiatives ("**BCI**"), Global Organic Textile Standard ("**GOTS**"), Global Recycle Standard ("**GRS**"), Organic Content Standard ("**OCS**"), OEKO-TEX STANDARD 100 and Recycled Claim Standard ("**RCS**"). The certifications demonstrate our commitment to responsible sourcing and production of sustainable products by reducing the material footprints of the products, in parallel attaching great importance to sustainable materials.



# **Higg Index**

All Crystal factories adopted the Higg Facility Environmental Module ("**FEM**") as a standardised environmental assessment and we set the Higg FEM foundational and aspirational targets of 50% and 75% respectively.

Since being fully adopted in 2017, all factories have successfully achieved their foundational targets in 2020. Our factories, on average, achieved a 72.5% Higg FEM score, indicating a 6% improvement rate compared with 2019<sup>5</sup>.



Our eco denim factory in Zhongshan, China and lifestyle wear factory in Vietnam achieved outstanding performances with verified Higg FEM scores of 92% and 91%<sup>6</sup> respectively.

#### **Tracking Environmental Performance of Supply Chain**

In addition to applying the assessment in our factories, we expanded the adoption of the Higg FEM to help us track the environmental performance of our subcontractors and suppliers. In 2020, around 50 subcontractors and suppliers completed and shared their Higg FEM assessments.

 $^{\scriptscriptstyle 5}$  The industry mean score of Higg FEM2019 was 39%.

<sup>6</sup> The top quartile and the highest score of all ~2,750 verified Higg FEM 2019 posted, were 71.6% and 96.0% respectively.

# **Global Greening**

With the concerted efforts of all our factories, we have already planted around 2.88 million trees in our operating countries since 2007.

#### **Visits to Tree Plantation Sites**

In 2020, we carried out visits to our tree planting sites in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam to evaluate the conditions, post-planting care and monitoring activities.

Overall, the tree planting sites were properly managed. Good practices at the planning stage and some areas for improvement were identified, such as site maintenance and growing saplings at tree nurseries. We were also pleased to learn that residents were involved in helping maintain the planting sites. The findings have given us encouragement for upcoming joint community greening projects in the future.







The nursery garden of one of our Vietnam factories, an area of around 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The saplings are cultivated in the nursery garden for around 12 months and then transferred to selected tree planation sites to mature.



Tree plantation at Hai Duong province in Vietnam

#### **Product Footprints 2020**



Note

Carbon intensities are calculated by dividing the total greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions of Scope 1, Scope 2 and biogenic carbon dioxide by total equivalent pieces of garments.



**Energy Consumption 2020** 



#### Note:

Direct energy includes the combustion of fossil fuels and alternative fuels.

Renewable energy includes the combustion of biogenic fuels and the use of solar energy.

#### Water Consumption for Production Use 2020



Sources of fresh water include municipal water, river, ground and well water.

# **Highlighted Projects and Initiatives**

#### Ellen MacArthur's Jeans Redesign -**Circular Denim Development**

Our denim division participated in the Jeans Redesign project initiated by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. By adopting the Jeans Redesign Guidelines, which were developed by more than 80 denim experts, we expect to improve material circularity and enhance product durability, material health, recyclability and traceability. This project allows us to collaborate with our customers to reduce the impact of waste, pollution and hazardous chemicals and will also minimise the potential risks to end-customers and workers. The trailblazing sustainable collection is set to launch in mid-2021.





# **Partnership with a Customer and Social**

#### "Go Paperless" Campaign

To enhance employees' awareness of deforestation and climate change, our knits factories in Vietnam initiated a "Go Paperless" campaign starting in September 2020 together with a call for action to save paper and cultivate green habits. Paper saving practices and a series of promotional activities were implemented to promote waste reduction and environmental protection, including:

- Digitalising documents and information to minimise paper use
- Checking inspection reports using electronic devices rather than reading the printed version
- Thinking before printing
- Using recycled paper
- · Displaying awareness banners and promotional videos in factory premises
- · Promoting the campaign through social media
- Inviting employees to share best practices in saving paper

The initiative resulted in saving up of paper cost and reducing paper usage >3 tonnes in the period from September to December 2020.



Employees recorded fabric information by scanning the barcode directly instead of using paper for recording.

#### Green Building Design – Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies ("EDGE")

We embrace sustainability at the early stages of green building design. The expansion project of our lifestyle wear factory in Vietnam has received a preliminary green building certification, EDGE. By adopting innovative design features and modern technologies, the new building can reduce energy usage by 28%, water consumption by 37% and benefit from embodied energy in materials by 44%.

#### **Global Support to WWF Earth Hour**

The pandemic did not curb our enthusiasm to promote environmental protection. Joining hands with other companies in over 190 countries, our Crystal headquarters and factories in Vietnam, China, Cambodia and Bangladesh participated in Earth Hour, a global environmental movement, held by WWF, to promote awareness of climate change and sustainability.



Our employees in our lifestyle wear factory in Bangladesh participated actively in Earth Hour activities.



Our denim factory in Vietnam turned the lights off at the factory to support Earth Hour.



# **Awards and Recognition**



#### **ENVIRONMENT**



#### **AWARDS FROM CUSTOMERS**



# Glossary

6S 6S is developed from 5S, which originated in Japan and was named after Excellence in Design for Greater EDGE, launched by the International Finance Corporation, a green building the initial letter of the Japanese Romaji (Seiri, Seiton, Seiso, Seiketsu, Efficiencies ("EDGE") certification system for emerging markets, aims to help developers Shitsuke) to which the sixth "S" - Safety has been added. 6S stands measure the green savings and create credible solutions to achieve green for Sort, Systematise, Sanitise, Standardise, Self-discipline and Safety, savings. and contributes to an enterprise's overall standardisation through effective management of people, machinery, materials, methods and the Facility Environmental Module The Higg FEM is one of the facility tools of the Higg Index that standardises environment. ("**FEM**") how facilities measure and evaluate their environmental performance. ASTM F2100 ASTM F2100 is a standard specification for performance of material Fashion Industry Charter for The Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action is an industry-wide used in medical face masks, set by the American Society of Testing and **Climate Action** initiative, driven by the United Nations, to collectively address the climate Materials, ASTM. It specifies the performance requirements for medical impact of the fashion sector across its value chain. face masks with five basic criteria including Bacterial Filtration Efficiency, Particle Filtration Efficiency, Fluid Resistance, Pressure Differential and **Global Organic Textile Standard** The GOTS was developed by leading standard setters to define world-wide ("GOTS") recognised requirements for organic textiles. From the harvesting of the Flame Spread. raw materials, environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing to **Basic Education Equivalency** The BEEP is an initiative led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific labelling, textiles certified to GOTS provide a credible assurance to the Programme ("BEEP") and Cultural Organization UNESCO and the Royal Government of Cambodia consumers. to provide flexible, alternative education to out-of-school youth to complete lower secondary or basic education. Global Recycle Standard ("GRS") The GRS is an international, voluntary, full product standard that sets requirements for third-party certification of recycled content, chain of Better Cotton Initiatives ("BCI") The BCI is a global, not-for-profit organisation, the largest cotton custody, social and environmental practices and chemical restrictions. sustainability programme in the world, which aims to transform cotton production worldwide by developing Better Cotton as a sustainable Greenhouse gas ("GHG") GHG is the gaseous constituent that is able to absorb and hold heat in the atmosphere, either occurring naturally or resulting from human activities. mainstream commodity. Better Work Better Work is a comprehensive programme that brings together all levels **HERproject** HERproject, initiated by Business for Social Responsibility, is a of the garment industry to improve working conditions and to respect collaborative initiative that strives to empower low-income women working labour rights. It was jointly created by the United Nation's International in global supply chains through workplace-based interventions on health, Labour Organization and the International Finance Corporation. financial inclusion, and gender equality. **Biogenic emissions** Biogenic emissions are the carbon dioxide emissions from the combustion Higg Index The Higg Index is a suite of tools developed by the Sustainable Apparel Coalition that enables brands, retailers and facilities to measure and score or biodegradation of biomass. a company or product's sustainability performance. Carbon dioxide equivalent CO<sub>2</sub>e is the common unit of measurement to indicate the global warming potential of greenhouse gases, expressed in terms of the global warming Industrial Relations The interrelations between company management, supervisors, workers ("**CO**<sub>2</sub>e") potential of one unit of carbon dioxide. and unions. Crystal Advocates Respect and The CARE is an employee well-being programme self-initiated by Crystal. It Industry 4.0 Industry 4.0 is the digital transformation that is characterised by Engagement ("CARE") contains five levels to help employees build on their skills, promote a workautomation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies. It includes life balance, strengthen their self-respect, uplift their sense of belonging cyber-physical systems, the Internet of things and cloud computing. and assist them to attain self-actualisation. Institute of Public and The IPE is a non-profit environmental research organisation registered and The CFIR is a measure of factory quality performance derived from Customer final inspection pass Environmental Affairs ("IPE") based in Beijing, China, offering a pollution database to monitor corporate rate ("CFIR") analysing the first-time pass rate of a customer's first-time final inspection. environmental performance. Diversity and inclusion Diversity refers to the traits and characteristics that make people unique Lean production Lean production is a production model that focuses on minimising waste while inclusion refers to the behaviours and social norms that ensure and thus cost, whilst maximising productivity and adding value to products people feel welcome and respected. and services. Earth Hour Earth Hour is a worldwide environmental movement organised by the World Low Carbon Manufacturing LCMP, hosted by WWF-Hong Kong, provides manufacturers with a Wide Fund for Nature. The event is held annually encouraging individuals, Programme ("LCMP") carbon accounting and labelling system, which helps to measure their communities, businesses and governments to turn off non-essential lights effectiveness in carbon reduction and also to equip them with best for one hour on a designated date. practices.

#### 

#### Glossary

<b>ESG Reporting</b>
and GRI Conte

Manufacturing Restricted Substance List (" <b>MRSL</b> ")	MRSL is a list of chemical substances that are subject to a usage ban or restrictions in manufacturing processes.	ESG Reporting Guide Index	
Observed quality level (" <b>OQL</b> ")	OQL is a measure of factory quality performance by analysing the defect	ESG Reporting Guide	Description
	rate of the customer's first-time final inspection.	Environm	iental
OEKO-TEX STANDARD 100	The STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX is a globally uniform, testing and	Aspect A1:	Fmissions
	certification system for textile raw materials, intermediate and end	General dis	
	products at all stages of production. Its aim is to ensure products are free from harmful substances.	KPI A1.1	The types of emissions and respective emissions data.
Organic Content Standard (" <b>OCS</b> ")	The OCS is an international, voluntary standard that sets requirements for third-party certification of certified organic input and chain of custody.	KPI A1.2	Greenhouse gas emissions in total (in tonnes) and, where appropriate, intensity.
Personal Advancement & Career Enhancement (" <b>P.A.C.E.</b> ")	P.A.C.E. is an innovative factory-based programme initiated by Gap Inc. The main focus is to positively impact female garment workers by providing them with foundational skills and support that will help them advance in	KPI A1.3	Total hazardous waste produced (in tonnes) and, where appropriate, intensity.
	the workplace and in their personal lives, through life skills education and technical training.	KPI A1.4	Total non-hazardous waste produced (in tonnes) and, where appropriate, intensity.
Recycled Claim Standard ("RCS")	RCS is an international, voluntary standard that sets requirements for third-party certification of recycled input and chain of custody.	KPI A1.5	Description of measures to mitigate emissions and results achieved.
Restricted Substance List (" <b>RSL</b> ") SDG2000	RSL is a list of chemical substances restricted or banned from use in finished products. SDG2000 is developed by the World Benchmarking Alliance that identifies	KPI A1.6	Description of how hazardous and non-hazardous wastes are handled, reduction initiatives and results achieved.
0202000	the most influential 2,000 companies globally on the SDGs.	Asnect A2:	Use of Resources
		General dis	
Smart factory	In a smart factory, physical production processes and operations are combined with digital technology, smart computing and big data to create a more opportunistic system. It represents a leap forward from traditional	KPI A2.1	Direct and/or indirect energy consumption by type in total (kWh in '000s) and intensity.
	automation to a fully connected and flexible system.	KPI A2.2	Water consumption in total and intensity.
Task Force on Climate-related	The TCFD was created in 2015 by the Financial Stability Board to develop		
Financial Disclosures (" <b>TCFD</b> ")	consistent, climate-related, financial risk disclosures for use by companies, banks and investors in providing information to stakeholders.	KPI A2.3	Description of energy use efficiency initiatives and results achieved.
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (" <b>SDGs</b> ")	SDGs are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030. These goals provide a blueprint to achieve a more sustainable future and address global sustainability challenges.	KPI A2.4	Description of whether there is any issue in sourcing water that is fit for purpose, water efficiency initiatives and results achieved.
WWF's Water Risk Filter 5.0	The WWF's Water Risk Filter 5.0 is an online tool developed by WWF and the German finance institution DEG, which helps companies and financial	KPI A2.5	Total packaging material used for finished products (in tonnes) and, if applicable, with reference to per unit produced.
	institutions to explore, assess, value and respond to water risk.	Aspect A3:	The Environment and Natural Resources
		General dis	closure
Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (" <b>ZDHC</b> ")	ZDHC is formulated by a group of apparel and footwear brands and retailers working together to lead the industry towards zero discharge of hazardous chemicals.	KPI A3.1	Description of the significant impacts of activities on the environment and natural resources and the actions taken to manage them.

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#### Section or feedback

Conserving the Environment
Conserving the Environment – Air Emission Control; GHG Emissions 2020
Conserving the Environment – Product Footprints 2020; GHG Emissions 2020
Conserving the Environment – Waste Management
Conserving the Environment – Waste Management
Conserving the Environment – Carbon Reduction and Energy Saving; Air Emission Control; Highlighted Projects and Initiatives
Conserving the Environment – Waste Management; Highlighted Projects and Initiatives
Conserving the Environment
Conserving the Environment – Product Footprints 2020; Energy Consumption 2020
Conserving the Environment – Product Footprints 2020; Water Consumption for Production Use 2020
Conserving the Environment – Carbon Reduction and Energy Saving; Highlighted Projects and Initiatives
Conserving the Environment – Water Conservation; Highlighted Projects and Initiatives
Conserving the Environment – Waste Management
Conserving the Environment
Our Sustainability Vision and Approach – Third Global 5-year Sustainability Targets (2018– 2022) Stakeholder Engagement – Materiality Assessment Conserving the Environment

#### Social

#### i. Employment and Labour Practices

#### **GRI Content Index**

-	loyment and Labour Practices		GRI Standards	Description	S
Aspect B1: Employment					
General disclosure Pioneering Social Responsibility – Employee Care			GRI 102:	General Disclosures	
KPI B1.1	Total workforce by gender, employment type, age group and geographical region.	About Crystal International – Global Employees	<u>1. Orga</u>	anisational Profile	
Aspect B2	: Health and Safety		102–1	Name of the organisation	A
General dis	sclosure	Pioneering Social Responsibility – Employee Care	102-2	Activities, brands, products, and	А
<pre><pi b2.3<="" pre=""></pi></pre>	Description of occupational health and safety measures adopted, how they are	Pioneering Social Responsibility – Employee Care	102–3	services Location of headquarters	Þ
Aspect B3	implemented and monitored. : Development and Training		102–4	Location of operations	ļ
General dis	sclosure	Combating COVID-19 and Embracing the New Normal – Digitalisation Pioneering Social Responsibility – Employee Care	102–5	Ownership and legal form	L
Aspect B4 General dis	: Labour Standards	Pioneering Social Responsibility – Employee Care	102-6	Markets served	A
i. Ope	erating Practices	Fioneering Social Responsibility – Employee Care	102-7	Scale of organisation	A
Aspect B5 General dis	: Supply Chain Management	Pioneering Social Responsibility – Supply Chain Management	102–8	Information on employees and other workers	r A
		Conserving the Environment – Higg Index	102–9	Supply chain	A
Aspect B6 General dis	: Product Responsibility sclosure	Combating COVID-19 and Embracing the New Normal – Digitalisation Pioneering Social Responsibility – Superior Quality			n p s v c
Aspect B7	: Anti-corruption				n
General dis	sclosure	Pioneering Social Responsibility – Anti-corruption			s F
iii. Con	nmunity				r
Aspect B8	: Community Investment				Ν
General disclosure		Combating COVID-19 and Embracing the New Normal – Protecting Employees and Communities; Innovation	102–10	Significant changes to the organisation and its supply chain	F 2
		Pioneering Social Responsibility – Community Engagement	102–11	Precautionary principle or approach	A
B8.1	Focus areas of contribution (e.g. education, environmental concerns, labour needs, health, culture, sport).	Combating COVID-19 and Embracing the New Normal – Protecting Employees and Communities; Innovation Pioneering Social Responsibility – Community Engagement	102–12	External initiatives	C Ir C S C S
B8.2	Resources contributed (e.g. money or time) to the focus area.	Combating COVID-19 and Embracing the New Normal – Protecting Employees and Communities; Innovation Our Sustainability Vision and Approach –			e C E
		Third Global 5-year Sustainability Targets (2018– 2022) Pioneering Social Responsibility – Community Engagement	102–13	Membership of associations	5

#### Section or feedback

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- About Crystal International Product Types
- About Crystal International
- About Crystal International Geographical Markets and Operations Worldwide
- Listed on Hong Kong Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.
- About Crystal International Geographical Markets and **Operations Worldwide**
- About Crystal International Geographical Markets and Operations Worldwide
- About Crystal International Global Employees

As an owner, developer, and manager of garment manufacturing facilities, as well as a provider of apparel products and relevant services, Crystal International's supply chain is comprised of hundreds of suppliers of various products and services. Significant procurement categories include fabric, trims, accessories, building materials, furniture and fittings, cargo and logistics services, as well as production equipment and machinery. For more details of our supply chain management, please refer to "Pioneering Social Responsibility – Supply Chain Management" section.

Please refer to Crystal International's Annual Report 2020, which is publicly available on our website.

About Crystal International – Corporate Governance; Sustainability Governance

- Combating COVID-19 and Embracing the New Normal -Innovation; Committing to Sustainable Recovery
- Our Sustainability Vision and Approach Our
- Sustainability Framework and United Nations Sustainable **Development Goals**
- Stakeholder Engagement Global Partnerships on Sustainability
- Conserving the Environment Carbon Reduction and Energy Saving; Higg Index; Highlighted Projects and Initiatives
- Stakeholder Engagement Global Partnerships on Sustainability

#### 2. Strategy

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3. Ethic	s and Integrity	
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102–32	Highest governance body's role in sustainability reporting	About Crystal International – Sustainability Governance
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102–42	Identifying and selecting stakeholders	Stakeholder Engagement
102–43	Approach to stakeholder engagement	Stakeholder Engagement
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102–49	Changes in reporting	The Sta
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GRI 103:	Management Approach	
103–1	Explanation of the material topic and its Boundary	Sta App
103–2	The management approach and its components	Our 5-ye Pio Cor
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GRI 303:	Water and Effluents	
303–1	Interactions with water as a shared resource	Our 5-ye Cor Cor
303–2	Management of water discharge- related impacts	Cor Ma
303–5	Water consumption	Cor Pro

ease refer to Crystal International's Annual Report 020, which is publicly available on our website.

ne Basis of This Report

takeholder Engagement – Materiality Assessment nere is no revision of the information provided in the revious report.

ne Basis of This Report takeholder Engagement – Materiality Assessment

ne Basis of This Report

rystal International's previous Sustainability Report was ublished on  $21^{st}$  Jul 2020.

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RI Content Index

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#### GRI 305: Emissions

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305–1	Direct (Scope 1) GHG emissions	Conserving the Environment – GHG Emissions 2020
305–2	Energy indirect (Scope 2) GHG emissions	Conserving the Environment – GHG Emissions 2020
305–4	GHG emissions intensity	Conserving the Environment – Product Footprints 2020
305–5	Reduction of GHG emissions	Our Sustainability Vision and Approach – Third Global 5-year Sustainability Targets (2018–2022) Conserving the Environment – Carbon Reduction and Energy Saving; Product Footprints 2020
305–7	Nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> ), sulfur oxides (SO <sub>x</sub> ), and other significant air emissions	Conserving the Environment – Air Emission Control
GRI 306:	Effluents and Waste	
306–2	Waste by type and disposal method	Conserving the Environment – Waste Management; Highlighted Projects and Initiatives
GRI 307:	Environmental Compliance	
307–1	Non-compliance with environmental laws and regulations	No significant fines or non-monetary sanctions for non- compliance with environmental laws and/or regulations recorded within the reporting period.
GRI 403:	Occupational Health and Safety	
403–1	Occupational health and safety management system	Pioneering Social Responsibility – Employee Care
403–6	Promotion of worker health	Combating COVID-19 and Embracing the New Normal Pioneering Social Responsibility – Employee Care
GRI 404:	Training and Education	
404–2	Programs for upgrading employee skills and transition assistance programs	Combating COVID-19 and Embracing the New Normal – Digitalisation Pioneering Social Responsibility – Employee Care
GRI 405:	Diversity and Equal Opportunity	
405–1	Diversity of governance bodies and employees	About Crystal International – Global Employees Please refer to Crystal International's Annual Report 2020, which is publicly available on our website.
GRI 419:	Socioeconomic Compliance	
419–1	Non-compliance with laws and regulations in the social and economic area	No significant fines or non-monetary sanctions for non- compliance with laws and/or regulations in the social and economic areas recorded within the reporting period.



The paper for this report cover is upcycled from potato waste











SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2020



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