



H&M, IFC partner to boost sustainability in garment sector

Fashion retailer H&M and IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, have entered into a joint partnership to boost the use of clean, renewable energy in the garment sector, while also slashing greenhouse gas emissions. The association will guide the strategic tier one and two suppliers in China, India and Bangladesh in adopting renewable energy solutions.

H&M and IFC will develop a platform for implementation of practical renewable energy solutions on the ground to achieve meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through adoption of clean energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydro power; an approach that will be initially taken in three countries of high importance to H&M but which can ultimately be replicated in other markets.

"H&M has an ambition to work with a climate neutral supply chain (Tier 1 and Tier 2) by 2030 and we see IFC as an important partner in this journey. IFC's vast experience working with renewable energy and climate related topics in several developing countries will be very valuable in driving this agenda together with our business partners. We believe that this partnership will not only have a positive climate impact on H&M's supply chain but also on the fashion industry as a whole," said Pierre Borjesson, sustainability business expert - Climate Change and Water Stewardship, H&M.

H&M is committed to a goal of 100 per cent renewable energy usage in its own operations, and is one of the first companies in the industry to start setting climate-change and renewable energy goals along its value chain.

"Cutting greenhouse gas emissions is crucial for the environment, but importantly, this project will create a low-carbon roadmap that shows how it makes good financial sense for firms too," said Milagros Rivas Saiz, global head advisory at IFC.



72% of repairs of Alliance factories completed

The Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety announced that 71 Alliance-affiliated factories in the country completed all material components outlined in their Corrective Action Plans (CAPs).

The country director of US based brands and buyers' forum, alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety (ALLIANCE) Jim Moriarty revealed the information in a press conference at a city hotel.

In the programme, the former US Ambassador to Bangladesh hopes that the number will reach double within the next few months. Moriarty said that 72 percent of all required repairs across active Alliance factories have already been completed.

"Of them, 64 percent of the repairs we deem 'highest priority' and 'high priority'- the most critical items including the structural retrofitting of columns and the installation of fire doors", he added.

Alliance also suspended 142 factories from its compliant list till today, for their failure to provide evidence of remediation, he said.

Alliance's Deputy Country Director Paul Rigby, Director of Engineering Kazi Wadul Haque and Director of Operations Quamrunnesa Babli were present during the press conference.

Alliance started the journey in Bangladesh in 2014 with 676 factories. CAP completion is only the first step in constructing a continuous improvement culture focused on improving workplace safety. The Alliance expects all factories to sustain their commitment to safety through on-going efforts to maintain the investments already made.