



Factory to the World

Esquel Group opens students' eyes to the world of advanced manufacturing in the PRD By Eric Chan

We tend to spend a lot of money on clothes, as it helps us to express our unique style and taste in fashion. But how many people actually know how clothes are produced, and the complexities involved in the manufacturing process?

Seventeen fourth and fifth form students from Holy Family Canossian College learned more than just how clothes are made during their visit to Esquel Group's manufacturing site in Gaoming town, Foshan, Guangdong, from March 28 to 29, as part of the Business-School Partnership Programme, organized by the Chamber.

"Prior to this trip, I was skeptical about the visit, because there have been some negative views towards factories in China being sweatshop," said student

Chan Wing Sum. "After the visit, my impressions of factories in the Mainland have changed dramatically for the better."

Esquel Group is one of the world's leading producers of premium cotton shirts. This year is the seventh consecutive year that the company has participated in the Business-School Partnership Programme to provide Hong Kong students with a rare glimpse into the cogs of the textile and manufacturing industry.

Emmeline Tse, Assistant Manager, Human Resources, and Carmen Chiang, Officer, Human Resources, at Esquel Group, kicked off the two-day activity by introducing the group's operations and its core values. Students then toured the sprawling factory buildings

to see all stages of the manufacturing process, from spinning cotton into useable thread, which knitting and weaving looms turn into patterned fabrics, before fabrics are cut and sewn into finished garments, packed and shipped off to customers.

"We saw how clothes are made, and also how efficient the company's operations are," said student Chan Wing Tin. "The entire manufacturing process for a piece of clothing is mind-blowingly complex! I don't think I will throw my unwanted clothing away anymore, but will donate them instead."

In addition to understanding the intricate management and manufacturing process, Hu Yan, Supervisor, Corporate Social Responsibility of Esquel Group, introduced the corporation's



世界工廠

溢達集團讓學生認識珠三角先進製造業的世界

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core CSR initiatives to the students. These include the health and safety of working spaces for employees, to the construction of its own low-emissions power plant, and waste water treatment plant to reduce waste emissions.

“I am particularly impressed with what the company has done for the well-being of its workers,” said student Lau Yen Kiu. “The mini supermarket located within the factory’s premise sells groceries cheaper than regular supermarkets, which helps employees save their time and money.”

On the final day of the trip, students had the chance chat with the company’s management trainees about their careers in various departments, as well as their personal opinions on working in Mainland China. ❁

Esquel Group 溢達集團

Esquel Group is one of the world’s leading producers of premium cotton shirts. The group has production facilities in China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka, and a network of branches servicing key markets worldwide. Esquel’s uncompromising emphasis on ethical business practices, creativity and continual improvement have earned it a reputation as “A Company of Fun People Serving Happy Customers.” Applying state-of-the-art technology and manufacturing processes, Esquel continues to be the standard bearer of reform for the textile and apparel industry.

溢達集團是世界領先的高檔純棉襯衣生產商之一，工廠遍及中國、馬來西亞、越南、毛里求斯和斯里蘭卡，強大的銷售網絡為全球主流市場提供服務。溢達著重道德誠信、創造性和進取精神，並贏得「快樂的員工，滿意的客戶」的聲譽。由於勇於嘗試最新的技術和製造流程，溢達一直引領著紡織服裝業變革的方向。



我們習慣花很多錢買衣服，因為衣著可以凸顯我們的個人品味和時尚風格。但有多少人真正知道衣服的製造過程，以及當中的複雜性？

透過總商會「商校交流計劃」，17位嘉諾撒聖家書院的中四、五生於3月28至29日，參觀了溢達集團位於廣東佛山高明區的工場，了解製衣流程及集團運作。

「來參觀之前，我本抱著懷疑的心態，因為內地廠房一向給人血汗工廠的負面形象。」學生陳詠琛說：「今次之後，我對內地廠房大為改觀，印象很好。」

溢達集團是世界領先的高檔純棉襯衣生產商之一，今年是連續第七年參與「商校交流計劃」，讓香港學生有難得的機會，窺探紡織製衣業的運作。

在為期兩天的活動中，溢達集團助理人力資源經理謝敏玲及人力資源主任蔣嘉文首先介紹了集團的業務和核心價值。學生其後參觀了偌大的廠房，了解製衣流程中的每個工序，包括把棉花織成可用的棉線，用織編機把棉線製成花

紋布，把布剪縫為成衣，再包裝和運送給顧客等。

「我們看到製衣的流程，以及公司的經營效率。」學生陳詠鈺說：「一件衣服的整個製作流程原來是如此複雜！我想我不會再隨便丟棄無用的衣服，我會捐給有需要的人。」

除了認識其精密管理和製造流程，溢達集團企業社會責任主管胡艷亦向學生介紹了公司在企業社會責任的核心工作，包括加強僱員工作間的健康和安全，以及自設低碳排放電廠和污水處理廠，以減少廢物排放。

「我對於溢達集團在照顧員工健康方面的工作，印象特別深刻。」學生劉昕翹說：「位於廠房內的迷你超級市場，貨品價格比一般超市便宜，有助僱員節省時間和金錢。」

在行程的最後一日，學生有機會與該公司的管理見習生會面，聽他們談在不同部門的實戰體驗，以及在中國內地工作的個人意見。✿

Holy Family Canossian College

嘉諾撒聖家書院

Holy Family Canossian College is an all-girls Catholic school established in 1966 by the Canossian Sisters. The school's motto is to provide students with rounded education in a dynamic learning and teaching environment that enhances Catholic values of love and unity. Besides academic achievements, the school also encourages the development of students' talents inside and outside school. This is the second year that the school has participated in the Business-School Partnership Programme.

嘉諾撒聖家書院是一所天主教女校，1966年由嘉諾撒修女創立。該校的使命是提供一個充滿活力的學與教環境，推動全人教育，好讓學生效法天主關愛共融的精神，追求善德。除了學術發展，學校亦鼓勵培養學生在校園內外的潛能。今年是該校第二年參與「商校交流計劃」。

