

Dirty Thirsty Fashion: This month, we focus on fashion off the back of the recent CLSA U@ report "Dirty Thirsty Fashion: Blindsided by China's water wars". The report warns that policies set to ensure water security in China could pose an "existential threat" to the US\$1.7 trillion global fashion industry. We and other experts review why fashion may be in the crossfire.



SEPTEMBER
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EDITORIAL

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We are not the only ones concerned. Hu Kehua, of the China National Textile & Apparel Council tells us how OEMs are 'stuck in the middle' as they try to meet the more stringent water standards whilst keeping down costs to meet brand demand. Meanwhile, there is on-ground help and Dr Anthony Ma introduces the new HSBC Industrial Water Management Programme led by the Hong Kong Productivity Council.

With almost 50% of the world's cotton grown in India and China, the two most water stressed countries in the world, the future of cotton is also a question. Liza Lort-Phillips from CottonConnect shares the key headlines from their report titled "More Crop Per Drop" released earlier this month, whilst Trucost's Jacqueline Jackson takes a look at fashion's broader impact on the environment. This includes takeaways from the 2014 Copenhagen Fashion Summit & GLASA awards where calls for change in the way fashion uses natural resources were loud and clear.

Given the current regulatory changes in China, perhaps it is time for both brands and investors take a closer look. Shifting the textile sector from a linear economy to a circular economy is not a 'nice-to-have' corporate water stewardship strategy, it's a 'must-have' in China's book. Can brands do more? We take a look to see how their supply chain practices rank in China. Find out who's ahead and who's lagging because in fashion, one day you are in, and the next, you are out.

LATEST FEATURES

Dirty Thirsty Wars: Fashion Blindsided

Could the global fashion industry be blindsided by China's policies to

TAPPING IN

Government

- NDRC, NEA & State Administration of Coal Mine Safety: [Circular on Regulating Over-production of Coal Mines](#); to curb coal production; fines up to RMB 2mn for exceeding annual quota
- NDRC, MoF & MEP: [Adjustments to Pollutant Discharge Fee Standards](#)
- MEP: [Assessment Results for the Pollutant Reduction for Year 2013](#)
- NDRC & MOHURD: [Notice on Further Strengthening Urban Water Saving](#)
- MEP: releases [behavioral guidelines](#) urging public to walk, ride bikes & more to combat pollution

Reports:

- CLSA: [Dirty Thirsty Fashion](#)
- CottonConnect: [More Crop per Drop](#) - Water Report on the Cotton Industry
- ISO: [ISO 14046](#): new water footprint standard
- SIWI: [Energy & Water: The Vital Link for a Sustainable Future](#)
- WRI: [Global Shale Gas Development: Water Availability & Business](#)



ensure water security? We take a closer look at the new CLSA report "Dirty Thirsty Fashion: Blindsided by China's water wars".

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OEMs Stuck in the Middle

China National Textile & Apparel Council's Hu Kehua on challenges ahead for textile OEMs in meeting the new industry standards and brands' product demands

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Industrial Water: Meeting New Standards

HK Productivity Council's Dr Ma on programmes to help industry meet new standards as pollution control & efficiency improvement equipment cost millions of yuan

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Cotton Farming: How Deep Is Your Well?

Can cotton flourish in water scarce areas? CottonConnect's Lort-Phillips shares key messages from their latest report on how to extract more crop per drop

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The Colour This Season: Green

Trucost's Jackson reviews the 2014 Copenhagen Fashion Summit & Global Leadership Award in Sustainable Apparel awards; on the agenda: natural capital accounting, water savings, education & more

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Brand Rankings Through Chinese Lens

See how brands rank across 8 sectors in terms of their supply chain's environmental impact in this review of the new Corporate Information Transparency Index (CITI) report

Risks

Events:

- 16-17 Sep 2014: [CSR Asia Summit](#)
- 15-20 Sep 2014: CLSA Investor Forum

Interest

- MoF: RMB 1.59bn for wetlands protection & conservation in 2014
- China to import 1bn tonnes of Mongolia coal over the next 20 years
- SOE managers to be replaced by private-sector managers as part of reform plan
- MoA: permits to grow GM rice & corn not renewed
- Beijing: state-owned farms & companies to merge into agri corps
- Chongqing: sulphur plant pollutes reservoir
- 2013 desalination capacity increased 16%; total daily capacity is now 900,800 tonnes at RMB5-8/tonne
- Oasys Water Inc to provide wastewater treatment tech at Huaneng's coal-fired plant in Zhejiang
- H.J. Heinz Co recalled cereal products after excessive lead levels found

Hot on Weibo:

- ALS Ice Bucket Challenge considered trendy but criticised over water wastage given the drought

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