

# Annual Report 2017

## Ø ZDHC

The Roadmap To Zero  
Programme

### Signatory Brands:



### Value Chain Affiliates:



### Associates:







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The ZDHC  
Roadmap to Zero  
Programme  
Annual Report 2017  
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## Executive Director's Letter

In 2017, the ZDHC Foundation shifted gear to holistically support the implementation efforts of the textile, apparel, footwear and leather industries\* around sustainable chemical management. To scale our efforts and global reach we finalised our long-term strategic plan and launched the ZDHC Implementation Experience, which is our framework of tools, standards and guidance, tailored for the industry, which are easy to access and implement.

We invested heavily in a robust service infrastructure to support the industry in finding and sourcing safer chemical alternatives. The ZDHC Gateway - Chemical Module, based on the ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance, provides chemical suppliers with an indication system to assess the extent to which a chemical formulation conforms to, or meets, the requirements of the ZDHC MRSL.

In the ZDHC Gateway - Wastewater Module engaged facilities can disclose their implementation efforts based on ZDHC's Wastewater Guidelines and also demonstrate their continuous improvement.

Every year, and also in 2017, we experienced growth in organisations contributing to the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme. With these organisations, we grew our total number

of Contributors to 75 across all parts of the textile, leather and footwear supply chains.

For organisations that are not ZDHC Contributors but endorse, support and use ZDHC tools and standards, we launched the "Friends of ZDHC" Programme. We also introduced the Implementation HUB to support and guide the implementation of the Programme.

A fast-growing organisation driving the large-scale implementation of sustainable chemical management requires – besides a long-term strategy – a solid basis of human capital, IT and services infrastructure. ZDHC staffing increased from seven to thirteen team members based in Amsterdam, Portland and Shanghai and the number of Board Directors from nine to twelve.

We formally established our first Management Team, including the role of an Implementation Director. This means that ZDHC is strongly placed for further growth and to deliver its aspirational vision.

I would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who is involved in our collaborative efforts and activities. From Contributors, today, there are over 450 individuals that work and engage in the Roadmap to Zero Programme

to our collaboration partners such as the Sustainable Apparel Coalition, amfori, The German Partnership for Sustainable Textiles, the Leather Working Group and the Friends of ZDHC who are all important accelerators for transforming the industry and continuously reaching towards our shared goals.

In 2018, ZDHC will continue to put all its efforts into creating tools and systems that enable the industry to drive and scale implementation, and leading the industry towards a holistic sustainable chemical management framework that reduces supply chain complexity and duplicative efforts.

In this report, we look back on a very successful year, full of achievements, whilst also giving a preview of what is going to come in 2018.



**Frank Michel**  
Executive Director

\*From now on referred to as the industry



# ZDHC Contributor Growth 2017

In 2017, ZDHC welcomed the following contributors in the different categories:

## Signatory Brands

HUGO BOSS

## Value Chain Affiliates

### Chemical Industry



### Textile Industry



### Solution Provider



## Associates



“Being a part of the ZDHC Community has only reinforced our own efforts to become more vigilant and diligent in the journey to a zero toxic future for fashion. We are delighted to be working with so many different kinds of organisations in this quest to change how chemical management must evolve throughout the industry.”

Mahesh Amalean  
Chairman  
MAS Holdings

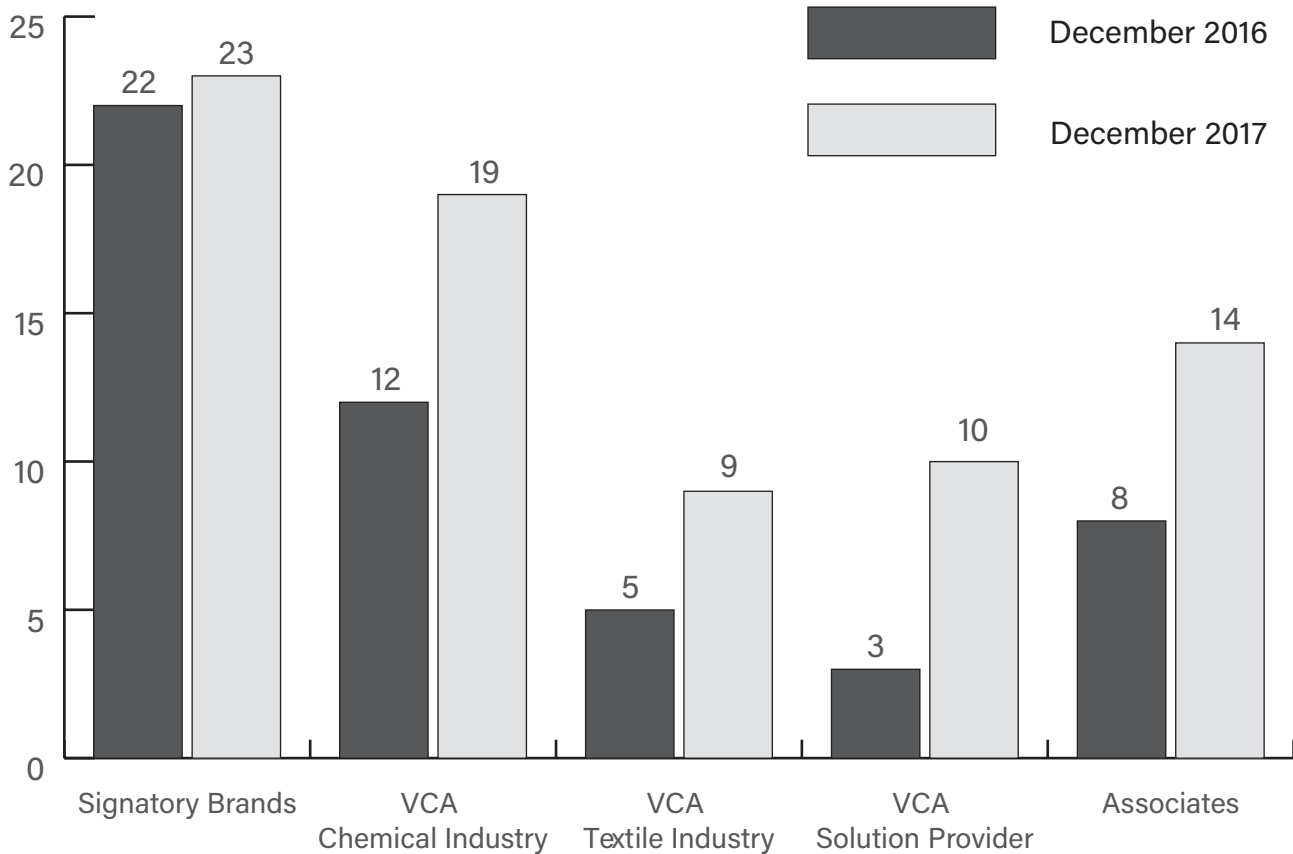


“Chemical management is known as being one of the main drivers to improve the ecological footprint of textile production and is thus an imperative. We are happy to be a contributor of the ZDHC as it helps us to continuously eliminate hazardous substances from the manufacturing processes in cooperation with our suppliers. Together with other ZDHC contributors we strive to reduce the environmental impact of a product right from the start of its life cycle. ZDHC supports our mutual efforts and we believe in successful change in the future.”

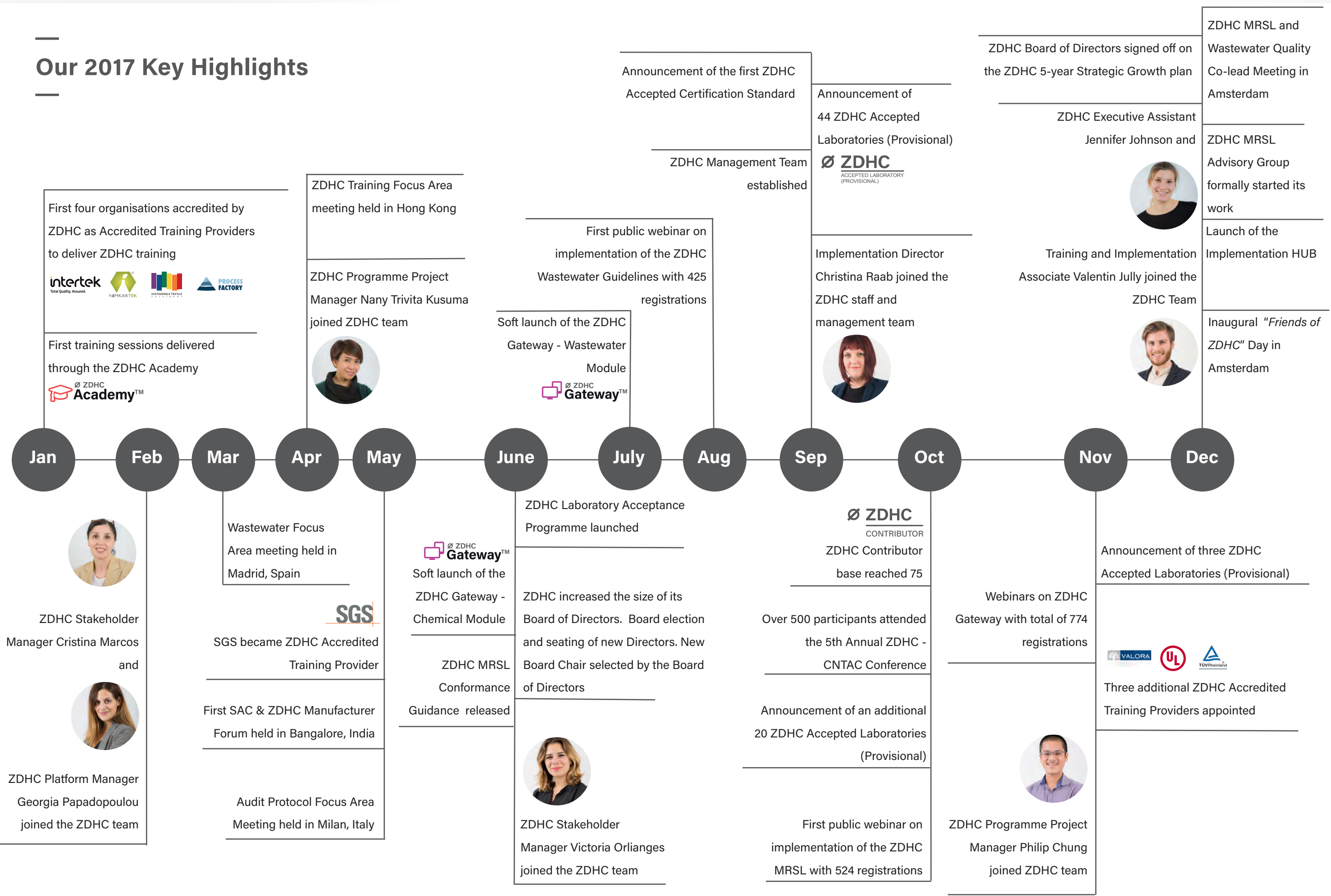


Andreas Streubig  
Director Global Sustainability  
HUGO BOSS AG

## Contributor Growth



# Our 2017 Key Highlights



# A Bit of History - the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme and its Objectives

In 2011, the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme began as a coalition of six brands and those brands committed to a Joint Roadmap, in which they outlined their future activities.

In 2014, the ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (ZDHC MRSL) Version 1 was released, along with Chemical Guidance Sheets. Updated in December 2015, the ZDHC MRSL version 1.1 also included leather and coated fabrics.

In 2015, the ZDHC Joint Roadmap was updated and ZDHC transitioned to management under a legal entity established in the Netherlands –

the ZDHC Foundation. The clearly established vision for the ZDHC Foundation is widespread implementation of sustainable chemistry, driving innovation and best practices in the industry to protect consumers, workers and the environment.

Also in 2015, Focus and Cross Cutting Areas were formed in order to optimise impact and complement the work of other industry associations and non-governmental organisations. In 2017, these focus areas were restructured to enable a more holistic approach and tackle all parts of the global textile, leather and footwear value chain.



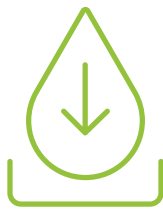
# The ZDHC Programme Restructure

Since the start of operating the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme, the delivery of the Programme has continuously evolved to reflect a changing industry and latest market developments.

In 2017 we reviewed how the Programme delivery worked in practice. We identified Contributor engagement in the Focus and Cross Cutting Areas and insufficient transparency in decision making as areas for significant improvement. In December 2017, with approval from the Board of Directors, we kick-started the restructuring of the Programme.

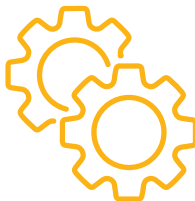
The overarching objective of the restructure is to reduce complexity, increase transparency and streamline the efficiency of Programme delivery processes. This is combined with the fundamental need to re-energise Contributor engagement by creating clear and focused roles and responsibilities allowing Contributors, whether large or small, to easily and meaningfully engage in the Programme in a way that reflects their needs, their expertise and their capacity.

The Programme structure now comprises 3 Focus Areas as follows:



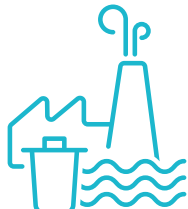
INPUT

The Input Focus Area - formerly known as MRSL & Research - works on tools and services relating to input chemistry - that are the cornerstone of ZDHC.



PROCESS

The Process Focus Area aims at harmonising the environmental assessments that are used during the production of textile, leather and footwear.



OUTPUT

The Output Focus Area works on tools and services relating to output, designed to support and verify the work of all Focus Areas.

Although the new Programme structure comes into operation in early 2018, for ease of understanding in reading this report we are reporting our 2017 Programme activities in the format of the new Programme structure.





New Balance collaborated with footwear, apparel and chemical industry subject matter experts to develop the ZDHC MRSL version 1.1, a compliance standard for chemical formulations used by the footwear and apparel supply chain. New Balance adopted the ZDHC MRSL in 2015 which has become an effective chemical input management tool that strengthens New Balance's commitment to protect the environment where we make our products, the health of workers in those manufacturing facilities, the health of our consumers and our brand integrity. The ZDHC MRSL also supports our suppliers in their obligation to provide New Balance with RSL-compliant materials and finished product. New Balance has committed to 100% compliance with the ZDHC MRSL for all our core footwear and apparel suppliers by 2020.



**Greg Montello**  
Senior Manager, Product Chemistry  
at New Balance Athletics, Inc.



## Focus Area: Input



### Overview

The Input Focus Area (formerly MRSL & Research Focus Areas) works on tools and services that are the cornerstone of the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme - those that seek to change the way products are made by restricting input chemicals rather than trying to eliminate them in effluents and products.

#### Current and planned ZDHC tools include

- the **ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (ZDHC MRSL)** - a list of chemical substances banned from intentional use in facilities that process textile materials, coated fabrics, leather and trim parts in textiles and footwear.
- ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance** - an indication system that assesses the extent to which a chemical formulation conforms to ZDHC MRSL standards.
- the **ZDHC Gateway - Chemical Module** - an easy to use online search tool that shows chemical buyers the level to which they can be confident a product conforms to the ZDHC MRSL via one, comprehensive, user-friendly interface.
  - the **ZDHC ChemCheck** - a product passport for chemical formulations.
  - the **ZDHC InCheck** - a report for ZDHC MRSL conformance reporting of manufacturing facilities.

### Achievements 2017



#### The first five ZDHC Accepted Indicators for ZDHC MRSL Conformance

To accelerate the global impact of the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme, ZDHC decided at a very early stage not to start its own certification system for ZDHC MRSL conformant chemistry but instead to leverage existing certification as indicators of ZDHC MRSL conformance.

ZDHC leverages credible and approved third-party certification systems to create an indication of ZDHC MRSL conformance. An integral part of the indication system takes the form of certificates from ZDHC accepted third-parties or acceptable analytical test results. To the end of December 2017 there are the following ZDHC Accepted Certification Standards:

- BLC Chem-MAP** as Level 1 and 3 indicator
- ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® Programme** as Level 1 indicator
- Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)** as Level 1 indicator
- NimkarTek Detox Laboratory (NDL)** as Level 1 indicator
- ToxServices Full Materials Disclosure™ (ToxFMD™) Programme** as Level 1 indicator

The current list of ZDHC Accepted Certification Standards can be found [here](#).

[Read more...](#)

Chem-MAP

OEKO-TEX®  
CONFIDENCE IN TEXTILES  
ECO PASSPORT



TOXSERVICES  
TOXICOLOGY RISK ASSESSMENT CONSULTING



It is great to see that ZDHC has chosen to work with existing certification standards rather than create their own. This approach gives the industry engagement options and adds much needed capacity. Collectively, we are all working to promote better chemistry within supply chains and products.



**John Frazier**  
Senior Technical Director  
at OEKO-TEX®





When dealing with chemical management the situation is dynamic and it is necessary to adapt to changes in chemical legislation and scientific knowledge. It is also important to welcome innovative changes that challenge established chemical practices in terms of reduced impacts on consumers, workers and the environment. Therefore, the ZDHC MRSL needs to be revised and updated on an ongoing basis. In order to ensure this is done in an open, transparent and objective process the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme has formed an independent MRSL Advisory Group (MAG) comprised of leading experts from the textile, chemical, fashion and NGO community and which I am privileged to chair. We welcome proposals for additions or amendments to the ZDHC MRSL and will consider each proposal using a clear, structured and transparent process that ensures each suggestion is critically appraised prior to a decision being made as to whether it should be adopted immediately or at some stage in the future.



**Phil Patterson**  
Managing Director  
at Colour Connections Consultancy Ltd.  
and ZDHC MAG Chair



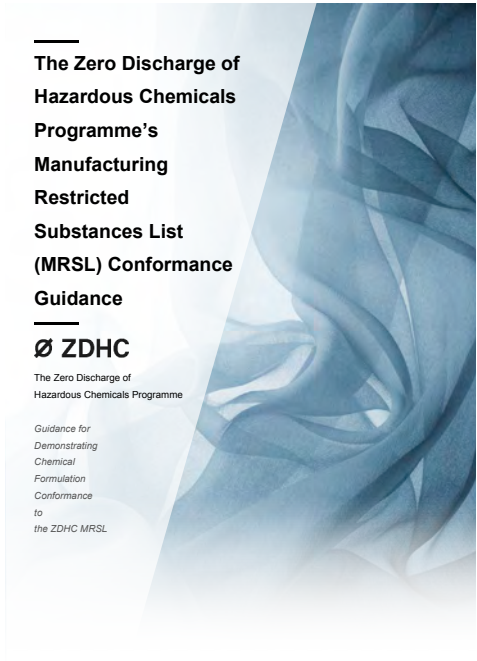
### Development of the ZDHC MRSL Update Process, Formation and Activation of ZDHC MRSL Advisory Group (MAG)

The ZDHC MRSL was developed as a brand driven initiative and needs to be updated and transitioned to a multi-stakeholder, transparent, inclusive document that meets the requirements and needs of all parts of the value chain.

With feedback and input from ZDHC Contributors in 2017, we developed a mechanism and process to update and add substances into the ZDHC MRSL to limit the risk of anti-competitive practice and to improve the credibility of the ZDHC MRSL with key stakeholders. It became clear that a well defined MRSL governance is needed to evolve and include input from a broader range of stakeholders to drive a more objective outcome. To achieve this, the ZDHC Foundation and its Contributors agreed on the creation of the ZDHC MRSL Advisory Group (ZDHC MAG); a diverse group of independent, neutral and reputable subject matter experts who work collaboratively to make a final decision regarding chemical substances suitable for inclusion in the ZDHC MRSL. The ZDHC MAG was formed in November and met in-person during the December meeting in Amsterdam. The chairperson for the ZDHC MAG was also appointed.



### Release of the ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance in June 2017



The ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance provides chemical formulators with an indication system to assess the extent to which a chemical formulation conforms to, or meets, the requirements of the ZDHC MRSL. ZDHC's intent is to leverage third-party certification systems to establish a reliable indication of conformance. An integral part of the indication system takes the form of certificates from ZDHC accepted third-party certification standards or acceptable analytical test results. The Guidance also describes the criteria that certification standards must meet in order to be accepted by ZDHC as an indicator of ZDHC MRSL conformance.

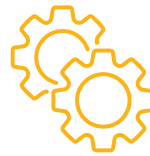
[Read more or Download the ZDHC MRSL Conformance Guidance here](#)

### Next Steps

- ▶ Develop and deploy an electronic version of the ZDHC MRSL version 1.1
- ▶ Pilot the mechanism for a transparent process to update ZDHC MRSL
- ▶ Develop a ZDHC MRSL online submission portal for proposing entity
- ▶ Identify additional substances (additional to the ones currently in the ZDHC MRSL v1.1) used in trims, coatings, rubbers, polymers and adhesives to be considered by the MAG for inclusion in the ZDHC MRSL update pilot process for 2018



## Focus Area: Process



### Overview

The Process Focus Area (formerly Audit Protocol Focus Area) works on projects related to good chemical management practices and harmonised supply chain implementation of ZDHC tools. This includes development and maintenance of tools designed for the assessment of supply chain practices for chemical management, including and not limited to the Chemical Management Module of the Higg Facilities Environmental Module (FEM) 3.0 and those tools designed to help suppliers better manage chemicals such as the ZDHC Chemical Management System (CMS) Guidance.

### Achievements 2017

- Completion of the draft update to the CMS guidance
- Continued maintenance of the Higg FEM 3.0 Chemical Management Module

### Next Steps

- Launch of the ZDHC Chemical Management System (CMS) Guidance

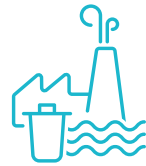


One of the main goals this year was to update and make ZDHC's Chemical Management System (CMS) Guidance Manual available online to increase its accessibility and support the scaling up of the implementation of ZDHC's chemical management programme by brands, retailers, suppliers and key collaborative partners such as SAC, to help bring about sustainable, industry-wide change. It's been fantastic to help lead this project and we hope that by making this vital tool more accessible it will help users towards achieving the ultimate goal of zero use and discharge of hazardous chemicals, quicker and more efficiently.

Emma Hamilton-Foster  
Environmental Sustainability Manager  
at Primark



## Focus Area: Output



### Overview

The Output Focus Area (formerly Wastewater Focus Area) works on those areas designed to support and verify the work of all Areas. This includes the development and ongoing maintenance of the following ZDHC tools:

- **ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines** - industry guidelines that define a single, unified standard for wastewater testing that goes beyond regulatory compliance. It includes conventional parameters such as pH, BOD, COD, etc., (built upon three levels - foundational, progressive and aspirational) and ZDHC MRSL parameters.
- **ZDHC Gateway - Wastewater Module** - a global online platform for sharing verified wastewater and sludge test data tested against the ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines.
  - **ZDHC ClearStream** - a universally-accepted wastewater reporting standard for output control, which helps suppliers to understand their test reports and demonstrate their performance and compliance level to customers.

“The ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines and the work that is being done to help improve transparency and visibility of wastewater treatment plant performance, are among the most important efforts that are being undertaken in the textile and apparel supply chain to reduce environmental impact. In 2018, we plan to have Output Focus Area task teams, that will be addressing training and capability of treatment plant operators and managers, which will yield further reductions in environmental impact. We at American & Efird are proud to be a part of this very important effort.”

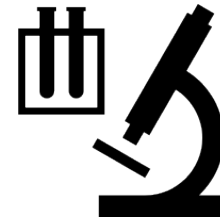
**Jimmy Summers**  
Vice President - EHS & Sustainability  
at American & Efird LLC



## Achievements 2017

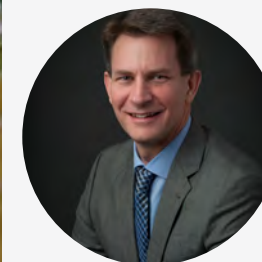


### Launch of ZDHC Laboratory Acceptance Programme



In order to support the implementation of the ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines in the supply chain and to ensure a consistent level of quality for the wastewater and sludge test data submitted in the ZDHC Wastewater - Gateway Module, we launched the ZDHC Laboratory Acceptance Programme in June 2017. With the support of the Laboratory Advisory Group, we defined the provisional acceptance criteria, which are available on the online application form at our public website. The ZDHC Signatory Brands and their supply chain partners helped to encourage the laboratories they work with to go through the application and review the process to become a ZDHC Accepted Laboratory.

“2017 was an important year for turning the ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines from commitment to action. By collectively disclosing wastewater results against this harmonised standard, it is helping our industry better prioritise areas for improvement and drive change faster.”



**John Rydzewski**  
Director of Global Water Programs,  
Sustainable Manufacturing and Sourcing  
at NIKE, Inc.





## ZDHC Accepted Laboratories

Laboratories used for wastewater and sludge analysis for the purposes of submitting data on behalf of the suppliers (manufacturing facilities) in the ZDHC Gateway - Wastewater Module, must be accepted by ZDHC. This is to ensure a consistent level of quality for the test data submitted. ZDHC acceptance means that the laboratory has the personnel, equipment and processes in place to analyse wastewater and sludge samples, but it does not give assurance that for any given sample the testing results are acceptable. That can only be assured by examination of the associated quality control samples.

We are excited to have granted ZDHC provisional acceptance to 67 testing laboratories located in 23 countries in 2017. Each laboratory was given guidance by ZDHC to continuously improve over a period of one year. In 2018 we will encourage brands and their suppliers to work with their laboratories on the acceptance programme, especially in countries with currently insufficient numbers of ZDHC accepted laboratories.



**Being one of the forefront laboratories under ZDHC Lab Acceptance Programme, Intertek is proud to drive sustainability together with ZDHC, retailers, brands, value chain affiliates, and associates in fashion, textiles, leather and footwear industries. We appreciate ZDHC's effort in consolidating experts and practitioners from the industry to formalise requirement and enhance transparency through the ZDHC Gateway, further assisting retailers and brands in achieving sustainability.**



**Vicky Au**  
Program Manager  
– Global Softlines  
at Intertek



## Next Steps

- ▶ Update the ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines Version 1.1 to provide clarification on sampling, testing and reporting requirements
- ▶ Release an electronic version of the ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines
- ▶ Research to define wastewater guidelines for leather and coated fabric industry
- ▶ Research to define sludge limit values
- ▶ Research to define a suitable approach for smart testing
- ▶ Research to define ZDHC's position on Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) and Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP)
- ▶ Begin to address air emissions
- ▶ Begin to define wastewater, sludge and air emissions guidelines for man-made cellulosic fibres
- ▶ Continue to develop the ZDHC Laboratory Acceptance Programme to make it more streamlined while increasing the number of laboratories available globally to test wastewater
- ▶ Data synchronisation with IPE - The Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs in China
- ▶ Public Disclosure Portal for wastewater and sludge discharge



# ZDHC Gateway



## Chemical Module Achievements 2017



### Soft launch of the ZDHC Gateway - Chemical Module

After running a successful and insightful six-month pilot, we soft launched the Chemical Module of the ZDHC Gateway. The ZDHC Gateway - Chemical Module is the world's first database of safer chemistry for the industry. It is an online search tool that helps manufacturing facilities to choose safer options that are available in the market and that conform to the ZDHC MRSL. This "soft" launch was initially for the ZDHC Contributor community, including their supply chain partners.



We agree with ZDHC's vision and I am honoured to be a contributor and support the sustainable developments of the industry. With the ZDHC Gateway - Chemical Module, ZDHC has created a platform that provides an opportunity to share ZDHC MRSL-conformant products and support the industry in the implementation of ZDHC tools.



**Kazu Ikebata**  
Assistant Director Textile Chemicals Division  
at NICCA CHEMICAL CO., LTD



## Release of ZDHC ChemCheck Report V.1

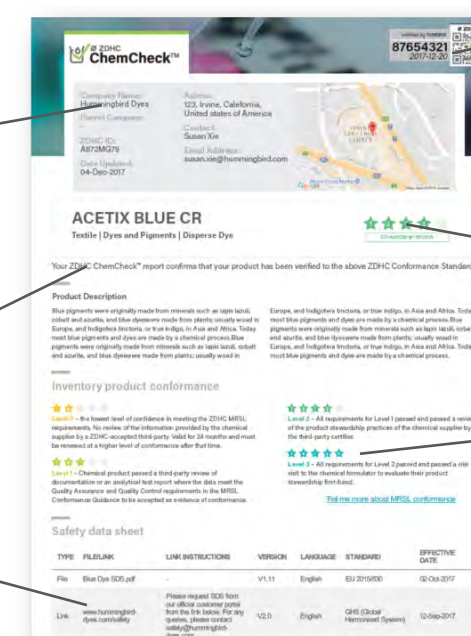


In December, ZDHC released the first version of the ZDHC ChemCheck report\*, for each ZDHC MRSL conformant chemical product registered publicly on the platform. This 'product passport' gives chemical formulators (i.e. chemical suppliers) an easy to generate, easy to read, non-technical report that can be used to assure their clients, textile, apparel and footwear manufacturing facilities that their chemical product is verified to ZDHC conformance standards. Further, this tool eliminates the need for duplicative and costly chemical formulation testing.

Manufacturer summary

Chemical product description

Certifications and SDS summary, listing individual product certifications and certification status



Proof of authenticity with a unique stamp, digitally signed by ZDHC (later in 2018)

Chemical product summary, including ZDHC MRSL level of conformance

Description of the ZDHC MRSL Conformance Levels

\*downloadable from the ZDHC Gateway - Chemical Module

## Chemical Module Next Steps

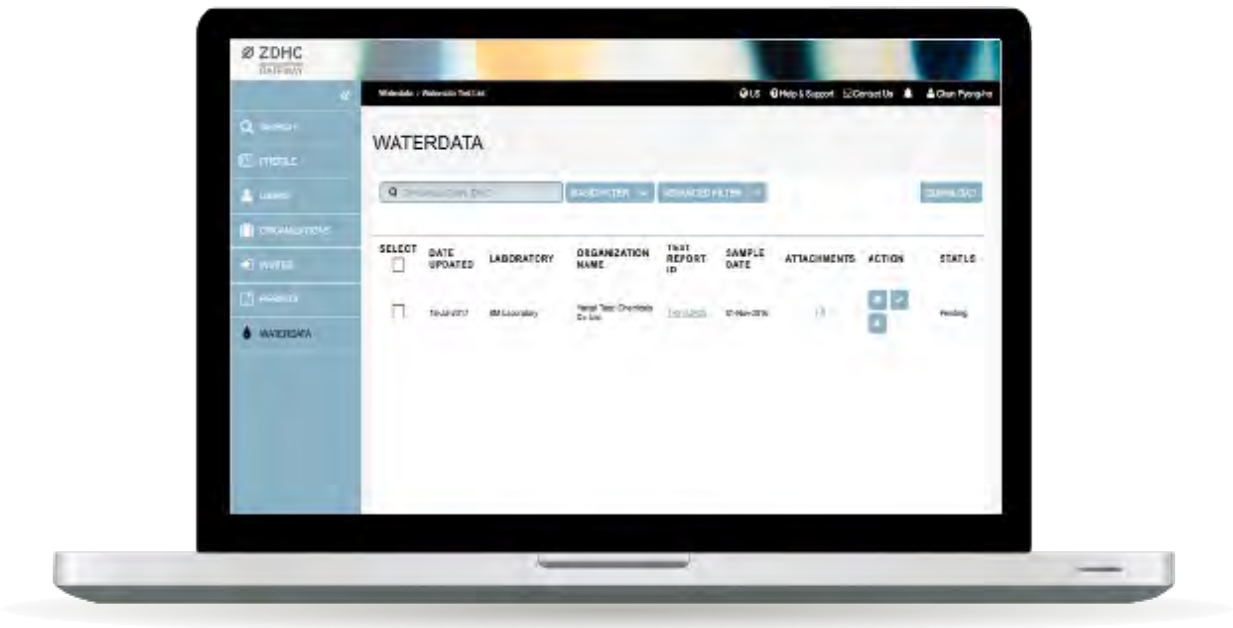
- ▶ Release of ZDHC ChemCheck V.2
- ▶ Release of ZDHC InCheck - a report for ZDHC MRSL conformance reporting of manufacturing facilities
- ▶ Public launch of the ZDHC Gateway - Chemical Module beyond ZDHC Contributors and their value chains





Soft launch of the ZDHC Gateway - Wastewater Module

In July, we soft launched the ZDHC Gateway – Wastewater Module within the ZDHC Contributor community. This module is the first globally accessible online platform for sharing wastewater and sludge test data. By providing suppliers (i.e. manufacturing facilities) an easy way to share wastewater test data with their clients (i.e. brands and retailers), this module reduces the need for suppliers to respond to individual requests one by one, with the assurance that their data is accurate and secure. Brands and retailers benefit from having all of their suppliers’ reliable and verified test data in one place.



Read more about the Wastewater Module here...



The ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines represent the universal language to define the wet processing suppliers’ liquid discharge. Together with the benchmarking and transparency functionalities offered by the ZDHC Gateway - Wastewater Module, we are truly empowered to drive positive systemic change in our supply chain and avoid duplicative testing.



Jalaj Hora  
SVP Raw Materials, Product Engineering & Quality  
at Burberry Group PLC



Wastewater Module Next Steps

- ▶ Release of the ZDHC ClearStream V.2 (final version)
- ▶ Public launch of the ZDHC Gateway - Wastewater Module beyond ZDHC Contributors and their value chains

# ZDHC Academy



## Overview

The ZDHC Academy was established at the end of 2016 as the go-to platform to create awareness, build knowledge and enable skills on sustainable chemical management and ZDHC tools along the textile, apparel, footwear and leather value chains.

The ZDHC Academy is a training platform set up by ZDHC in which accredited training providers can organise training sessions to deliver ZDHC certified training to key industry stakeholders. The trainings aim to reach all parts of the value chain from brands, retailers, manufacturers, tanneries and policy-makers, to understand and adopt sustainable chemical management best practices and innovations. The ZDHC Academy is available for the entire industry - ZDHC Contributors and non-ZDHC affiliated organisations.

## Achievements 2017

### First ZDHC Accredited Training Providers

Together with the launch of the ZDHC Academy, we announced our first ZDHC Accredited Training Providers in early 2017. A ZDHC Accredited Training Provider is an organisation whose trainers are vetted and entitled to deliver certified ZDHC training sessions in selected countries. Up until the end of 2017, we accredited eight organisations - Intertek, Nimbartek, Process Factory, SGS, STS, TÜV Rheinland, UL, Valora - with more than 50 trainers in total. They conducted nearly 30 in-person training sessions in 7 countries, which resulted in over 600 industry professionals being certified to our Chemical Management trainings.



### First ZDHC accredited trainings via the ZDHC Academy

The first course on offer in 2017 was a two-day face-to-face Chemical Management training for facilities, comprising of a basic introduction and a deep dive on management of chemicals in the textile and leather industry. 27 training sessions were held in local languages in Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Turkey, South Korea and Pakistan.

In late 2017 the Chemical Management training was updated to take into account different knowledge levels of participants and to allow for the advanced option of a one-day training.

A second training course was developed on Top 10 issues of Chemical Management, which provides practical insights and guidance on how to address and improve most commonly found issues around chemicals management at facility level.

### Brand-specific Gateway workshops

Several ZDHC Signatory Brands organised supply chain roadshows in various countries and included sessions where ZDHC representatives provided information on how the ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines and Gateway - Wastewater Module work in practice. In total, around 400 representatives from brands' supply chain partners participated in the events across the globe.

**The training included everything I needed to learn on the subject. It was an intense lesson, easy to listen to with good examples of working on the ground especially in textiles and wastewater treatment.**  
Participant from Turkey

**The training was very helpful to learn about best practices in the textile industry to protect consumers, workers, the natural environment and to advance towards zero discharge of hazardous chemicals.**  
Participant from Bangladesh

**The training was conducted in a nice didactical way. The time spacing for each activity was very good. The related videos shown to demonstrate effects of hazardous chemicals on environment and humans were quite inspirational.**  
Participant from India





## Capacity building in form of webinars

### Public Webinar on Implementation of ZDHC MRSL and ZDHC Wastewater Guidelines

To help support the implementation of the ZDHC MRSL and Wastewater Guidelines, we organised several public webinars throughout Q3 that attracted over 900 registrants. These webinars were intended to explain how the tools work in practice and attracted key players in the textile, leather and footwear supply chain, which included (but was not limited to) brands, manufacturing facilities (mainly wet processing) and testing laboratories.

### ZDHC Gateway - Chemical Module user specific demo webinars

From October to December ZDHC hosted six webinars targeted at all user types of the ZDHC Gateway - Chemical Module, from brands and retailers to chemical formulators (chemical suppliers) and suppliers (manufacturing facilities). Hosted in both English and Chinese, the 500 registrants were able to familiarise themselves with Chemical Module user functionalities through live demonstrations. Also, they were introduced to the ZDHC Gateway Toolkit that supports practical next steps on how to benefit from the Gateway.

### ZDHC Gateway - Wastewater Module Webinar for Laboratories

In November, we hosted two webinars that were specifically targeted at the ZDHC provisionally Accepted Laboratories. Approximately 300 registrants were informed about laboratory relevant functionalities through live demonstrations and they were updated on the Wastewater Module Data Privacy Policy principles.

**All webinar recordings are available via the ZDHC Academy.**

[Read more about the ZDHC Academy here...](#)



## Next Steps

- ▶ Roll-out of the Top 10 Issues of Chemical Management training
- ▶ Development of additional training materials including wastewater management and target group specific trainings (e.g. for tanneries, internal corporate teams at brands/retailers)
- ▶ Exploration of e-learning options complementary to the in-person trainings
- ▶ Accreditation of additional ZDHC Accredited Training Providers
- ▶ Expansion of the Academy into new geographies and countries
- ▶ IT enhancement and relaunch of the ZDHC Academy platform

## The ZDHC Academy 2017 in Numbers



**2.145**

New Accounts created on the ZDHC Academy Platform



**8**

ZDHC Accredited Training Providers



**638**

Total Training Participants



**7**

Different countries where trainings were held



**27**

Training sessions held



## Regional Highlights - China

Throughout 2017 we focused our efforts on enhancing collaborative engagement along the value chains on a regional and local level. In particular in China, companies from the chemical, textile and coated fabric industry took a lead in ZDHC standard and tool implementation. Below are a few 2017 highlights from the ZDHC implementation in China. In 2018 the engagement and implementation activities will be deepened and rolled out in a strategic and targeted way across East Asia, South Asia and Southern Europe.

### 5th ZDHC - CNTAC Conference on Hazardous Chemical Control and Sustainable Manufacturing

In October, over 500 participants from across the Asia region attended the 5th Annual ZDHC - CNTAC Conference on Hazardous Chemical Control and Sustainable Manufacturing, with the theme of "An Implementation Experience". The conference showcased developments and progress around the ZDHC tool development and implementation in the East Asia region.



### ZDHC-CNTAC "Chemicals Stewardship Roadmap 2020" 2017 Implementation Circuit Workshops

In 2016, CNTAC (China National Textile and Apparel Council) and ZDHC signed a strategic collaboration agreement to jointly promote chemical management throughout the value chain in China and kicked off the Early Champion pilot project to improve the textile value chain's chemical and environmental management capability. Based on the achievements and learnings from 2016 Early Champion Pilot project,

ZDHC and CNTAC jointly launched a programme known as the "Chemicals Stewardship Roadmap 2020" Implementation Circuit Workshops in several Chinese regions in 2017.

Throughout 2017, over 1,000 participants from textile dyeing and printing enterprises, chemical suppliers and industrial parks participated in the workshops.



### Kick-off Implementation Pilot in China to Phase Out Dimethylformamide (DMF) from Coated Fabric Industry

In June more than 120 participants from the value chain took part in a ZDHC & CPASL (China Artificial & Synthetic Leather Committee of China Plastics Processing Industry Association) co-hosted technical workshop on the phase-out of Dimethylformamide (DMF) use in the coated fabrics production. DMF is one of the substances listed on the ZDHC Research List which requires a multi-stakeholder joint effort on the development of alternatives and practical testing for feasibility of large-scale DMF phase out in the industry.

In the second half of the year, several brands conducted implementation pilots and engaged their suppliers (i.e. DMF-free coated fabric manufacturers), academy experts, CPASL and ZDHC to solve technical challenges and test whether the alternative DMF-free solutions are applicable for bulk production.





# New Partnerships and Collaborations

For ZDHC, collaborative implementation is an important part of our work. In China, our efforts included deepening our engagement with stakeholders from across the value chain. Companies from the chemical industry, textile industry and coated fabric industry took a lead in ZDHC standard and tool implementation in the region. Below are some of the highlights from 2017.

## German Partnership for Sustainable Textiles

In March, ZDHC became a member of the German Partnership for Sustainable Textiles, a multi-stakeholder initiative with about 130 members from five different actor groups (German Federal Government, businesses, non-governmental organisations, unions, standards organisations). The cooperation between the Partnership and ZDHC focuses on the development and implementation of sustainable chemical management practices wherein the Partnership has adopted the ZDHC MRSL. A further area of collaboration is the alignment of chemical management training materials for Partnership members.

**The collaboration with ZDHC has come very naturally. By aligning to a globally recognised framework for sustainable chemicals management our members profit from implementation synergies and knowledge sharing across their supply chains. With our collaboration we drive the scaling of environmental best practice for the sector.**

**Juergen Janssen**  
Head  
at Office of the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles



## The Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs (IPE)

In October, ZDHC started to cooperate with the Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs (IPE), a non-profit environmental organisation in China that is collecting, collating and analysing government and corporate environmental information to build a database of environmental information. The cooperation focuses on the reduction of industry duplication amongst suppliers and brands by linking the data from IPE and the ZDHC Gateway.

**By collaborating with ZDHC we can achieve the transformation of the sector towards higher transparency and better environmental practices faster and more effectively. Joining forces also allows us to streamline supplier requirements on information disclosure.**

**Ma Jun**  
Founding Director  
at Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs (IPE)



## Leather Working Group (LWG)

In November, ZDHC signed a formal partnership with the Leather Working Group (LWG), a not-for-profit, multi-stakeholder group made up of brands, retailers, leather manufacturers, suppliers and technical experts. The cooperation focuses on the alignment and implementation of ZDHC tools for the leather industry with the LWG audit protocol.



**Deborah Taylor**  
Project Manager  
at Leather Working Group

**Strong collaboration with stakeholders in the industry is key to providing brands, leather manufacturers and suppliers with the tools and information needed to make meaningful and sustained environmental improvements. Leather Working Group are committed to our collaboration with ZDHC, having contributed to and endorsed ZDHC's MRSL for Leather, together with contributing advice and discussion on wastewater guidelines for the benefit of all stakeholders. We look forward to continuing to work towards our shared goals in the leather industry.**





## The ZDHC Annual Meeting - Friends of ZDHC Day

On December 14th, ZDHC held its inaugural “Friends of ZDHC” Day in Amsterdam. Over 200 participants from across the value chain participated to learn about latest developments at ZDHC and future industry trends on sustainable chemical management and innovations.

Once a year ZDHC gathers its Contributors for an annual meeting to report on progress, reflect on upcoming challenges and pave the way for sustainable chemical management and improved environmental performance in our industry.

In 2017, for the first time, ZDHC extended parts of this annual meeting to a wider community

of so-called ZDHC “Friends”. ZDHC “Friends” are brands, retailers, supply chain partners and leading sector organisations all of whom either reference ZDHC tools, endorse the ZDHC Programme within their value chains and/or provide critical feedback for the further development of ZDHC activities. As such, these organisations are an important part of the ZDHC community.

The day experienced a diverse programme with presentations, panel discussions and break out sessions all with a focus on ZDHC current and planned developments, sector trends on chemical management and practical showcases of implementation and innovation examples. The day culminated in the official launch of the ZDHC Implementation HUB.

Moving forward, the Friends of ZDHC Day will be established as a fixed event during the Annual Meeting week in December in Amsterdam.

[Read more...](#)



# The Implementation HUB

## Overview

The Implementation HUB is set up to drive large-scale uptake of chemical and environmental management best practices across the entire industry.

To drive the transformation of these sectors, the HUB provides holistic and tailored offerings for brands, retailers and manufacturers in the areas of assessment, strategic planning and implementation. These services are conducted by accredited experts to assure the highest level of competency and quality.



**As IDH, we are excited to work together with the Implementation HUB on accelerating the impact this organisation has on the ground. Through collaborating with local expert organisations, public sector, and other partners, we can make an impact there where it matters most.**



**Sibbe Krol**  
Senior Program Manager Apparel  
at IDH The Sustainable Trade Initiative



## Achievements 2017



### Launch of the Implementation HUB

During the Friends of ZDHC Day, we launched the Implementation HUB, which takes the scaling of chemical and environmental management best practices to the next level and accelerates impact along the value chains of the industry.

The first projects under the Implementation HUB will begin in 2018 with individual ZDHC Signatory Brands and at country level with an initial focus on Italy, India and China.

[Read more...](#)


Over the past few years, we have put in place a Roadmap to Zero Programme with best in class guidance and tools that lead the industry to advance towards zero discharge and the use of more sustainable chemistry. The launch of the Implementation HUB marks the entering of a new phase for ZDHC, towards measurable implementation, tangible impact on the ground and scalable innovations.



## Next Steps

- Establishment of the Implementation HUB platform
- Accreditation of experts and consultants under the Implementation HUB
- Identification and setup of topic-specific innovation pilots
- Roll-out of large-scale ZDHC implementation on country level





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