

The worldwide professional network for people associated with

•fibres & fabrics •clothing & footwear

•interior & technical textiles



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

House of Lords venue for 13th Parliamentary Lunch

Manchester, UK – 4 December 2009 An established annual event The Textile Institute Parliamentary Lunch was once again very generously hosted by Lord Haskel (a past World President of The Textile Institute) in the Cholmondeley Room at the House of Lords, London, UK and for the first time was sponsored by Taylor and Francis, one of the Institute's publishing partners.

Now on its 13th occasion, this year's event broke all records with Lord Haskel's opening address toasting to 'A more mature relationship' and visitors attending from Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Greece, Argentina, Switzerland and the USA, demonstrating the Institutes international reach.

Lord Haskel walked us through the current wrangling going on in British justice and introduced the distinguished speaker for the Lunch, Sir Duncan Michael, an eminent engineer recently awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Sir Duncan currently heads the Arup Foundation and talked of the engineers and unsung heroes who explore the improbable and solve problems from the smallest to the greatest of scales. He mentioned his admiration for Charles Koa, credited with calculating, in 1966, in his PhD thesis at University College London, how fibre optics could be used to transmit data. His groundbreaking achievements were not recognised until 2009 when he was awarded half of the 2009 Nobel Prize for Physics. Sir Duncan alluded to this being the norm for engineers, mentioning that for most engineers they simply get on with the job, not expecting any formal recognition for the amazing insights they provide. Sir Duncan used the key buildings for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the Birds Nest and the Cube, as good examples of how engineers work; building for function, image, budget, the occasion, and the future, commenting that these buildings have made Beijing a capital for the 21st Century.

Prof Subhash Anand MBE the Chair of The Textile Institute's Council thanked Sir Duncan and commented on how much of current architecture depends on textiles for strength and flexibility in design. He said "Optical fibres, ropes and even bridges are reinforced by textile fibres and structures. Textile materials are crucial in many other major disciplines including healthcare and medical devices, civil engineering, composites and aerospace." He also commented on the Institute's own motto 'omnia sunt hominum tenui pendentia filo' – all things hang by a slender thread, drawing a parallel between the appropriateness of the Institute's logo with current times and architectural structures.

The prestigious Lunch, as well as being an exceptional opportunity to network within the textile industry also gives the Institute an opportunity to recognise some of its distinguished members who receive special awards during the event.

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This year William Bohm, The Textile Institute, Alejandro Dandolo, Kalapakian Hnos Argentina and Charles Wilson, Speedo were awarded Companion Membership. Instituted in 1956 and limited to just 50 living members, the award can be granted to any member who has reached 40 years of age and who has substantially advanced the general interests of the textile industry. Honorary Fellowships were awarded to Prof Ron Postle and Dr William Oxenham. Honorary Fellowship was first awarded in 1928 and is the highest honour within the Institute's gift for creativity and the advancement of knowledge achieved by an individual as a result of ingenuity and application over many years. (Citations for all the awardees are attached as a separate document.)

In addition four members were awarded Fellowships of the Institute by Professor Anand, Mr Ashroff Omar (collected on his behalf by Dr Kurrupu), Mr John McCosker, Mr Andreas Weber and the Reverend Brian McCarthy.

Prior to this year's lunch and surrounded by work of one of the UK's greatest Victorian Gothic designers, Augustus Welby Pugin, 10 newly graduated students, from a number of leading UK universities, were given the opportunity to exhibit their work during pre-lunch drinks and join the networking opportunities that such an occasion offers. This opportunity was provided to the students courtesy of sponsorship from the House of Fraser.

As is the order of the day after the lunch many guests joined a tour of the Palace of Westminster and were able to enjoy a first hand history of British Government, to see the glorious architecture of Sir Charles Barry and visit the Woolsack, perhaps one of the strongest symbols of the origin of a nation's wealth.

Next year The Textile Institute has its 100th birthday and several centenary events are planned. The Parliamentary Lunch has already been scheduled to take place the day after the Institute will hold its Centenary World Conference. The Conference will take place in Manchester, UK, the historical birthplace and home to the international headquarters of the Institute, on November 3 and 4 and the Parliamentary Lunch will take place on November 5 in London. The events have been designed to allow those travelling from overseas to make the most of their time in the UK. In addition many of the Institute's Sections and Special Interest Groups will also be organising events around the world.

The Institute may be celebrating one hundred years but is today a vital, enlivened and important organisation providing a truly global network for the fast moving, international textile industry.

Notes to editors:

With International Headquarters in Manchester, UK, The Textile Institute is a unique organisation in textiles, clothing and footwear. Founded in 1910 the Institute was incorporated in England by a Royal Charter granted in 1925 and is a registered charity. The Institute has individual and corporate members in over 80 countries; membership covers all sectors and all disciplines in textiles, clothing and footwear. Individual members can also gain internationally recognised qualifications including, LTI (Licentiates); CText ATI (Associates) and CText FTI (Fellows).

World President Professor Xiaming Tao, is the Head of the Institute of Textiles and Clothing at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Chairman of Council Professor Subhash Anand MBE CText FTI MSc PhD AMCST, is Professor of Technical Textiles, Centre of Material Research & Innovation at University of Bolton.

More information about The Textile Institute is available on the website:
www.textileinstitute.org

Various photos are available on request.

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