

Self-cleaning fabric plays nano magic



Dr Xin (left) and Dr Daoud introducing the self-cleaning cloth.



The portal site [apparelkey.com](http://www.apparelkey.com) provides useful information and resource links.



Fabric Library and Archive.

The University's Institute of Textiles and Clothing (ITC) has worked wonders with nano-technology, using it to develop a special fabric which can be made into self-cleaning clothes. Backed by financial support from the Government's Innovation and Technology Fund, textile scientists of ITC Dr John Xin and Dr Walid A. Daoud found the use of titanium dioxide coating as an efficient way of nano-treatment for the textile industry.

The titanium coating on fabrics acts as an anti-bacterial photocatalyst that helps to break down carbon-based molecules. Once triggered by sunlight, clothing made of such fabrics will be able to remove dirt, pollutants and micro-organism by itself.

This revolutionary breakthrough has been published in the June issue of the internationally-renowned science magazine *Nature* and May issue of the authoritative *Journal of the American Ceramic Society*.

To provide further support for the apparel and textile industry, ITC has recently introduced two new online references, namely the Fabric Archive and the Fashion Library, in its affiliated portal site www.apparelkey.com.

The Fashion Archive displays information in a pictorial format with vivid images of various fashion brand names in different eras, while the Fabric Library covers essential information on traditional and "smart" fabrics with classification of different types of clothing materials for easy searching. The portal site also contains information on different aspects of the apparel business including manufacturing, merchandising and technical know-how. The rich content not only provides inspiration for design education, but also serves as a useful reference for the global fashion and apparel industry. ❖