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APLF opens in Hong Kong



The thirty-fourth edition of the APLF exhibition opened in Hong Kong on March 14. Director of organising company, APLF Limited, Michael Duck, explained at a press conference on the first morning that the event has moved forward in the calendar by two weeks to allow more time for designers and brands to choose materials and begin making their new collections, and also to avoid the Easter holiday.

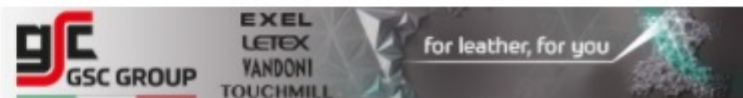
Mr Duck said the 2018 exhibition had “an encouraging backdrop” in terms of the wider global economy, but he said

the leather industry had not kept pace with this.

He said: “The leather industry has been suffering from an oversupply of raw materials that has kept prices under pressure and at the lowest levels seen since the financial crisis. This could stimulate demand in the footwear sector as lower leather prices can better compete with synthetics.”

What is needed to boost demand, he continued, is for designers to turn their attention to leather and its characteristics of “longevity, beauty and, most importantly, biodegradability”.

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