

Mr. Li Yuzhong, Chairman of China Leather Industry Association, said at the gala dinner, “The next decade will be crucial to the industry, since it will face policy changes, cross-industry cooperation, technological innovation and shift in business model. The whole Chinese leather industry will work together with the global partners to overcome the challenge ahead.”

The Shanghai Shake-Up



This year, the fair got underway with the first Shanghai Shake-Up Conference held on August 28th, during which information was shared about how to help the leather industry progress and how to establish it as a sustainable, open minded and forward thinking industry. Three main themes, namely **“Streetluxe”**, **“Leather Lab”** and **“Made to Move”** were addressed during the conference and were further featured at the Technological Innovation Trend Forum held inside the fair while no less than 27 potential opportunities to increase the use of leather were suggested by Nicoline Van Enter, Founder and Creative Director, the Footwearists. These were also illustrated by the participating speakers. Setting up collaboration with designers and turning recycled leather into valuable materials are just a few ideas that were shared and discussed.

Leather Naturally Zone





With designers in mind, Leather Naturally (LN), an industry initiative formed by stakeholders in the leather industry, set up the Leather Naturally Zone to inspire and inform designers, creators and consumers about the use, beauty, versatility and sustainability of leather. For the first time a Leather Trend Space was set up in ACLE, attracting a constant flow of visitors who came to get inspiration from the Spring-Summer 2018 colours and leather trends.

Ten LN talks were held and three designer workshops were organised for local young footwear, garments and leather goods designers. **“Leather Naturally initiative is to promote the beauty, quality and versatility of leather.** We are very pleased with the success of the Leather Naturally Zone at ACLE. I would also like to thank the great effort of the organisers in arranging all the seminars, workshops and displays in the Zone to create positive awareness towards Leather.” Stated Egbert Dijkers, Chair of Leather Naturally.