

YKK Partners with Fashion Frontier Program to Drive Sustainability in Emerging Fashion Design

Published on 22 Aug 2025 | By IFI Correspondent



YKK Partners with Fashion Frontier Program to Drive Sustainability in Emerging Fashion Design

YKK Corporation has announced a strategic partnership with the **Fashion Frontier Program**, an initiative supported by **Japan's Ministry of the Environment**, to advance sustainable practices among the next generation of fashion designers.

As part of the collaboration, YKK will host a lecture titled *"Little Parts. Big Difference."* during the program's first incubation session this month. The session will explore how small fastening products—zippers, snaps, and buttons—can play a critical role in creating **circular fashion solutions**, while engaging with **16 semifinalists** in the program.

The partnership also coincides with the **25th anniversary of the YKK Fastening Awards**, Japan's largest student fashion competition. Moving forward, YKK plans to integrate **award winners into future incubation programs**, connecting both initiatives to create a stronger ecosystem for sustainable fashion education.

Founded by designer **Yuima Nakazato**, the Fashion Frontier Program blends **education with an awards platform** to nurture creativity with a focus on **social and environmental responsibility**. The program will run until **December 2025**, culminating in a high-profile award ceremony that celebrates innovation in sustainable design.

This collaboration underscores YKK's long-standing commitment to sustainability and its mission to make a "big difference" through even the smallest parts of fashion.