

## **Regarding the change of 2021 IFFTI Conference hosting at Ewha**

### **1. Current Circumstances in Korea (September, 2020)**

#### **1) COVID-19 re-rising exponentially**

- Social distancing level 2.5, 200-400 confirmed cases daily, Cumulative confirmed cases exceeding 20,000
- Elementary, middle, high school and University have changed to remote classes
- Create an unprecedented sense of crises across politics, economy and all society

#### **2) Seoul's political crisis & unavailable to cooperate with Seoul**

- Absence of the Mayor of Seoul due to a sudden and unsavory event, April 2021 Election
- Massive protests in Seoul, Political instability
- Support is unclear and suspension of most projects due to absence of the Mayor

#### **3) Seoul Design Foundation**

- Regarding the COVID-19 and Seoul's political issues, many projects has been suspended
- 2021 S/S Seoul Fashion Week is scheduled to hold a fashion show without audiences on October 20-25, 2020 (Subject to change)

#### **4) Unavailable to cooperate with Company (Kolon)**

- Unstable internal and external situation of Kolon(cooperative company)
- Difficulty to get sponsor due to the current company's difficulties

### **2. Current Circumstances of Ewha**

#### **1) Suspension of preparation as an offline conference**

- Until the beginning of 2019, it was planned to operate a collaborative basis in connection with industry-academia (Seoul/ Seoul Design Foundation/ Kolon). However, it is now difficult to prepare due to COVID-19 and other current circumstances.
- On March, 2021, Ewha Womans University President's Election and changes due to internal re-organization
- Difficult to encourage student's participation (shows, exhibition, contest etc.)
- Changes in the internal infrastructure organization of the department of the fashion design (team reorganization, etc.)

#### **2) No experiences of online conference**

#### **3) Shortage of related staffs and system when conducting online conference**

#### **4) Lack of platform other than ZOOM or YouTube**

#### **5) Difficulty in conducting online conference as a non-English speaking country**

### **3. Ewha's current position on hosting the 2021 IFFTI conference**

- 1) After the deliberation, we, Ewha, hope to hold the conference offline after 2-3 years and ask for understanding of this inevitable and exceptional situation.
- 2) Considering the continuation of the pandemic, if the conference has to be operated by on/off blending, it would be better to holding a conference at IFFTI headquarters or European University before holding at Ewha Woman's University to accumulate the precedent.