

MEDIA RELEASE

Enterprise Singapore to roll out courses on sustainability for businesses

MR No.: 006/22

Singapore, Wednesday, 26 January 2022

1. Enterprise Singapore has developed a series of courses for businesses on sustainability, in partnership with Global Compact Network Singapore (GCNS), PwC Singapore and Singapore Environment Council (SEC), under the Enterprise Sustainability Programme (ESP)¹. The first series of sustainability courses will commence in March 2022.
2. The two to three-day courses will cover sustainability trends, risks and opportunities, as well as concepts and topics such as decarbonisation, circular economy, sustainability reporting and carbon management. The courses will help raise business leaders' understanding of sustainability and provide them with tools and resources to assess their companies' current level of sustainability readiness and performance.
3. There will be up to 30 runs of the courses each year. Interested companies can get more information at the websites of [GCNS](#), [PwC Singapore](#) and [SEC](#)². Enterprise Singapore will provide a 70% fee subsidy for up to three participants per eligible enterprise³.
4. Mr Geoffrey Yeo, Assistant Chief Executive Officer (Sustainability and Enterprise Finance), Enterprise Singapore, said, "Globally, there is an increased emphasis on sustainability practices among businesses. There is a pressing need for Singapore enterprises to build knowledge and skills to navigate new sustainability requirements and stakeholder demands, so they can stay relevant and take on new opportunities in

¹ The ESP was launched in October 2021 to support Singapore enterprises on sustainability initiatives, and to capture new opportunities in the green economy. The ESP supports training courses, capability and product development projects, and key enablers in areas such as certification and financing.

² Course information can be found at www.unglobalcompact.sg/activity?id=b1f69550-acc4-4e06-b3f7-ca99d536858c. (GCNS), www.pwc.com/sg/en/academy/academy-public-seminars/esg-essentials-for-smes.html (PwC Singapore) and www.sec.org.sg/our-programmes/training-and-education/sustainability-into-practice-for-business/ (SEC).

³ Enterprises need to be a business entity registered and operating in Singapore, and a local enterprise as defined by having a minimum of 30% local shareholding.

sustainability. The curated courses aim to shorten the learning curve and kickstart the process for business leaders looking to devise sustainability strategies.”

5. In addition to the sustainability courses, enterprises keen to embark on sustainability projects can tap the ESP for support in areas such as sustainability strategy development, resource optimisation, standards adoption and product development. Additionally, those seeking to upskill their employees’ skillsets in sustainability can look forward to a Career Conversion Programme (CCP) for sustainability professionals, which is currently being developed by Workforce Singapore in collaboration with Enterprise Singapore and key industry stakeholders.

Annex 1: Quotes from sustainability course partners and companies

Annex 2: Details of the sustainability courses

-End-

For media enquiries, please contact:

Ms Eileen POH

Senior Business Partner

Corporate Communications

E : eileen_poh@enterprisesg.gov.sg

Ms Charlotte YEOW

Associate

Corporate Communications

E : charlotte_yeow@enterprisesg.gov.sg

About Enterprise Singapore

Enterprise Singapore is the government agency championing enterprise development. We work with committed companies to build capabilities, innovate and internationalise.

We also support the growth of Singapore as a hub for global trading and startups, and build trust in Singapore’s products and services through quality and standards.

Visit www.enterprisesg.gov.sg for more information.

Quote from key Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs) partner – Singapore Business Federation

Mr Lam Yi Young, CEO, Singapore Business Federation

“A key step to advancing the green agenda is for local businesses, especially SMEs, to mainstream ‘Sustainability in Business and Sustainability as Business’ in order to capitalise on emerging opportunities. The sustainability courses will help local businesses, deepen their understanding of sustainability, and support them to take further actions in the area of sustainability.”

Quotes from sustainability course partners – Global Compact Network Singapore (GCNS), PwC Singapore and Singapore Environment Council (SEC)

Ms Esther Chang, Executive Director, Global Compact Network Singapore

“It is important for Singapore businesses to be ready for emergent regulations impacting environment, social and governance while managing stakeholder expectations. By providing foundational knowledge on steering company strategy and operations amid the low-carbon transition, we look forward to helping businesses take their first crucial steps in support of the Singapore Green Plan 2030.”

Ms Fang Eu-Lin, Partner, PwC Singapore

“The starting point for any ESG transformation journey is to understand what ESG means for your unique organisation, and this is true regardless of organisation size. Many SMEs are only just starting to embark on their transformation journeys and this is an opportunity for SME business leaders to equip themselves with the knowledge they need to make the right strategic decisions for their companies; be it in the areas of cost and risk management or value creation, amongst other important considerations. PwC’s ESG Essentials for SMEs is tailored to equip businesses with the right knowledge to embark on and progress in their sustainability journey.”

Ms Jen Teo, Executive Director, Singapore Environment Council

“As the pace of sustainability transformation picks up, our local enterprises must keep up to stay relevant in the new green economy. We are confident that our course will help build the knowledge and foster capabilities for enterprises to undertake this transition.”

Quotes from companies keen to participate in the sustainability courses

Mr Gabriel Tan, Director, GUAVA Amenities

“The pandemic has shined a spotlight on sustainability and businesses thus need to adapt to continue to be relevant. GUAVA Amenities helps leading hospitality chains increase their profits by embracing sustainability efforts. For us, sustainability is the ability to continue what we do over the long term. This means doing what is right even when it is not yet expected. Being sustainable also enables us to value add to clients and partners in our ecosystem.

As we continue to create scalable sustainable impact, we are heartened to know about the various government initiatives rolled out to help businesses improve our sustainability capabilities, such as the sustainability courses that will be rolled out."

Ms Nichol Ng, CEO, FoodXervices

"In the past, ESG was strictly for the big firms who has the budget or the professionals to look into this are within the company. But over the last 5 years, pressing global issues have indirectly impacted all businesses big and small and hence bringing on a new sense of responsibility amongst us small business owners to embark on our own ESG journey. However, the challenge has always been the lack of direction or support in a more structured and easy-to-understand manner. The sustainability courses would be useful for companies like us to upskill and enhance our knowledge on what ESG stands for and what it takes for ESG to tick in all businesses."

Mr Ryan Chioh, Managing Director, FarEastFlora.com

"I am glad that Enterprise Singapore is taking a lead in organising the framework for understanding sustainability. Learning how to be sustainable is an important part, not only in business, but part of our everyday lives as well. Through this series of sustainability courses, I hope to learn business models that can benefit myself and my business. Sustainability is a broad topic, but we have to start somewhere."

Global Compact Network Singapore (GCNS)'s Foundations in Corporate Sustainability

The course will provide an overview of global and regional sustainability trends and an understanding of how sustainability can be integrated into business practices and operations. It aims to help enterprises understand corporate sustainability and build in-house capabilities for better management of sustainability initiatives and projects. Participants will be guided through the application of frameworks and tools, and learn to adopt responsible business practices.

Course Structure

Duration	20 hours – three sessions across two weeks
Class size	25 to 36 pax per class
Format	In person (subject to social distancing and regulatory restrictions)
Fee payable per participant	S\$450* <i>Subject to eligibility criteria</i>
Course commencement	The first run will commence in end-March 2022

Brief Description of the Modules

Day 1: Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide insight into global and local drivers accelerating sustainability • Understand Environmental, Social and Governance-related opportunities and risks • Introduce how-to frameworks (e.g. Global Compact Management Model) and easy-to-use onboarding tools (e.g. Responsibility Index Communicator for Enterprises (RICE) Tool)
Day 2: Operationalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore stakeholder expectations, measurable indicators and potential action plans and goals that can be undertaken to become more sustainable • Introduce human and labour rights concerns • Highlight global and local concerns including topics such as climate change, decarbonisation, and impact of Singapore's Green Plan 2030 • Introduce Carbon and Emissions Recording Tool (CERT) to kickstart understanding of company's emissions
Day 3 (half day): Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn to communicate performance and address stakeholder information needs • Understand landscape of sustainability reporting, assurance and certifications • Mobilise tools provided in the course (RICE and CERT) to kickstart reporting, and tap onto reporting frameworks such as the GRI Universal Standards

For more information, please visit www.unglobalcompact.sg/activity?id=b1f69550-acc4-4e06-b3f7-ca99d536858c.

About Global Compact Network Singapore (GCNS)

GCNS is the local chapter of the United Nations Global Compact. As the leading voice on corporate sustainability, GCNS drives multi-stakeholder action to forge a more sustainable future, founded on the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals. Through various platforms and partnerships, GCNS

advances the stewardship of sustainable business practices and Singapore’s national agenda of becoming a regional sustainable business hub.

PwC Singapore’s ESG Essentials for SMEs – Kickstart your ESG Journey

The course is designed to provide SME leaders and senior management with a fundamental understanding and the practical tools needed to incorporate ESG principles into their business and kickstart their ESG journey. The course has been tailored to Singapore’s context and provides case studies of SMEs to make the content more relatable.

Course Structure

Duration	16 hours – four sessions across four weeks
Class size	20 to 30 pax per class
Format	Mixed learning modalities including e-learns, virtual webinar and interactive workshop
Fee payable per participant	S\$450* <i>Subject to eligibility criteria</i>
Course commencement	The first run will commence in end-March 2022

Brief Description of the Modules

Module 1: Introduction to ESG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise understanding of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors, how the concept has evolved as well as its relevance and importance to SMEs • Topics include defining ESG, highlighting global and local trends in the ESG landscape and understanding key stakeholder perspectives
Module 2: ESG issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain deeper insight into ESG issues, its impact on SMEs and risk mitigation through various mechanisms • Topics include understanding the regulatory landscape, climate change vulnerabilities, resource efficiency and waste management
Module 3: ESG opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ESG opportunities, including how SMEs can drive value creation and gain a competitive advantage by embracing ESG • Topics include developing an ESG strategy framework, sustainability finance and ESG reporting
Module 4: ESG application workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate and apply learnings into a case study and enable SMEs to start embedding ESG into their strategy and operations through an interactive workshop with practical learning and discussion on industry-specific challenges and opportunities • Reference best practice examples and provide self-assessment using an ESG readiness tool

For more information, please visit www.pwc.com/sg/en/academy/academy-public-seminars/esg-essentials-for-smes.html.

About PwC

At PwC, our purpose is to build trust in society and solve important problems. We’re a network of firms in 155 countries with over 284,000 people who are committed to delivering quality in assurance, advisory and tax services. To demonstrate our commitment to drive the ESG agenda, we recently launched the Asia Pacific Centre for Sustainability Excellence to serve

the Singapore and regional market on environmental and social focus areas. Find out more and tell us what matters to you by visiting us at www.pwc.com/sg.

Singapore Environment Council (SEC)'s Putting Sustainability into Practice for Business

The course is designed primarily for business owners, senior management and senior executives of SMEs and corporates in Singapore. It aims to equip participants with the knowledge and basic understanding to undertake sustainability transformation of their organisations.

Course Structure

Duration	16 hours – four sessions across two weeks
Class size	25 to 30 pax per class
Format	Physical/ Online/ Hybrid (Subject to COVID-19 situation)
Fee payable per participant	S\$450* <i>Subject to eligibility criteria</i>
Course commencement	The first run will commence in end-March 2022

Brief Description of the Modules

Module 1: Core Concepts for Organisational Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impart knowledge on basic sustainability concepts • Build a sense of awareness and appreciation of sustainability and relate it to Environmental, Social and Governance (E, S, G) considerations for businesses
Module 2: Risks and Materiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impart an understanding of sustainability and ESG risks and the business, economic and financial impact • Help learners to deal with ESG challenges with tools and processes to identify and map critical issues
Module 3: Organisational Sustainability Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help learners define ESG issues critical to their organisations and develop relevant mitigation strategies and actions • Understand resource resilience and circularity principles amongst others • Develop a robust sustainability profile that can meet stakeholders' requirements <p>After completion of Module 3, participants will be guided through a Self-Assessment toolkit which allows participants to assess sustainability readiness of their organisation.</p>

For more information, please visit www.sec.org.sg/our-programmes/training-and-education/sustainability-into-practice-for-business/.

About Singapore Environment Council (SEC)

SEC was established in 1995 as an independently managed, non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO). We are the only recognised member of the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) in Singapore. The GEN is a non-profit association of leading eco labelling organisation worldwide. In 2018, SEC was granted United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) accredited environmental NGO status. We influence thinking on sustainability issues and coordinate environmental efforts in Singapore and the region. We are an approved Institution of Public Character (IPC) with tax exemption status to donors.