



公民社會與治理研究中心
CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE

香港大學 THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



ACADEMY for 永續社區學院
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

The University of Hong Kong • Centre for Civil Society and Governance

ACADEMY FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES





IGNITE CHANGE WITH KNOWLEDGE

In a world where the urgency for sustainable practices has reached a tipping point, we need knowledge to accelerate radical change that are genuine. The Academy for Sustainable Communities (The Academy), powered by the Centre for Civil Society and Governance (CCSG) at The University of Hong Kong is a well-recognized collaborative platform locally, nationally and regionally for our solid and systemic impact attained in most of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs).

It is our mission to create a legacy of sustainable practices, nurturing a new generation of change agents as our partners in creating long-term, blended value for their organisations and the society at large. We are now inviting individuals, organisations, and communities to join us on this transformative journey to embrace sustainable practices and make a positive impact at work and beyond.



SUSTAINABILITY = ESG?

Sustainability lies in the intricate web of interconnectedness that binds our actions to the well-being of our planet and society. Every decision we make collectively reverberates through our socio-ecological systems. From the products we consume to the policies we implement; sustainability touches every aspect of our lives—and this goes beyond Environment, Society and Governance (ESG), which is commonly understood as an action and reporting framework.



OUR EXPERTISE

Our experts comprise leading sustainability practitioners, academics and thought leaders who bring a wealth of regional, real-world experience to the programmes. They are dedicated to providing engaging and interactive learning experiences that foster critical thinking, collaboration, and innovation. The Academy has three core clusters of expertise

Corporate Sustainability and Circularity ●●●●●●

Embracing sustainability in business operations and value chain management is imperative to address the physical and transition risks posed by climate change, resource scarcity, and waste crises. From understanding the emerging ESG trends to developing strategies and pilot projects for achieving sustainability and circular economy goals, our experts from listed companies, SMEs owners and university researchers empowers participants to drive systemic change within the organisation.



Innovations for Sustainability ●●●●●●

Innovation is an essential driver of sustainability, be they novel business ideas, technologies, management systems or products. A pool of thought leaders in the field of public policy, social innovation and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) is engaged to delve into different sustainability innovations and discuss with the participants how they can be integrated into corporate strategies, policies, project proposals, and everyday life.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion ●●●●●●

As the social aspects of ESG rise in prominence, companies are increasingly making concerted efforts in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) space. Creating a fair and inclusive workplace has mutual benefits for both corporations and untapped talents with disabilities. Through real-life case investigations, community leaders and sustainability managers will equip the participants with the tools, knowledge and skills to unleash the full potential of an underrepresented workforce.



MODES OF TRAINING



Our programmes adopt a cross-disciplinary and experiential learning approach, which provides participants with a holistic understanding of the intricacy of the sustainability challenges and inspire innovative solutions for further prototyping and testing.

CORPORATE RETREAT (HALF-DAY / FULL-DAY PROGRAMME*)

Bring your team out of the ordinary workday and embark on a meaningful journey with our corporate retreat. Elevate the organisation's commitment to sustainability while enjoying a fun-filled getaway that combines professional knowledge and dynamic workshops that leave your team and partners feeling inspired. Recommended themes include Food Systems, Rural Sustainability and NbS.



Team building activities

WHAT TO EXPECT ?

Capacity-building workshops and thought-provoking discussions on selective sustainability topics such as food systems, rural sustainability, NbS

Hands-on and task-based activities to inspire innovative solutions

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (FROM A HALF-DAY TO A 6-WEEK WEEKLY TRAINING**)

Our professional team offers knowledge exchange on a myriad of themes such as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Value Chain Management, Circular Economy, Carbon Budget and Corporate Carbon Disclosure, and Sustainability Assessment that can fit your organisation's needs and interests. This programme support your organisation to learn, adopt, and embed sustainability principles, and develop strategy and action plans to ensure different business units within the organisation can play their part in addressing critical sustainability challenges.



Carefully curated programme to meet the diverse needs of your company, from entry-level staff to senior executives

WHAT TO EXPECT ?

A mix of interactive sessions including lectures, case studies, practical exercises, and field-based learning

Flexible course duration depending on the topics selected and expected learning outcomes

PROBLEM-SOLVING HACKATHON

Designed to support the participating companies in identifying their pain points and opportunities in coping with the sustainability challenges and inspire cross-sectoral efforts when developing the strategies. A pilot project will be curated in collaboration with value chain partners towards the end of the programme.



A mix of workshops, and idea jamming sessions to inspire innovative ideas facilitated by our team for tackling a specific sustainability challenge

WHAT TO EXPECT ?

Coaching activities to guide participating companies on creating a pilot project for attaining their sustainability goals

Tailor-made training for the value chain partners of the participating company to drive collective efforts

* Corporate retreat offers in half-day or full-day format, please inquire with our team if there is any special request on the duration.
** Professional training duration varies depending on the topics selected, please inquire with our team if there is any special request on the duration.

GET IN TOUCH



TRAINING THEME 001

INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

In today's rapidly changing world with challenges getting more complex and systemic, the role of innovation in attaining sustainability has become critical and imperative. Innovation for sustainability refers to the ideation and application of new ideas, products, services, processes, systems and models that aim to create a net positive and sustained impact for people and nature.

This training programme offers a deep understanding of the different dimensions of sustainability innovations including Nature-based Solutions (NbS), Social Innovations and Business Model Innovations, and how they could be integrated into corporate strategies, policy frameworks, project proposals, and everyday life.

The training programme combines lectures, case studies, practical workshops, field learning and capstone experiences to offer participants a comprehensive and experiential learning journey.

TRAINING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the training, participants will:

- Understand the drivers and conditions for innovations that bring positive change
- Critically analyse sustainability challenges from an innovative and creative mindset
- Apply the sustainability knowledge into the process of creating and implementing new ideas, processes, management systems and community partnerships

KEY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL SETS

The training programme will be structured into either a one-day experiential learning or a 3-day programme*. The key learning topics may cover:

01

Science, Policy and Practice of NbS — understand the conceptual framework, practical planning and design challenges of applying NbS through lecture and field trip

02

Social Innovation for Sustainable Communities — delve into various social innovation models and community partnership strategies, and learn community mapping and engagement through experiential workshops on selected environmental or social themes

03

Social Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Food Systems — learn the potential of driving Sustainable Food Systems with social entrepreneurship, and explore different means to support our local food systems

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Suitable for supervisors, middle and senior management in business or non-profit organisations of any size; especially relevant to those in the role of facilitating a sustainability mindset and culture in organisations
- Thematic workshop topic can be determined upon registration; the same theme will be adopted for the same cohort of enrolment

* Professional training duration varies depending on the topics selected. Please inquire with our team if there is any special request on the duration.

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TRAINING THEME 002

ESG AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN PRACTICE

Amidst global threats including climate emergency, resource scarcity and waste crisis, embracing sustainability in businesses' and organisations' operations and value chains has become imperative.

This training programme is designed to empower participants with essential practical knowledge and skills to navigate the complexities of sustainability confidently. The two half-day workshops will delve into emerging environmental, social, and governance (ESG) trends and opportunities; engage participants in hands-on activities with tools to develop actionable strategies on sustainable value chain (SVC) management; and immerse participants in a design thinking process for resource circularity.

This training incorporates real-life case studies, business visits, group discussions and brainstorming sessions.

TRAINING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the training, participants will:

- Reframe their understanding of ESG and sustainability, and their significance within the business context.
- Renew their perspectives of the broader ESG landscape
- Grasp the key principles of SVC management
- Cultivate a circular economy mindset for business / organisational planning
- Create an action plan with practicable steps for resource circularity goals and communicate the impacts effectively with key stakeholders

KEY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL SETS

The training programme will be structured flexibly between 6-10 hours*. The key learning topics may cover:

01

Starting with the Foundation — unravel the difference between sustainability and ESG, and understand their practical implications for corporate and organisational development

02

Practicing SVC Management — dissect your organisation's value chain, and address the pressing ESG challenges

03

Seeking Inspiration — be empowered with practical tools to critically assess and enhance the organisation's sustainability readiness

04

Planning a Pilot Project — collaborate with peers to create an implementation plan for solving a selected sustainability challenge

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Suitable for supervisors and middle management in business or non-profit organisations of any size
- Group enrolment recommended for collaborative learning and amplifying impact

* Professional training duration varies depending on the topics selected. Please inquire with our team if there is any special request on the duration.

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TRAINING THEME 003

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE WORKPLACE & DIVERSE WORKFORCE

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is rising in prominence as one of the more measurable metrics for “S” in Environment, Society, and Governance (ESG). Since an inclusive work environment engenders a sense of belonging and positively impacts organisation’s culture and workplace wellness, corporates are gradually tapping into diverse talent pools and creating workplace that is value-added for corporations and disabled talents.

Equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to understand and promote disability inclusion and its essentiality for businesses, this programme will explore and examine different DEI strategies and metrics, easing the participants’ organisations into a disability-inclusive corporation through experiential learning.

The programme combines lectures, case studies, company visits, and role play to offer participants a comprehensive learning journey.

TRAINING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the training, participants will:

- Understand the meaning of ‘Disability Inclusion’ and recognise its importance to corporates
- Attain practical knowledge for Disability Inclusion, from recruitment policies, job arrangement, to fostering a favourable environment for success
- Acquire essential communication skills for interacting with People with Disabilities (PWD), and enhancing staff readiness to co-create a respectful workplace
- Equip with knowledge and skills to measure the impact of disability inclusion initiatives

KEY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL SETS

Subject to the organisations’ awareness level, experience, and readiness regarding inclusive employment, the training module can be selected individually or in a bundle *. The key learning topics may cover:

01

Disability Inclusion Implementation from a Corporate Perspective — devising appropriate strategies by showing various practices in different industries

02

Boosting Diversity and Inclusion in Recruitment — blending disability inclusion in the recruitment process and developing talent management strategies

03

Building an Accessible and Inclusive Workplace — providing principles and practical guidance on fostering a supportive corporate environment, and designing effective measurement and narrative strategies

04

Inclusive PWD Interaction and Communication Skills — applying inclusive language to engage respectfully with PWD colleagues and clients

05

Impact Measurement and Presentation on Disability Inclusion — designing effective measurement strategies and narratives to demonstrate disability inclusion efforts

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Any employee, in particular HR professionals, team leaders, and managers
- The selection of module can be determined upon registration, depending on participants’ background

* Professional training duration varies depending on the topics selected. Please inquire with our team if there is any special request on the duration.

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