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SMU's Singapore Green Finance Centre launches new courses to grow in-demand sustainability management skills for financial services professionals

Singapore, 17 April 2024 (Wednesday) – The Singapore Green Finance Centre (SGFC) of Singapore Management University (SMU) has announced the launch of four new courses, in support of the new Sustainable Finance Jobs Transformation Map unveiled by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and Institute of Banking and Finance today. Three of the courses are aimed at upskilling financial services professionals in high-priority roles related to sustainability and risk, and one is designed specifically to cater to members of the public.

SGFC's latest slate of sustainable finance (SF) courses is targeted at financial services professionals who aspire to upgrade their skill sets amid growing demand for sustainable finance and investment capabilities. The courses have been designed with industry expert inputs and professional reviews by SGFC partners, and are targeted at building capacity among financial services professionals.

The four courses are:

- 1) The [SGFC Sustainable Investment Management Course](#), instructed by SMU Associate Professor of Finance Hao Liang, who also serves as the Co-Director of the SGFC. It is specifically tailored for professionals in the financial sector who are keen on driving sustainable investment strategies within their organisations. This is accredited by the Institute of Banking and Finance Singapore Standards Training Scheme (IBF-STS) and is available for enrolment from 17 April 2024.
- 2) The [SGFC Sustainability Stewardship Development Course](#), instructed by Dr Rajiv Lall, Professorial Research Fellow at SMU's Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics (SKBI) who also serves as a Management Committee Member of the SGFC. It will train participants to lead and implement effective sustainability stewardship strategies in organisations. This is also IBF-STS accredited and is open for enrolment from 17 April 2024.
- 3) The **SGFC Carbon Markets and Decarbonisation Strategies Course** focuses on key concepts in carbon markets and decarbonisation pathways. It will begin enrolment in Q4 2024.

- 4) The [Introduction to Sustainability & Sustainable Finance](#), is an Asia-specific course for building awareness and offered to members of the public without charge. A foundational course, it is SMU's first massive open online course (MOOC) and supported by SMU's Executive Development. Led by Dr Rajiv Lall, the MOOC's first module is also available for enrolment from 17 April 2024, while the subsequent two modules will be released in phases within the first half of this year.

All three modules will feature interviews of over 20 subject matter experts, including key members of SGFC's nine founding partners, namely, Bank of China Limited, BNP Paribas, Fullerton Fund Management, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Schroders, Standard Chartered Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, and UBS AG, as well as representatives from SGX, Blackrock, DBS, and more.

Vital skills for Asia's shift to a low-carbon economy

The courses are all designed to build skills in high demand, including social sustainability management, climate change management, natural capital management, sustainability risk management, and sustainability lending instruments structuring, which is vital for designing finance products and risk frameworks. (See more details in the Annexe below)

Ms Nikki Kemp, Centre Director for SGFC, said, "SGFC is dedicated to building sustainable finance capabilities in Singapore and Asia through high-impact applied research, collaboration with industry partners, and developing a robust talent pipeline. With this growing suite of carefully curated programmes, we seek to transform the sustainable finance sector by growing a community of well-informed practitioners who can create critical solutions for their organisations. As Asia transitions to a low-carbon future, financial services professionals will benefit from a practical and industry-relevant curriculum offering deep insights into carbon markets, sustainable finance instruments and sustainability reporting among others."

All four are asynchronous online courses to enable working adults to learn at their own pace and convenience. Course subsidies are available under the [IBF Standards Training Scheme \(IBF-STS\)](#) for self-sponsored individuals and sponsored individuals from financial institutions and fintech firms regulated by the MAS.

SGFC is currently offering three online IBF-STS accredited courses, the MOOC, and an in-person Climate Finance Academy programme designed specifically for senior executives. Its first IBF-STS accredited course, "Climate Change Management", started on 12 January 2023, under the instruction of SMU Professor of Urban Climate, Winston Chow.

He is the first Singaporean to be elected as Co-Chair of the Working Group II on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC)'s Seventh Assessment Report

(AR7) Cycle Bureau. The IPCC Bureau is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.

Enclosure: Annexe on new and existing courses offered by Singapore Green Finance Centre

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About Singapore Management University

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and to produce broad-based, creative, and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU's education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative, and project-based approach to learning.

Home to over 13,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and postgraduate research programmes, SMU comprises eight schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Computing and Information Systems, School of Law, School of Social Sciences, College of Integrative Studies and College of Graduate Research Studies. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters', and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with its schools, as well as in multidisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU emphasises rigorous, high-impact, multi- and interdisciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities around the world, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector. SMU's city campus is a modern facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government, and the wider community. www.smu.edu.sg

About Singapore Green Finance Centre

The Singapore Green Finance Centre was established in 2020 as Singapore's very first Centre of Excellence dedicated to driving Asia-focused green finance research and talent development. The Centre is a joint initiative between the Lee Kong Chian School of Business (LKCSB) at Singapore Management University and the Imperial College London. It is supported by the Monetary Authority of Singapore and nine leading financial institutions: Bank of China Limited, BNP Paribas, Fullerton Fund Management, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Schroders, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Standard Chartered and UBS AG. SGFC is committed to developing high-impact applied research, engaging with the industry, and building capability. <https://www.singaporegreenfinance.com/>

Annexe

New and existing courses offered by the Singapore Green Finance Centre:

New/Existing	Course Name & Description
<p>New Available from 17 April</p>	<p>Sustainable Investment Management Course (IBF-STC accredited)</p> <p>Instructed by Prof Hao Liang, Associate Professor of Finance at Singapore Management University and Co-Director of SGFC, this course focuses on enhancing participants' understanding and ability to apply sustainable investment principles to the products and services offered by their organisation. Upon completion of the course, participants will possess the ability to articulate different sustainable investment approaches to customers and explain how these approaches align with their organisation's portfolio strategies.</p> <p><i>Available as an e-learning module on the Investment Management Association of Singapore (IMAS) iLearn platform.</i></p> <p>Enrol at: https://www.singaporegreenfinance.com/courses/sustainable-investment-management/</p>
<p>New Available from 17 April</p>	<p>Sustainability Stewardship Development Course (IBF-STC accredited)</p> <p>Instructed by Dr Rajiv Lall, Professorial Research Fellow at SMU's Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics (SKBI) and Management Committee Member of the SGFC, this course equips participants with the knowledge and skills to lead and implement effective sustainability stewardship strategies within their organisations, particularly in the financial sector. Participants will understand key sustainability stewardship issues, practices, and regulations and learn how to leverage stewardship to achieve financial and sustainability goals. Through lectures, curated reading and exercises, participants will explore various stewardship approaches while examining global trends, collaborative platforms and techniques for identifying material sustainability issues.</p> <p><i>Available as an e-learning module on the Investment Management Association of Singapore (IMAS) iLearn platform.</i></p> <p>Enrol at: https://www.singaporegreenfinance.com/courses/sustainability-stewardship-development/</p>
<p>New Module 1 is available from 17 April</p>	<p>Introduction to Sustainability & Sustainable Finance</p> <p>This foundational Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is designed to enhance the skills set of professionals within the financial sector and others interested in sustainability and sustainable finance. It requires no prior knowledge of sustainability or finance. Inspired by the technical skills and</p>

	<p>competencies outlined by The Institute of Banking and Finance Singapore (IBF) and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) in 2022, the course provides insights into climate and sustainable trends and their implications across various sectors, sustainability reporting, risk management, along with an exploration of carbon markets and strategies for decarbonisation management. It covers three modules featuring interviews with over 20 subject matter experts, including key members of SGFC's nine founding partners, namely, Bank of China Limited, BNP Paribas, Fullerton Fund Management, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Schroders, Standard Chartered Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, and UBS AG, as well as representatives from Singapore Exchange, Blackrock, DBS, and more.</p> <p>Enrol at: https://www.singaporegreenfinance.com/courses/introduction-to-sustainability-and-sustainable-finance/</p>
New To be launched in Q4 2024	<p>Carbon Markets and Decarbonisation Strategies</p> <p>The course introduces participants from the financial sector to the fundamentals of carbon markets and decarbonisation strategies with case illustrations. It highlights key concepts in carbon markets including carbon compliance markets and voluntary carbon markets. On decarbonisation strategies, the course covers important ideas of pathways, capital and operating expenditures, and discusses cases in certain industries such as steel and cement.</p>
Existing	<p>Climate Change Management (IBF-STC accredited)</p> <p>Instructed by Prof Winston Chow, Professor of Urban Climate at Singapore Management University, this course provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of key climate change concepts, principles, and risk management issues relevant to their organisations' activities. The course will cover basic climate science concepts, main international agreements and frameworks related to climate change, followed by concepts on climate reporting frameworks, guidelines, and principles. The discussion will then shift to focus on various economic and market risks, such as physical and transition risks, and opportunities arising from climate change in the financial sector. Finally, it concludes by identifying key sources of climate risks and transmission channels that can impact the financial sector's performance and sustainability factors.</p> <p><i>Available as an e-learning module on the Investment Management Association of Singapore (IMAS) iLearn platform.</i></p> <p>Enrol at: https://www.singaporegreenfinance.com/courses/climate-change-management/</p>
Existing	<p>Climate Finance Academy</p>

	<p>This executive education programme challenges finance leaders to think critically about managing climate finance and risk. Drawing on the expertise of faculty at Imperial College Business School’s Centre for Climate Finance & Investment and Singapore Management University’s Lee Kong Chian School of Business, the programme focuses on climate finance topics including, risks, carbon markets, nature, and unlocking capital to enable the energy transition. It aims to attract key representatives from decision-making functions across capital markets origination, risk management and asset management based in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific, and features highly impactful, personalised, and immersive workshops for bankers, asset managers, financial practitioners, and the regulator (MAS). The learning methodology is based on lectures and real case studies developed in collaboration with SGFC’s nine founding partners.</p> <p>Register your interest for the next intake at: https://www.singaporegreenfinance.com/courses/climate-finance-academy-2024/</p>
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Note: Where applicable, course subsidies are available under the IBF Standards Training Scheme (IBF-STTS) for self-sponsored individuals and sponsored individuals from financial institutions and fintech firms regulated by the MAS.