



Empowering Vietnam's Green Future: SMU Launched Free Sustainability and Green Finance Course

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – March 4, 2025 – Vietnam's green economy is projected to grow by \$300 billion by 2050, driven by the nation's goal to achieve net-zero emissions. In support of this significant momentum, [Singapore Management University \(SMU\)](#) launched an online course tailored for Vietnamese professionals and businesses navigating this transition. The **"Introduction to Sustainability and Sustainable Finance"** course, developed by the Singapore Green Finance Centre (SGFC), underscores SMU's commitment to advancing Vietnam's economic and talent development through education. This initiative reflects SMU's dedication to promoting green finance education and strengthening its presence in Vietnam, an emerging hub for sustainable development.

Hosted at Sunwah Tower, the launch event marks a significant milestone in SMU's ongoing engagement with the Southeast Asian region.

Further highlighting this commitment, the course introduction featured distinguished speakers, including **Mr. Pang Te Cheng, Consul-General of Singapore in Ho Chi Minh City**, and [Dr. Rajiv Lall](#), Professorial Research Fellow at SMU's Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics and a Management Committee Member of SGFC.

Dr Lall is the lead instructor of the MOOC, which was originally developed by the SGFC—Singapore's first centre of excellence, backed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore and nine leading global financial institutions, and jointly managed by Singapore Management University and Imperial College London.



Mr. Pang Te Cheng, Consul-General of Singapore in Ho Chi Minh City, delivers a speech at the event, emphasizing the collaborative partnership between Singapore and Vietnam in education.

As Vietnam stands at a critical juncture in its pursuit of ambitious sustainable development goals and its commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, green finance is essential to driving this transition. It supports the emergence of new industries, fosters technological advancements, and underpins sustainable economic growth.

Through this course, SMU aims to equip Vietnamese businesses, professionals, and aspiring leaders with the necessary tools to navigate this seismic shift.

The "Introduction to Sustainability and Sustainable Finance" course, spanning 8–12 hours, provides a comprehensive foundation for professionals both within and beyond the financial sector. It fosters a broader understanding of sustainability trends and their global impact.

Designed as a cutting-edge resource, the course is invaluable for Vietnamese professionals looking to deepen their expertise in corporate sustainability or transition into sustainable finance. With the urgent need for innovative solutions to combat climate change, businesses, policymakers, and individuals in Vietnam must prioritize sustainability to remain competitive in the global market.



Dr. Rajiv Lal from SMU introduces the "Introduction to Sustainability and Sustainable Finance" course at the launch event, highlighting the role of green finance in Vietnam's sustainable development

Tailored for both beginners and seasoned professionals, the course provides in-depth coverage of key topics such as sustainability reporting, risk management, carbon markets, and decarbonization strategies. Participants will also examine the profound impact of climate change on the financial sector through engaging learning methods, including expert interviews and real-world case studies, ensuring a well-rounded understanding of the field.

SMU's Commitment to Green Finance and Collaborative Growth

As a pioneer in green finance education, SMU is dedicated to equipping businesses and managers in Vietnam with the knowledge and tools to integrate sustainability into their strategies—balancing economic viability with corporate responsibility. Through this SGFC course, SMU delivers a robust learning experience, enriched by insights from over 20 leading experts in the field, including members of SGFC's founding partners, as well as SMU Chairman Piyush Gupta.

It is also a testament to SGFC's success in delivering on its mission to build capability that enables financial institutions, industry, and policymakers to address the most critical sustainability challenges in financing Asia's future.

Collaboration is at the heart of SMU's approach. Its recent direct admission agreement with British University Vietnam (BUV) and 16 strategic alliances with Vietnamese universities underscore its commitment to strengthening educational ties in the region. In 2024 alone, SMU hosted a series of seminars and exchange programs, drawing over 150 Singaporean students to Vietnam, engaging 300-400 students at education fairs, and welcoming dozens of Vietnamese students to pursue undergraduate and master's programs at SMU—further reinforcing its role in developing high-quality human capital.

Beyond academics, SMU ensures its programs are both practical and impactful for businesses, managers, and individuals passionate about sustainability. Industry collaborations drive applied research and live projects, ensuring graduates are equipped with real-world skills to navigate the evolving sustainability landscape.



Discussion highlights key factors of sustainability and sustainable economy that are of great interest in Vietnam

Unlocking Opportunities: SMU Expands Scholarships and Career Support for Vietnamese Professionals

As SMU marks its [25th anniversary](#), it reaffirms its commitment to providing world-class education by introducing substantial financial support for postgraduate professional programs.

Starting January 2025, SMU will offer scholarships covering up to 40% of tuition fees for its Master's programs, with a strong focus on ASEAN students. This initiative reflects SMU's dedication to lifelong learning and aims to support professionals and alumni in advancing their careers. By easing financial barriers, SMU is making postgraduate education more accessible to a diverse pool of learners. Importantly, these scholarships are available for both full-time and part-time Master's students, recognizing the need for flexibility among working professionals.

As SMU celebrates this milestone, it also reinforces its commitment to empowering Vietnam's business community—helping professionals navigate challenges and seize new opportunities in an evolving global landscape. This initiative aligns with the shared milestones of Singapore's 60th National Day and Vietnam's 80th National Day, underscoring the deepening ties between the two nations through education and collaboration.

Looking ahead, SMU is set to launch the [Co-Curricular Transcript](#) (CCT) in 2025, an innovative initiative designed to capture students' achievements beyond academic grades. By documenting experiential learning, skill development, and personal growth, the CCT ensures graduates are well-rounded professionals equipped for today's dynamic workforce. With a strong emphasis on adaptability, global collaboration, and real-world experience, SMU is preparing Vietnam's future leaders to thrive in an increasingly competitive, skills-driven economy.

Mr Kenneth Choo, Director, Overseas Centres, SMU emphasized: "At SMU, we are dedicated to advancing sustainable finance education in Vietnam and throughout the region. Our 'Introduction to Sustainability and Sustainable Finance' course is a testament to our commitment to delivering cutting-edge knowledge and tools that empower individuals and organisations to drive meaningful change. By nurturing a robust understanding of sustainability principles within Vietnam's financial sector, we aim to foster enduring, mutually beneficial collaborations and enhance our regional presence. This initiative underscores SMU's dedication to creating impactful, long-term partnerships, and reinforces our role as a leader in higher education and sustainable development."

Ms Patrina LIM, Regional Director of Singapore Global Network also shared: "We are proud to partner with SMU which is committed to driving sustainable finance education in the region. The launch of the 'Introduction to Sustainability and Sustainable Finance' course represents a significant step in strengthening the bonds between Singapore and Vietnam through shared knowledge and innovation. This initiative exemplifies our mission to build a cohesive, globally connected community that is equipped to tackle both present and future challenges with confidence and foresight."

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About SMU

A premier university in Asia, 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, Yong Pung How 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

SMU celebrates its 25 years of meaningful impact this year, and remains committed to its vision of driving innovation, transcending boundaries and transforming lives.

About SMU Overseas Centre Ho Chi Minh City

[The Singapore Management University \(SMU\) Representative office in Vietnam](#) serves as a strategic hub for fostering knowledge exchange, strengthening partnerships, and expanding SMU's presence in Ho Chi Minh City and the wider region. Established in 2024, Singapore Management University Representative office in Vietnam reinforces SMU's commitment to bridging Asia and the world through education, research, and industry collaboration.

As part of SMU's network of Overseas Centres, Singapore Management University Representative office in Vietnam provides a single point of contact for students, faculty, and partners, enabling seamless engagement with Vietnam's business, academic, and policy communities. It plays a key role in advancing human capital development and lifelong learning, facilitating thought leadership, and supporting initiatives that drive social and economic impact.

Through strategic partnerships and thought leadership advocacy, Singapore Management University Representative office in Vietnam will actively contribute to Vietnam's social and economic progress and in the process enhance SMU's brand and reputation as Asia's premier global city university.

Media contact

Mai Nguyen

Senior PR & Communications Specialist

Global PR Hub

Phone: +84382346149

Email: mai.nguyen@globalprhub.com