



Network Singapore

Global Compact Network Singapore

160 Robinson Road, #06-01

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www.csrsingapore.org

GCNS Youth Forum & Singapore Power Shift 2017

The GCNS Youth Forum is a forum for youths by youths. The youth forum is held in conjunction with Singapore Power Shift 2017 and will be held over 3 days from 21-23 April 2017 comprising of company site visits, dialogues, seminars and workshops conducted by industry leaders on CSR and Corporate sustainability.

The Youth Forum aims to engage youths to champion CSR and corporate sustainability through direct involvement in both the planning and execution of the event. By getting youths involved in the planning, it provides a platform to better understand the trends and issues pertaining to CSR and Corporate Sustainability that the Singapore youths are seeking to better understand.

GCNS Youth Forum Programme

Theme: Tackling Climate Change through Corporate Sustainability

Day 1, 21 April 2017	
Time	Programme
10am - 10.30am / 2pm – 2.30pm	Registration
10.30am – 1pm/ 2.30pm – 6pm	Company Site Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hilton Hotel - Asia Pacific Breweries

Day 2, 22 April 2017	
Time	Programme
0930H - 1000H	Registration
1000H - 1030H	Opening Address Ms Goh Swee Chen President of GCNS
1030H - 1200H	Keynote + Plenary Discussion Topic: Successful Strategies in adopting Sustainability to tackle Climate Change Keynote address by: Ms Goh Swee Chen, President of GCNS
1200H - 1300H	Session with Minister MOU Signing: U Associate and SIP Dialogue with Minister
1300H - 1400H	Lunch
1400H - 1530H	Breakout Session 1 Room 1: Developing Business Innovation in Sustainability Room 2: Workshop on CSR101 (for YCSRLA Participants) Room 3: Debate by Singapore Power Shift
1530H - 1600H	Tea Break
1600H - 1700H	Breakout Session 2 Room 1: The Power of Employee Led Sustainability Initiatives & Partnerships Room 2: Plenary Session by Singapore Power Shift



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	Topic: "Individual's' Actions towards a Climate-Resilient Singapore"
1700H – 1730H	Closing Remarks for Day 1

Day 3, 23 April 2017	
Time	Programme
0930H - 1000H	Registration
1000H - 1030H	Opening Remarks (Recap Session)
1030H - 1200H	Keynote + Plenary Discussion Topic: Green Washing - The Good, Bad and Evil on Corporate Sustainability)
1200H - 1300H	Lunch
1300H - 1430H	Breakout Session 3 Inspiration Speakers Series
1430H - 1500H	Closing Ceremony
1500H - 1630H	Networking Session (<i>tea break will be provided</i>)



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Day 2, 22 April 2017 (Saturday)

Programme Synopsis

Keynote + Plenary Discussion Topic: Tackling Climate Change Through Corporate Sustainability	
Synopsis	<p>The world has largely come to an agreement that climate change is a manmade phenomenon, which will have significant impact on Earth's inhabitants. Therefore, the Paris Agreement was signed among governments towards a joint commitment in reducing and adapting to the impacts of climate change. Earlier in the same year, the Millennium Development Goals was also revised as the Sustainable Development Goals was established among the 193 nations.</p> <p>Thus with such strong political commitments, it is evident that the stage is set with clear political signal that any future plans and their implementations must take into consideration the impacts it has on climate change and sustainability. Businesses, which traditionally exist as a profit making mechanism machinery, will now have to work within the new global agenda. While larger companies have the financial capacity and resources to cope with this, smaller ones often struggle for survival let alone the ability to incorporate something else as part of its business operandi.</p>
Questions for Thoughts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does the new global agenda mean to businesses?• How can traditional businesses fit corporate sustainability into their business strategies with regards to addressing climate change?• Does the prospect of climate change present any new opportunities for businesses?• What are some of the ways in which companies can lead and collaborate among each other, and with other stakeholders, to amount to a larger coordinated effort in tackling the impacts of climate change?



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**Breakout Session 1
Developing Innovation in Sustainability**

Synopsis

The key to progress, particularly in times of economic crisis, is innovation. Just as some internet companies survived the bust in 2000 to challenge incumbents, so, too, will sustainable corporations emerge from today's recession to upset the status quo. By treating sustainability as a goal today, early movers will develop competencies that rivals will be hard-pressed to match. That competitive advantage will stand them in good stead, because sustainability will always be an integral part of development.

And in the new world order where sustainability takes the centre stage, there's no alternative to sustainable development. Even so, many companies are convinced that the more environment-friendly they become (or if they implement corporate sustainability), the more the effort will erode their competitiveness. They believe it will add to costs and will not deliver immediate financial benefits.

Currently, sustainability in companies usually falls under marketing, human resources, financials or operations; and often in isolation from one another. Hence, changing this, while necessary, isn't going to be easy. Enterprises that have started or are keen to start the journey will face different challenges at each stage of change, and must develop new capabilities to tackle them.

**Questions for
Thoughts**

- How does individual help develop innovation in companies towards sustainability?
- What are the key forces and challenges of driving innovations?
- Can intra-organisation collaboration drive innovation in sustainability even without leadership buy-in



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Breakout Session 1 Debate on Carbon Trading by Singapore Power Shift 2017					
Debate Topic	<p style="text-align: center;">This house believes that “Carbon Trading” is a more effective way to manage Singapore’s carbon emission.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-style: dashed;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center; color: red;">AFFIRMATIVE</th> <th style="text-align: center; color: green;">NEGATIVE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Singapore should go with Carbon Taxing System</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Carbon Taxing system is not suitable for Singapore- A Tax & Cap system is more effective</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE	Singapore should go with Carbon Taxing System	Carbon Taxing system is not suitable for Singapore- A Tax & Cap system is more effective
AFFIRMATIVE	NEGATIVE				
Singapore should go with Carbon Taxing System	Carbon Taxing system is not suitable for Singapore- A Tax & Cap system is more effective				
Synopsis	<p><i>“The most economically efficient and fair way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to set a carbon tax, so that emitters will take the necessary actions... ..”</i><i>“The most economically efficient and fair way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to set a carbon tax, so that emitters will take the necessary actions,”</i>said Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat, in a speech outlining the government’s 2017 budget.</p> <p>(Carbon Taxation System in Singapore)</p> <p>Singapore intends to implement a carbon tax from 2019 as part of its efforts to cut greenhouse emissions. The system, when implemented from 2019, will target direct large emitters of greenhouse gases, rather than individual electricity users such as households. While the Government said, it has started industry consultation and will also reach out to the public; it is looking at a tax rate of between S\$10 and S\$20 per tonne of emissions. Revenues from the plan would go in part toward new technologies that are designed to help industry reduce its emissions.</p>				



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Breakout Session 2 The Power of Employee Led Sustainability Initiatives & Partnerships	
Synopsis	<p>The private sector has immense potential to contribute enormously towards climate change mitigation efforts and the sustainability movement. Companies that proactively pursue sustainability measures benefit not just their business and their shareholders, but also their employees, their clients, their suppliers, and the wider community as well.</p> <p>Such sustainability measures implemented by companies do not have to be strictly initiated in a top-down fashion by the upper management. They can also be inspired by employees of any position, from the bottom up. The alternative perspectives of employees can lead them to introduce innovative ideas that can make a huge difference.</p> <p>Young working adults should be aware that they can leverage on their companies' greater resources, reputations, and networks to maximise the efficacy and impact of their sustainability efforts with the backing of their companies.</p>
Questions for Thoughts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What success stories are there of such initiatives that have significantly advanced corporate sustainability, and moreover may have even shaped their companies' operations and corporate image?• How can employees shift the corporate culture at their workplaces to instill awareness of sustainability principles in their colleagues, as well as to collaborate with colleagues in tackling sustainability challenges at work together?



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Breakout Session 2:

Activism Plenary Discussion

Topic: Individual's' Actions towards a Climate-Resilient Singapore

Sustainable Planning

Synopsis

When one brings up the word “sustainability”, what goes through one’s mind? The focus here will be solely on the environmental aspect of creating a sustainable Singapore. As Singapore continues to see an increase in its population, it is crucial for Singapore to prepare itself for climate change - which we are very vulnerable to. Strategies and efforts have been rolled out to create a more sustainable lifestyle as well as a pleasant urban environment. Whether Singapore is able to see an improvement in energy efficiency; recycling rate or a reduction in water consumption by 2030, it all boils down to individual’s efforts to create a climate-resilient Singapore.

Questions for Thoughts

- What is the most difficult part about working towards a sustainable Singapore?
- What does a sustainable Singapore look like in the near future?
- Will we see a drop in water tariffs anytime soon?
- What can individuals do to make Singapore more sustainable in the many years to come?

Raising awareness of climate change

Synopsis

Singapore government has always implemented measures to lessen the impact of global warming which is a key impact of climate change. The government believes that everyone can reduce carbon footprint and support the preparation of the climate challenges ahead. We export nearly 90% of food supply and climate changes will pose a threat to our ability to sustain food supplies. Additionally, climate change can potentially lead to rising health concerns among Singaporeans. Since climate change would affect sovereign risk through economic and health performance, how can youths work with the government to play a part in this effort?

Questions for Thoughts

- What are the top three concerns that public should know?
- How will those concerns affect Singaporeans?
- How can government or organisation (e.g. Singapore Climate Change Secretariat / Mother Earth Toastmasters Club) instil awareness of the importance of individual’s role in building a climate-resilient country?
→ through which platforms?



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Sharing of project examples and outcomes achieved by youths

<p>Synopsis</p>	<p>Singapore government is aware of the issues. However, youths may not be aware of climate issues and are not doing something to lessen the impact of climate change because they do not personally experience the effect (such as increased risk of drought and floods) occurring in their lives. How do we let youths realise the impact of climate change on the daily lives of Singaporeans? How do we empower youths?</p>
<p>Questions for Thoughts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do you motivate youths to play an active role in creating a climate-resilient Singapore?• Are there significant examples to share with regards to a climate change project initiated by youths?• Why do youths play a crucial role in tackling climate change? → examples of making a difference in their daily lives

Day 2, 23 April 2017 (Sunday)

Programme Synopsis

Keynote + Plenary Discussion Topic: Green Washing - The Good, Bad and Evil on Corporate Sustainability	
Synopsis	<p>Often green washing is not an outright attempt to be deceptive, but rather stems from failing to consider environmental impact measures with the same robust attention as is usually given to more established and familiar measures of business performance.</p> <p>As the impacts of climate change gets more serious, corporations must take into account the environment when discussing corporate sustainability. For some companies the desire to appeal to 'green' consumers and to be perceived as a good corporate citizen is enough to encourage deliberately deceptive claims. These companies deserve the criticism and derision not only for their direct attempts to dupe the public, but also because they discredit the efforts of other, more responsible companies that are making credible efforts and achieving measureable results.</p> <p>Despite the perception, however, most companies do in fact embed 'green' practices within day to day operations and initiatives; therefore, on average, the primary causes for green washing has nothing to do with malfeasance or bad intent.</p> <p>However, some companies pretend to carry out environmental protection measures when in actual fact, it either does nothing for the environment or damages it further. This 'Greenwashing' phenomenon is used to legitimize the operations of an unsustainable company by masking the deleterious impacts of the company. Hence, companies should ensure that they are being honest and transparent when implementing environmental protection initiatives so that they have the confidence of the society and also help make tangible improvements to the environment.</p>
Questions for Thoughts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What position/role do companies see themselves playing in the fight against climate change? • How does taking the environment into account help the companies achieve Corporate Sustainability? • What are the steps taken by companies such that they do not fall under the category of greenwashing and how are companies ensuring transparency?



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**Breakout Session 3
Inspiration Speakers Series**

<p>Synopsis</p>	<p>The final installment of the GCNS Youth Sustainability Forum is a series of short presentation to conclude the forum. The Inspiration Speaker Series will be similar to the famous TED Talk series, with the opportunity for participants to ask questions and open a dialogue with the speakers at the end. The intention of this series is to provide participants on the different grassroots efforts that are taking place in Singapore. Through this effort, the speakers would be coming from very different backgrounds, this will prove that the each speaker would have something unique to add.</p> <p>After having two days of intensive learning, the participants of GNCS YF will be leaving inspired, and many participants would be curious to see how they could contribute, and sometimes the corporations may not be the best stepping stone for individual efforts. The intention of this series is to empower and inspire our attendees to go and make a change.</p>
<p>Questions for Thoughts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you do and why?• How did you get this idea?• Explain the hardships that came with kicking off your idea? How did people react?• Where do you seeing your innovation/idea going?• What do you think the attendees of the forum should do?• One piece of advice to the young climate leaders of the future?