



**PILOT GREEN AND
SUSTAINABLE FINANCE CAPACITY
BUILDING SUPPORT SCHEME**

Centre for Green And Sustainable Finance

*Subject to approval

CERTIFICATE OF SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FOR PROFESSIONALS



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Program Overview



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Sustainability and ESG have gained great traction in recent years, with many businesses having already begun to integrate sustainability within their organisational structure and business strategies. It is without a doubt that green financing plays a key role in driving sustainability for the environment, as well as in any corporation. Similarly, transition financing is crucial in the transformation to a greener environment. More efforts are needed to narrow the funding gap and it is imperative that industry professionals are aware of this limitation.

Sustainable Finance plays a key role in propagating a sustainable Hong Kong and China. Therefore, in line with the Hong Kong Climate Action Plan 2030+ and its goal to build a Greentech and Greenfi 'ecosystem' this program focuses on sustainable finance to upskill participants' to be future-ready for the transition to a carbon-resilient world. The latest trends and developments of green policies in China and the GBA, as well as ESG reporting and rating will also be examined given their importance in driving sustainable development in Hong Kong.

The participants of the **Certificate of Sustainable Finance for Professionals** will also attain an understanding of the environmental and climate policies and trends in China, how they relate and impact on the business operations of any company operating in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area.

Program Learning Objectives



Attain holistic knowledge of sustainability and be equipped with the knowledge to apply sustainability-related frameworks within the organisation



Obtain an overview of the environmental policies in China, as well as its progress, challenges, and future outlook regarding sustainable development



Understand the controversies and limitations of ESG ratings and their impact on business



Understand trends and strategies of sustainable finance

Curriculum

Module 1: **Fundamentals of Sustainability** **(2 Days)**

The past decade has seen climate change, deforestation, and consumption bringing detrimental environmental, socioeconomic, and infrastructural changes in all parts of the world. Thus, there is an urgent need for both public and private sectors to integrate sustainability as an essential part of how businesses and institutions operate to ensure the needs of future generations are met.

This introductory module on sustainability informs participants of the basics of climate change and its impact, as well as sustainability issues and global initiatives. It also offers a preview of sustainability-related risks and outlines how sustainable development has progressed globally and in Hong Kong.

Module 2: **Sustainable Finance** **(2 Days)**

Given an increase in investors' appetite in responsible investments, sustainable finance has seen exponential growth in popularity in the past decade. Organisations are facing the challenge of having to maintain short-term profitability while simultaneously building a more sustainable future.

This module provides participants with an overview of sustainable finance. Participants will learn how to integrate ESG into their investments, the spectrum of sustainable finance products, and investment frameworks.



Curriculum



Module 3: **Environmental and Climate Policies** **in China** **(1 Day)**

This course will provide a systematic understanding of China's environmental and climate policies. It will first examine China's major environmental and climate issues, including indoor and outdoor air pollution, water shortage and pollution, soil pollution, waste management, desertification & deforestation, climate change, energy transition and carbon neutrality. The organization of China's environmental and climate governance will then be explored.

Environmental/climate goals, policy-making and implementation will be investigated to understand their roles, challenges and solutions in China's specific context. Major policy instruments will also be introduced to tackle those environmental and climate issues in reality.

Module 4: **ESG rating and Reporting** **(1 Day)**

In recent years, to deal with pressure from investors, regulators and other stakeholders on the ESG issues, there has been a movement towards the "standardization" of ESG reporting standards for enhanced transparency. In this course, participants will learn about the basics of ESG reporting, including the key ESG metrics and reporting frameworks, as well as the regulatory landscape surrounding ESG reporting.

Meanwhile, there is also a global trend of ESG investing that has led to the demand for ESG ratings. Investors rely on these rating providers for scores that can help them assess and compare company performance. This module will also cover the basics of ESG rating, the importance of ESG in today's business landscape, and how ESG can be used to inform investment decisions.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Professionals who want to understand how the global financial industry is rapidly changing to address the climate crisis and other aspects of sustainability.

Corporate executives, finance professionals, and sustainability and ESG practitioners who want to upskill and build the skillsets essential for career advancement given the trajectory of incorporating ESG into all aspects of business operations and investment decisions.

Part of a wider course, this certificate allows participants to enrol in **two additional modules**, *Sustainable Supply Chain and Circular Economy* and *Sustainability Transition – Challenges of Natural Resources* to obtain an **Advance Certificate of Sustainability**.

As overconsumption pushes our planetary boundaries and makes scarce our natural resources, we strongly recommend participants also acquire knowledge of sustainable supply chains and natural resources in order to gain a holistic view of sustainability and better understand our effects on the environment.

Advance Certificate of Sustainability

- Sustainable Supply Chain and Circular Economy
- Sustainability Transition - Challenges of Natural Resources

Certificate of Sustainable Finance for Professionals

- Fundamentals of Sustainability
- Environmental and Climate Policies in China
- Sustainable Finance
- ESG Rating and Reporting



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PROGRAM FEE

The fee includes:

- Design, development, and delivery of the program
- Tuition, teaching materials, and refreshment
- The use of fully equipped classroom and breakout rooms during the program
- Certification of Attendance



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Application Deadline:

Regular Rate:

HK\$42,000

Early Bird Offer (by 6 October 2023):

HK\$39,060

CUHK / CUSCS / APIB Alumni Rate:

HK\$37,800

**Corporate / Group Rate:
(4 or more concurrent registrations)**

HK\$35,700

SCHEDULE

Module	Date	Day
Module 1 Fundamentals of Sustainability	<u>22 Nov 2023 (Wed)</u> <u>25 Nov 2023 (Sat)</u>	2 Days
Module 2 Sustainable Finance	<u>29 Nov 2023 (Wed)</u> <u>2 Dec 2023 (Sat)</u>	2 Days
Module 3 Environmental and Climate Policies in China	<u>8 Dec 2023 (Fri)</u>	1 Day
Module 4 ESG rating and Reporting	<u>15 Dec 2023 (Fri)</u>	1 Days

- **Schedule:** 9:30am – 12:30pm, 2:00 – 5:00pm
- **Duration:** Total 36 hours
- **Venue:** CUHK Business School Town Centre, Admiralty
- **Medium of Instruction:** English
- All modules are compulsory. To pass the modules, participants have to achieve at least 80% class attendance for each module and a 60% pass rate for all modules' quizzes

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