Session 1 - Global Sustainability Crises: The Need for a Great Transformation

Humankind is now collectively altering the natural forces regulating the Earth on a planetary scale. The disconnection, or disembeddedness, of local consumption with global economic, production and technological systems are contributing to the mounting crisis in global sustainability. Overwhelming evidence worldwide indicates that we will experience an entire set of impending interconnected sustainability crises in the 21st century ranging from energy, development, security, food, climate and environmental crises should we continue business-as-usual. Global sustainability will increasingly be the top economic, social and environmental agenda of politicians, decision-makers, business and civil society. The global sustainability crises require the need for a great transformation in the way we organize and run our societies since the industrial revolution. Change will be effected by courageous political leaders, enlightened business executives, civil society, advocates and individual change agents.

Day 1 - 20 February, Friday

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome address by NUS VP (UGR)
1. Host: Professor Lily Kong, NUS Vice-President (University and Global Relations)
2. GOH: Mr Andrew Tan, Chief Executive Officer, National Environment Agency & Director, Centre For Liveable Cities, Ministry of National Development

Launch of NSC 09 by GOH and NUS VP (UGR)

09:30 – 10:00 Coffee break

10:00 – 12:00 Session 1
1. Causes and Consequences of Mounting Interconnected Global Sustainability Crises
Keynote speaker: Mr Andrew Tan, Chief Executive Officer, National Environment Agency & Director, Centre For Liveable Cities, Ministry of National Development

2. Why We Need to Tackle Climate Change in 2009
H.E. Paul Madden, British High Commissioner to Singapore

3. The Global Sustainability Crisis: Living in the Anthropocene
Associate Professor Jeff Obbard, Division of Environmental Science & Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, NUS, Program Manager & Principal Scientist, Science & Engineering Research Council (SERC), A*STAR, Project Director, Bioenergy, Tropical Marine Science Institute

4. Question and Answer

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 Session 1 (continued)
1. Climate change negotiations: Can Asia change the game?  
   Keynote speaker: Professor Simon Tay, Schwartz Fellow Asia Society (USA) and Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs
2. Challenges of a post-2012 global deal on climate change: What Copenhagen 2009 needs to deliver  
   Associate Professor Shreekant Gupta, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
3. Question and Answer

15:00 – 15:30  Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00  Session 1 (continued)
1. Effective Water Governance and Development: Asia's Critical Challenges  
   Keynote speaker: Dr K. E. Seetharam, Director, Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
2. The Promise of Technological Solutions to the Climate Crisis  
   Mr Lee Tzu Yang, Chairman, Shell Companies in Singapore
3. The Imperative of Climate Change and Business Response  
   Andreas Schaffer, Principal, Monitor Group Singapore
4. Question and Answer

17:00 – 17:30  Transport to Nexus, University Hall (Invited guests and sponsors only)
17:30 – 19:30  Environmental projects showcase and dinner reception at Nexus, University Hall. The dinner reception will be hosted by Professor Lily Kong, NUS Vice-President (University and Global Relations)

   This showcase of NUS environmental projects ranging from renewable energy to green walls and roofs will be a platform for potential collaborations with business and industry.

End of Day 1 Programme

Session 2 - Singapore’s Responses to Global Sustainability Crises: Critical Challenges and Opportunities

This session will focus on discussing Singapore’s strategies and policy responses towards sustainable development and climate change amid global sustainability challenges and domestic challenges like an open economy which is heavily dependent on fossil fuels, geographical constraints that prevent the effective deployment of renewable energy and limited natural resources. Both Singapore’s past and current sustainable development approaches and the National Climate Change Strategy will be discussed at length by local experts. Attention is paid to elucidate how good planning and governance can turn critical challenges into opportunities that deliver both environmental sustainability and achieve competitive advantage for the country. The session will also focus on engaging business, civil society and academic perspectives on sustainable development and climate change.

Day 2 - 21 February, Saturday
08:30 – 09:00  Registration

09:00 – 09:15  Opening speech by NUS President, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, NUS President

09:15 – 10:00  Session 2
Copenhagen Global Deal on Climate Change, What it Means for Singapore
1. Keynote speaker: Chew Tai Soo, Ambassador-at-Large, and Chief Negotiator on Climate Change for Singapore
2. Question and Answer chaired by Dr Asanga Gunawansa, Department of Building, School of Design and Environment

10:00 – 10:30  Coffee break

10:30 – 12:00  Session 2 (continued)
1. Managing Climate Change and Its Implications: Singapore’s National Climate Change Strategy
   Mr Philip Ong, Director, Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Water Resources
2. Clean, Green and Blue: Key Insights and Policy Considerations in Singapore’s Journey Towards Environmental and Water Sustainability
   Ms Karen Chong, Deputy Director, Strategic Policy, Ministry of Environment and Water Resources
3. Some Innovations From a Work in Progress: A Technology Roadmap for Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability
   Dr Michael Quah, Visiting Principal Fellow, Energy Studies Institute (ESI) and Visiting Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore
4. Question and Answer

12:00 – 13:00  Lunch

13:00 – 15:00  Session 2 (continued)
1. Panel session on Crucial Challenges in Creating a Sustainable Singapore
   - Chair: Professor Heng Chye Kiang, Dean, School of Design and Environment
   - Professor Chou Loke Ming, Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science
   - Associate Professor Lee Siew Eang, Director, Centre for Total Building Performance and Head (Energy Sustainability Unit), Department of Building, School of Design and Environment
   - Professor Euston Quah, Head of Economics Division, Nanyang Technological University
2. Question and Answer
3. Singapore’s Coastal Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts
   Associate Professor Wong Poh Poh, Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
4. Limits to Singapore’s Climate Change Policy
Dr Natasha Hamilton, Department of South East Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

5. Question and Answer

15:00 – 15:30  Coffee break

15:30 – 17:30  Session 2 (continued)
Suggested topics
1. National Identity, Sustainability and Nature
   Dr Geh Min, Past President, Nature Society
2. The Role of Biodiversity in Singapore’s Urban Planning
   Professor Peter Ng, Director, Tropical Marine Science Institute (TMSI)
3. Sustaining Indigenous Biodiversity in Singapore
   Dr Lena Chan and Dr Geoffrey Davison, National Biodiversity Centre, National Parks Board
4. Question and Answer

End of Day 2 Programme

Session 3: Collective Action for a Sustainable Singapore

As the world faces critical global sustainability challenges, environmental action on many fronts is required. These include universities, civil society, NGOs, business, government and passionate youths demanding for social change. Universities have a leading role to play in exemplifying environmentally responsible communities by integrating sustainability into its operations, planning, construction, research, education, instruction and public service. Youth leaders will also share and discuss their experiences, difficulties and way forward in engaging our young people in environmental stewardship. Finally, the output of this conference would be a Singapore Youth Declaration on Sustainable Development.

Day 3 - 22 February, Sunday

08:30 – 09:00  Registration

09:00 – 09:15  Role of Universities in Communicating and Inspiring Action for Environmental Sustainability
   Opening speech by Mr Joseph Mullinix, Deputy President (Administration)

09:15 – 10:30  Session 3
1. Capacity Building in Environmental Legal Education and Sustainability in the Asian region
   Keynote speaker: Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng Lian, Director, Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), Singapore
2. United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
   Associate Professor David Higgitt, Department of Geography
3. Environmental Education: Building Capacity for Leadership in Sustainable Development
Dr Malone-Lee Lai Choo, Programme Director, NUS Masters in Environment Management (MEM) Programme, School of Design and Environment

4. Question and Answer

10:30 – 11:00  Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00  Why it is important to engage and involve different stakeholders and actors in materializing sustainable development
1. Whose Sustainability? The Need to Educate and Engage Different Stakeholders
   Assistant Professor Asanga Gunawansa, Department of Building, School of Design and Environment, NUS
2. Engaging Different Stakeholders in Promoting Corporate Sustainable Development Responsibility
   Assistant Professor Kua Harn Wei, Department of Building, School of Design and Environment, NUS
3. Question and Answer

11:00 – 12:00  Focus Group Discussion (held concurrently)
Singapore Youth Declaration on Sustainable Development
   – Chair by Professor Alan Chan, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, NUS

12:00 – 13:00  Lunch

13:00 – 14:00 1. Climate Change and Environmental Performance Disclosure – Challenges and Opportunities for Singapore Businesses
   Erin Lyon, Executive Director, CSR Asia
2. Question and Answer
   (Focus group discussions continued)

14:00 – 15:00 1. Rubanisation: Reconceptualising Human Settlements Beyond Urbanisation
   Adjunct Professor, Mr Tay Kheng Soon, Department of Architecture, School of Design and Environment, NUS
2. Question and Answer
   (Focus group discussions continued)

15:00 – 16:00  Student Leaders’ presentations
1. Experiences in Engaging Youth in Environmental Protection
   Mr Kuan Yee Han, NUS Students’ Union President, 08/09
2. Facebook and Beyond: Environmental Cyber-advocacy in Singapore
   Ms November Tan, Masters in Geography, Department of Geography, NUS
3. Behavioural Influence and Environmental Change
   Mr Ong Weitao, Chairperson Students’ Against Violation of the Earth (SAVE) 07/08
(Focus group discussions continued)

16:00 – 16:30  Coffee break

16:30 – 17:00  **Reading of Singapore Youth Declaration on Sustainable Development**

*Press conference and interview on Youth Declaration*

End of programme