

Green Pulse

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Be The Change Summit 2024 by SFC



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INTRODUCTION



Green in Future partnered with the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment, Singapore, for their initiative Go Green SG. The initiative was a national sustainability movement aimed to rally people and communities to build a cleaner and greener Singapore together.

We organised a 'Connect to Nature' workshop with the students of Riverlife Kindergarten. The students were introduced to upcycling and recycling and participated hands-on to make a planter out of plastic bottles. They could bring their work home and were also taught to care for the planters.

Go Green SG is an initiative to bring people together to build a cleaner and greener Singapore together as a community. To find and participate in similar activities, visit <https://www.gogreen.gov.sg/>

Green in Future has the expertise to conduct many such workshops to cater to various audiences with a focus on sustainability, carbon credits and circular economy. You can reach us at:

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Be The Change Summit 2024: Singapore to be a hub for responsible fashion in Asia powered by strategic partnerships and investment in the future

Organised by the Singapore Fashion Council, the summit expanded on the council's new vision to transform Singapore as a vibrant hub for responsible fashion as it rallies local and global industry players into action, and announces initiatives to nurture sustainability-forward talents in the field

The Singapore Fashion Council (SFC) formally introduced a new vision to turn Singapore into a 'Vibrant Asian Hub for Responsible Fashion' which is used to shape the agenda at the third edition of its Be The Change Summit - an annual gathering of fashion industry thought leaders to spark discussions and inspire actions towards a more sustainable and equitable future on 15th August 2024.

Themed *Eternally Circular: Articulating with Asian Voices*, the summit saw speakers offering perspectives about the opportunities that Singapore can leverage to realise this vision. They spoke to 300 industry practitioners, as well as Senior Minister of State Dr Amy Khor, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment who graced the event as its Guest-of-Honour.



Dr. Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment, delivering the opening address

In her welcome speech, Sharon Lim, the President of SFC stated, "Be The Change Summit has always been rooted in sustainability. (With) SFC's vision of establishing Singapore as a hub for responsible fashion, each of us has a vital role to play—whether as policymakers, business leaders, researchers, or engaged citizen. By working together, we can make a significant impact and drive the essential changes needed now more than ever."

In the opening address, Dr Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State, observed that, “There is an urgency to create a closed loop system where materials are continuously cycled back into the economy reducing the need for resource extraction. Fashion industry can also do its part to make circularity second nature. We can continue to embrace circularity in today’s fashion industry through our collective efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle our resources will be crucial in our fight against the existential threat of climate change.”

Guest speaker Luke Henning, Chief Business Officer of Circ, remarked, “For your materials to be adopted, you need to make items of quality and get designers on board. So, recycling by itself is not enough. Clothing is one of the strongest personal branding statements and customers choose what delights them and what speaks to them. The aim should be to wear the same molecules for life, we need to fundamentally move from an extractive economy to recirculating the molecules we have already extracted. Ultimately, we have all the clothes we need to make all the clothes we will ever need.” Circ is a material innovation company that are pioneers in fashion technology where they convert polycotton waste to its basic raw materials, for fashion brands to reuse the fibres.

Transforming Singapore into a responsible fashion hub

According to the recent Textile Recycling Study commissioned last year by SFC, the amount of textile waste in Singapore is predicted to increase by 2% annually over the next five years. With S\$3.5 billion worth of textiles imported and distributed by Singapore in 2022, there is a big opportunity in Singapore to make a real impact.

Guided by these industry insights, SFC’s new vision calls for a meaningful change to turn Singapore into an equitable, transparent and inclusive fashion hub. Paired with a strategic emphasis on sustainability, innovation, and promoting Asian craftsmanship, SFC aims to be a catalyst for change by cultivating robust partnerships across the entire fashion value chain.

Elaborating on the vision, Zhang Ting-Ting, Chief Executive Officer of SFC said, “Sustainability stands as a pressing imperative within the fashion industry. Our strategic pivot ensures that it becomes the cornerstone of our efforts to advance Singapore’s fashion sector. As a significant hub for fashion import and distribution in the region, Singapore is poised to lead by example in fostering a more environmentally conscious fashion landscape. Addressing this challenge requires collective action; it is not something any one organisation can tackle alone. We eagerly anticipate collaborating closely with government bodies, businesses, and consumers alike to drive a lasting transformation!”

As the first event organised since the introduction of the new vision, Be the Change Summit 2024 served as an important platform to engage local and international industry experts to voice new perspectives about incorporating Environmental, Social, and Governance principles throughout the value chain. This is a significant move to ensure that Asia has a stronger representation and voice about the global issue of sustainability. Speakers included those from global companies such as H&M Group, The Earthshot Prize, Circ and Decathlon; as well as from players from the local fashion sustainability ecosystem such as Carousell Group, SGRecycle, RGE-NTU Sustainable Textile Research Centre and ZERRIN. Panel discussion included topics on driving meaningful changes towards a more circular economy, cutting-edge technologies and sustainable practices, right behaviour of retailers to enhance conscious consumption by consumers and exploring the intersection of fashion, social responsibility and human right and what each role demands.

Beyond fostering positive dialogue, SFC will remain committed to driving action towards a sustainable future within and beyond the fashion industry. Moving ahead, SFC will continue working with other organisations to increase consumer understanding of the garment supply chain and encourage alternative consumption such as galvanising community initiatives that offer clothes swapping services. SFC will also continue to work with both big and small brands to invest in research and development to innovate for sustainability, with a unified playbook that aligns with regional standards in mind.

Cultivating future industry shapers as champions of responsible fashion

In line with the new vision, SFC has worked with local and international partners to develop a student challenge and extend student scholarships that equip the youth with skills relevant in the sustainable future of fashion.



Four winners of the Singapore Fashion Council's Student Challenge Awards 2024 with Dr, Amy Khor

At the Summit, SFC announced the **Fashion Industry Scholarship**. Supported by garment supplier Fu Yuan International, the scholarship will focus on priority areas of study such as sustainability and circularity in the fashion industry, textile and material research, and fashion supply chain and business development. Similar to the previously announced **Responsible Fashion Scholarship** created in partnership with RGE, this is a one-time merit or potential-based scholarship award of S\$10,000 each, to cover costs relating to recipients' full-time programmes. In total, three individuals were awarded the Fashion Industry and Responsible Fashion Scholarships.

Separately, SFC also announced the four winners of the **Singapore Fashion Council Student Challenge Award**, which aims to support Singapore-based students in their fashion sustainability journey and recognize young talents who showcase exceptional creativity and innovation. In partnership with RGE,

the winners will embark on a Sustainable Study trip to Indonesia where they will go behind the scenes to understand the fashion value chain and identify opportunities for positive change.

“This is our first ever pool of scholarships, and I’m glad that we are able to support these promising young individuals on their sustainable fashion journey. The wicked problem of climate change is multifaceted, and needs to be analysed through the complex lens of responsible fashion. Navigating this future will also require global perspectives—and it is crucial that more Asian voices are not just heard, but actively participating in how a more equitable and resilient global textile sector is being shaped. By dressing these future change makers with the right tools and critical skills rooted in Asia, I’m optimistic that the future of fashion will be a greener, more inclusive one.” said Zhang Ting-Ting, Chief Executive Officer of SFC.



The finalists of the Singapore Fashion Council's Student Challenge Award 2024

About Singapore Fashion Council

Singapore Fashion Council (SFC) – formerly known as Textile and Fashion Federation (Singapore) is the official association for the textile and fashion industry in Singapore. Embracing a transformative vision, SFC aspires to become a Vibrant Asian Hub for Responsible Fashion. With a focus on three key pillars: Sustainability, Innovation & Technology and Asian Craftsmanship, SFC works closely with diverse partners across the value chain to offer thought leadership, extensive networks, and resources – to drive impactful change throughout the ecosystem. For more details about Singapore Fashion Council, please visit sgfashioncouncil.org.sg.

Louise Koch

Louise Koch is Group Head of Sustainability at Grundfos, defining and spearheading the company's sustainability strategy. She has served as Director, Global Sustainability Strategy & Innovation for Dell Technologies. Prior to Dell, she was Head of CSR at Dansk Erhverv, and before that spent four years with Grundfos as programme manager for global sustainability and business development initiatives. Louise holds a Master of Anthropology from the University of Copenhagen, supplemented with various sustainability educational programs. She has valuable experience from sustainability partnerships and advisory roles, like her membership of Faculty at the Cambridge University Institute for Sustainability Leadership, the Advisory Board for DTU Center of Absolute Sustainability and the Danish Government's Council for Responsible Business Conduct & The Global Goals.



Can you briefly explain what Grundfos does for promoting and enabling sustainability in today's market?

Water is at the core of our business, and we are strongly committed to a water-secure and net-zero future where this essential resource is protected. Our sustainability efforts are guided by the four key ambitions identified in our sustainability framework: to save energy, save water, embed circular principles across our business, and provide water to people in need. To achieve these ambitions, we work closely with our partners and stakeholders to improve both our environmental and social impacts.

In terms of our environmental impact, our focus is on implementing a science-based approach to achieving net-zero carbon emissions across our value chain, as well as reducing our overall water withdrawal while enabling our end-users to save water through our products. Last year, we invested an additional DKK 134m in climate initiatives across the supply chain and our operations, strengthened our climate governance model, and implemented our comprehensive decarbonisation roadmap – which guides our efforts to reduce our scope 1, 2 and 3 missions towards our near-term 2030 targets. We are also at the first stages of implementing our next level water sustainability

strategy by strengthening our understanding of water-related risks and opportunities across our operations, accelerating development and application of innovative water efficiency and water resilience solutions for our customers, and engaging in local and global partnerships to solve systemic water challenges. As a result of our current efforts, we have achieved a 11.7% emissions reduction as compared to our baseline year 2020 and reached 96% of our 2025 water withdrawal target. We also strive to embed circularity principles across every stage of our operations and have surpassed our 2025 target for waste-to-landfill reductions in operations by 15%.

Our social impact is also an integral part of our sustainability strategy, and our aim is to fulfil our responsibility of respecting and uplifting not only our Grundfos employees, but also all the people whom we interact with through our activities across the value chain. In 2023, we implemented employee training programs, expanded our external knowledge-sharing network and collaborations, continued our efforts to improve water access for communities in need, and ramped up our efforts to improve Diversity, Equity, and inclusion (DEI) and development opportunities for our internal teams.

How is Grundfos Singapore aligning their work with the SG Green Plan 2030 and beyond?

Grundfos Singapore is deeply committed to supporting Singapore's sustainability goals as outlined in the Singapore Green Plan 2030. This commitment is evident in our water and energy-efficient solutions, partnerships with local stakeholders, and robust green initiatives across our operations.

In line with our belief that water is intrinsically tied to energy use, we are dedicated to pioneering innovative water technologies that contribute to Singapore's aspirations under the Energy Reset pillar by limiting water consumption and improving efficiency and reuse. Our iSOLUTIONS portfolio is one example of such technology, featuring intelligent pumps that allow for real-time monitoring, remote control, fault prediction, and system optimisation – all of which work together to minimize water and energy consumption by ensuring consistently optimal performance. With hopes to further innovate in this space and strengthen our support for the local transition, our Commercial Building Services (CBS) division also opened its new Singapore Innovation Hub here in November 2023 to pioneer future solutions that accelerate the green transition for Singapore's commercial buildings.



We are also committed to forging strong partnerships with local stakeholders to develop tailored water and energy-efficient solutions that address the region's unique challenges and

opportunities. These collaborations also allow us to drive sustainability through talent development and industry education. For instance, our strategic partnerships with Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and Ngee Ann Polytechnic have proved to be mutually beneficial by leveraging our combined strengths to achieve shared goals. Additionally, our Singapore plant is continuously exploring opportunities to enhance its BCA Green Mark Gold rating infrastructure and building operations. A key initiative was the installation of a Photovoltaics (PV) power plant, which is projected to achieve a 120% energy gain and reduce its carbon footprint reduction by 493 tons CO2 per year.

What is the Climate Transition Action Plan? How does Grundfos expect it to accelerate its journey in sustainability?

Over the past few years, we have been laser-focused on setting and driving our science-based carbon emission reductions targets towards our net-zero goal in 2050. The Climate Transition Action Plan (CTAP) serves as the critical next step in our climate journey by providing a clear overarching framework and roadmap that details how we can realise the goals that we have set for ourselves, and expanding the focus of our climate action to also include climate adaptation and resilience.

Recognising the importance of building a robust understanding of the climate-related risks that we are faced with, Grundfos has also undertaken a rigorous climate risk and opportunity mapping and analysis initiative in the first half of 2024, which assessed the precise scope and potential impact of these risks across our own operations as well as market and customer segments. The insights gleaned from this analysis will also significantly inform the actions detailed in our CTAP, in order to ensure that our sustainability strategy is future-resilient and accounts for external fluctuations and risks that could impact our progress.

Being developed and launched later in 2024, our CTAP outlines both immediate and long-term actions that will help us move the needle towards a more sustainable and resilient future. It provides a comprehensive list of steps to align internal strategies and external climate policy advocacy, which is pivotal in enabling us to take effective action that can minimise our carbon footprint and contribute to a just, green and resilient future.

Could you elaborate on the comprehensive decarbonization roadmap which enabled Grundfos to achieve its sustainability targets?

At Grundfos, we recognise that decarbonising the flow of water is critical in building a net-zero future. To achieve this, we have implemented a comprehensive decarbonisation roadmap that details concrete actions that guide us towards our SBTi-validated targets.

We found it imperative to begin with a comprehensive assessment of our operations to identify the biggest gaps and opportunities for us to deliver impact. Our analysis revealed that the use of our products constituted 98.7% of our total carbon footprint, meaning that scope 3 emissions – which focus on emissions from the use of our products by the end-consumer as well as across the value chain – was where we had the biggest opportunity to drive impact.

We are thus investing heavily in both the innovation of highly energy-efficient products as well as customer advisory capabilities to encourage customer conversion to our energy-efficient and intelligent pump solutions to reduce our scope 3 downstream emissions. We are also engaging deeply in alliances and advocacy to help enable environments that promote the use of greener solutions. Meanwhile, we strive to use lower-carbon materials to manufacture our products, and work closely with our key suppliers to support them with the reduction of our scope 3 upstream emissions.

At the same time, the importance of reducing scope 1 and 2 emissions cannot be overlooked.

Last year, we focused on accelerating our transition to renewable energy with the signing of our first Power Purchase Agreement, and began improving energy efficiency across our manufacturing equipment and machinery to reduce operational emissions as well as digitalising environmental data across our plants with the support of our real-time environmental data monitoring meters.

These efforts are also supported with internal initiatives that drive awareness and action within our internal teams, in line with our belief that people are at the heart of our sustainability efforts. For instance, we implemented a new net-zero and science-based targets competence development program for all employees within our Industry division, which equips them with the necessary knowledge require to accelerate customer adoption of our energy-efficient solutions. We will continue investing in our employees' capabilities and collaborating with industry partners to achieve our climate targets.



The recent edition of Singapore International Water Week 2024 saw climate adaptation, water sustainability and digitalization as the core themes. How big of a role can digitalization play in water circularity both in urban and rural areas?

Water circularity is essentially about reducing waste and increasing efficiency in the use of precious water resources. The integration of digital technology into this process will take circularity to the next level by unlocking new opportunities for innovation and optimisation. By leveraging digital technology, we can

understand demand and intuitively manage the supply, ensuring that we only use what we need. Digital technology and artificial intelligence in water solutions can help support remote sensing, asset management, and predictive analytics, which in turn improves efficiency and sustainability, and saves costs.

A prime example is the Grundfos Demand Driven Distribution (DDD). Patented by Grundfos for the intelligent management of the pumping systems, it is designed to adapt to the actual requirements of water networks. This also in turn alleviates constant pressure in water infrastructure, minimising wear and tear that can cause water loss through leaks, or non-revenue water (NRW).

Another example is our digital dosing and disinfecting offerings. Combining intelligent pumps with digital measuring and control systems, we ensure high accuracy in the addition of chemicals to treat water and wastewater. This not only saves valuable resources, but also prevents overtreatment and undertreatment, supporting water conservation and circularity.

As an expert, what insight can you offer to other companies on setting and reaching their sustainability goals and to make the gap smaller so the world can benefit?

While the setting of sustainability goals is a key step that every company must take in their green journey, it should also be accompanied by a concrete plan that outlines specific steps to reach the targets. This is vital for driving tangible progress as it maps out a clear direction for the relevant teams in the company and is the essence of our Climate Transition Action Plan.

Sustainability and climate action should no longer be a side-gig but must be integrated into the business strategy and embedded across the organization. Everybody is a sustainability lead in their area of expertise. It is crucial to leverage the innovation engines of the company to develop and deliver innovative sustainability solutions, to engage your procurement and supply chain function to drive collaboration with

suppliers on advancing sustainability, and not least to enable your sales and marketing functions to deliver these solutions to market and support your customers in their sustainability journey. Therefore, the role of a group sustainability team is often to 'orchestrate' this movement with an equal measure of purpose and KPIs, motivation and capacity development.

To amplify sustainability achievements, it is also advantageous to build in potential partnerships into the company's sustainability plans, specifically with organisations who share similar goals but bring different expertise and resources to the table. This helps to uncover gaps in the company's core competencies and is a crucial step to proactively build up a strong ecosystem of partners. For example, Grundfos' partnership with German renewable energy company, ABO Wind, enables us to power 80% of our European operations with renewable energy. This would allow us to reach our 2030-target of reducing Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in 2025.

It is also important to remember that sustainability goals and plans should not be set in stone, neither should they be the destination. There is always a next level. As the climate and water crisis rapidly evolves alongside advancements in technology, it would be prudent to set a regular cadence of re-evaluation around the feasibility and applicability of the goals through a regular materiality analysis of impacts, risks, and opportunities. This will foster a culture of continuous improvement and innovation that contributes what is actually needed in the world's pursuit of a green, just and resilient future.

Based in Denmark, Grundfos leads a team of committed professionals around the world in driving their sustainability efforts towards the purpose of pioneering solutions to the world's water and climate challenges and improving quality of life for people.

NUS and raISE commit S\$3.5 million to support tech-based social enterprise start-ups in Singapore

- The inaugural cohort of seven start-ups with human-centred social impact innovations will each receive funding of \$95,000
- NUS Enterprise unveils dedicated space for purpose-driven ventures, BLOCK71 Social Impact Hub

NUS Enterprise, the entrepreneurial arm of the National University of Singapore (NUS), and raISE, the Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise, announced on 25th July 2024 a joint commitment of S\$3.5 million to grow tech-based social enterprise start-ups under the Technology For Sustainable Social Impact (TS2) accelerator programme.

The funds will nurture 16 promising social enterprise start-ups participating in the TS2 accelerator programme over the next two years, providing them with essential resources and support. As part of this commitment, NUS Enterprise has established the BLOCK71 Social Impact Hub, a dedicated space designed to cultivate and empower purpose-driven ventures.

The inaugural cohort of seven start-ups under the TS2 accelerator programme showcased their technologies today at a Demo Day event, held in conjunction with the official opening of the BLOCK71 Social Impact Hub, located at LaunchPad @ one-north.

The TS2 accelerator programme was jointly launched by NUS Enterprise and raISE on 29th January 2024 to help scale innovative ventures in the social enterprise sector. The inaugural cohort of start-ups focus on addressing social gaps in Singapore, and creating solutions that target diverse beneficiaries such as the elderly, students with different learning needs, youths at risk of mental distress and dengue patients.

TS2 accelerator programme

The 10-week TS2 accelerator programme supports early and growth stage start-ups that adopt social enterprise models, with varying levels of technological engagement that range from deep tech to light and low tech. The programme, which held its first run from end-April 2024 to July 2024, combines a structured curriculum and a customised development plan tailored to the needs of each start-up.

Under the programme, start-ups also gain access to a rich network of mentors, investors, and impact professionals to help them scale their businesses and amplify their social impact. Leveraging the BLOCK71 incubation nodes in nine cities across the globe, start-ups gain access to overseas markets and commercial opportunities.

Associate Professor Benjamin Tee, NUS Vice President (Ecosystem Building), said, "Our collaboration with raISE marks a significant step forward in supporting purpose-driven ventures by providing them with essential resources to grow, and further fostering an ecosystem dedicated to positive social impact. The TS2 accelerator programme expands upon our experience in nurturing technology start-ups to boost social impact endeavours. This new initiative, along with the establishment of BLOCK71 Social Impact Hub, is our commitment to develop innovations that achieve greater social impact via entrepreneurship."

"raISE shares NUS Enterprise's commitment to supporting early-stage businesses on their social impact journey. Through our partnership in the TS2 accelerator programme, we aim to broaden our support to technology-based start-ups. By combining raISE's expertise in social enterprise business models with NUS Enterprise's extensive network and innovation expertise, we accelerate the growth of early-stage start-ups to address critical social challenges," said Alfie Othman, CEO, Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise, raISE.

To further maximise the impact and growth of promising TS2 start-ups, NUS and raISE are developing a comprehensive post-accelerator support system. This initiative will feature targeted expert peer

learning sessions and strategic mentoring check-ins, focusing on critical milestones such as negotiating partnerships and securing funding. These tailored support mechanisms aim to provide ongoing guidance and resources to TS2 start-ups, ensuring their continued success. NUS Enterprise and raISE will also commence planning for the 2025 iteration of the TS2 accelerator programme scheduled for the third quarter of 2024, building on the insights and successes of the current programme.

Empowering purpose-driven start-ups

The TS2 accelerator programme is the latest addition to NUS Enterprise's continued efforts to support purpose-driven start-ups. Since 2011, NUS has incubated and supported close to 400 societal impact start-ups, of which 70 per cent address human-centred social impact issues and 30 per cent on environment and sustainability.

In addition to the TS2 accelerator programme, to further nurture the next generation of social impact start-ups, NUS Enterprise has established the BLOCK71 Social Impact Hub to provide a dedicated space for purpose-driven ventures that address issues pertaining to societal well-being and environmental sustainability. Pioneer occupants of this new hub will include the seven start-ups from the inaugural TS2 cohort, as well as start-ups from NUS social impact ecosystem.

The BLOCK71 Social Impact Hub offers a suite of services to support and accelerate impact ventures: Tailored Capacity Building Programme - Working in partnership with industry experts and ecosystem partners, the hub will provide tailored training programmes to enhance the skills and knowledge of social entrepreneurs.

Mentorship and Guidance - The hub will curate and document best practices in impact entrepreneurship, providing insights and guidance to start-ups navigating the social impact landscape. Additionally, recognising the importance of quantifying social impact, the hub will assist tech-based ventures in incorporating effective impact measurement frameworks into their operations. The hub will also provide access to experienced mentors and industry professionals who offer strategic advice and support.

Networking Opportunities and Global Connections - The hub organises events and facilitates connections between start-ups, investors, corporates, and other ecosystem players, and in turn, fosters collaboration and growth. Leveraging BLOCK71's incubation nodes and infrastructure in nine cities across the globe, the Social Impact Hub provides opportunities for start-ups to expand their reach and impact across Asia and beyond.

About NUS Enterprise

NUS Enterprise, the entrepreneurial arm of the National University of Singapore (NUS), plays a pivotal role in advancing innovation and entrepreneurship at NUS and beyond. We actively promote entrepreneurship and cultivate global mind-sets and talents through the synergies of experiential learning, active industry partnerships, holistic entrepreneurship support and catalytic entrepreneurship outreach. Our initiatives and global connections support a range of entrepreneurial journeys and foster ecosystem building in new markets. We provide expertise and connections to create successful spin-offs and translate innovations into the marketplace through industry collaboration. These initiatives augment and complement the University's academic programmes and act as a unique bridge to industries well beyond Singapore's shores. For more information on NUS Enterprise, please visit <https://enterprise.nus.edu.sg>.

About raISE

The Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise, raISE nurtures and grows Social Enterprises through providing financing options, capacity building and networks. raISE advocates for businesses to embrace Social Enterprise characteristics: intentionality to incorporate social impact as the core objectives of their business, a commitment to additionality in measuring performance through a double bottom line of creating sustainable finance returns and social impact, and lastly, proportionality in resources allocated towards their social impact creation. For more information, please visit www.raise.sg

LIXIL Experience Centre opens to inspire consumers, designers and developers with curated spaces, multi-sensory experiences and collaborative solutions

LIXIL, maker of pioneering water and housing products, held the opening ceremony for the LIXIL Experience Center (“LEC”), Singapore on August 15th, 2024. The LEC, Singapore welcomes guests into an elegant Japanese-inspired space for a unique first-person multi-sensory, physical and digital experience showcasing LIXIL’s power brands – American Standard, GROHE and INAX.

Nestled in the heritage-rich Joo Chiat neighborhood, each brand’s distinct design language, brand values and lifestyle appeal, are expressed in specially curated spaces and live water experience zones. Guests enjoy attentive and personalized customer service while appreciating the sophisticated designs, sounds and scents that change dynamically across the over 11,000 square feet space.

Discerning guests and designers can create their own bespoke personal spa experience with luxurious GROHE SPA collections, crafted to the highest standards of materials and finishes. The future guest experience will also be digitally enhanced with the LIXIL CustoMy Space tool to virtually create and visualize their designs, including viewing their designs in Virtual Reality.

Audrey Yeo, Leader, LIXIL Water Technology, Asia Pacific, expressed, “Listening and engaging consumers and industry partners is an important part of delivering on our LIXIL purpose of making better homes a reality for everyone, everywhere. Our LECs in the Asia Pacific are an important platform to inspire ongoing conversations and purposeful solutions, especially in addressing three industry macro trends across health and well-being, sustainability and urbanization. We look forward to delighting our LEC guests in Singapore, as well as LECs located in Bangkok, Jakarta, Bandung and soon in Hanoi.”



Koh Fu Sheng, Leader, LIXIL Water Technology, Singapore, commented, "We are delighted to open the LEC, Singapore in the vibrant Joo Chiat neighborhood. This special location offers consumers and industry partners a unique and differentiated sensorial experience, with ample space for collaboration and events. Architects, designers and property developers can look forward to a close partnership, advisory and solutioning across our American Standard, GROHE and INAX brands."

Mr. Koh added, “The LEC features top-end GROHE SPA offerings that can be personalized with different combinations of showers, water jets, lighting and music tracks to create a truly individual spa experience for restoration, recovery or indulgence.”



Antoine Besseyre des Horts, Leader, LIXIL Global Design, Asia, mentioned, “At LIXIL, Design is the voice of the consumer. Our award-winning design teams are strategically located in some of the most dynamic cities and renowned architecture and design hubs in the world, including Tokyo, Singapore, Shanghai, New York, Düsseldorf, and London. Our close engagement with the architect

and designer community enables our design teams to translate inspiration and insights on trends into culturally relevant experiences that enhance people’s lives emotionally and practically. We have curated the LEC, Singapore to provide inspiration, to show water in its many forms and illustrate how our three power brands offer unique solutions across multiple categories to cater to the needs and aspirations of audiences with different lifestyles.”

Each LIXIL power brand is unique in its own way, but all serve the same purpose of making better homes a reality for everyone, everywhere. Every element, from the very first touchpoint, to using the product moves beyond simply finding the perfect balance between aesthetics, functionality and technology – reflecting a deep strategic connection between design to each brand’s distinctive positioning and value proposition.

GROHE is our aspirational brand seeking to offer pure joy of water, whereas American Standard is our purposeful brand enabling people to create a home they will love every day, and INAX is committed to transform people’s everyday life by offering innovative products delivering Japan’s rituals of water.

Guests to the LEC, Singapore can also experience the innovative advanced application of different signature elements for each brand that defines a unique design identity onto the products, which affords LIXIL designers with ways to differentiate our brands within our portfolio. These signature elements also reflect the brands’ values and are used by our design teams allowing LIXIL designers to translate the values into emotional and practical benefits that echo the brands’ promises.

About LIXIL

LIXIL (TSE Code 5938) makes pioneering water and housing products that solve everyday, real-life challenges, making better homes a reality for everyone, everywhere. Drawing on our Japanese heritage, we create world-leading technology and innovate to make high quality products that transform homes. But the LIXIL difference is how we do this; through meaningful design, an entrepreneurial spirit, a dedication to improving accessibility for all, and responsible business growth. Our approach comes to life through industry leading brands, including INAX, GROHE, American Standard, and TOSTEM. With approximately 53,000 colleagues operating in more than 150 countries, we are proud to make products that touch the lives of more than a billion people every day.

A Code Red Wakeup: Adventure documentary, *The Last Glaciers: Journey to the Extreme*, launches with revolutionary global streaming experience

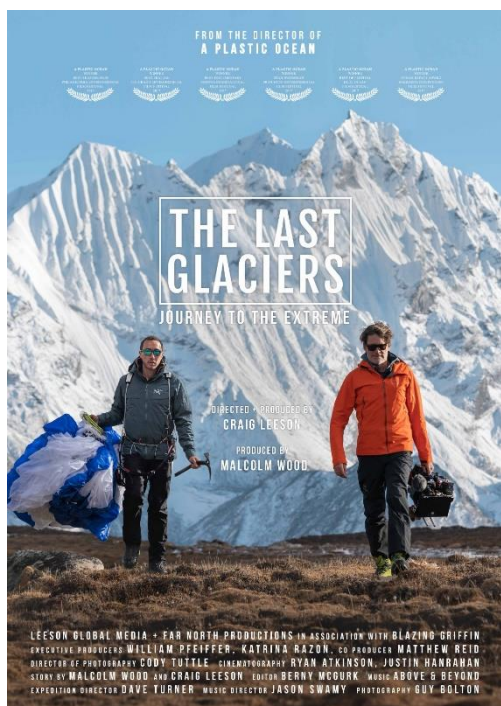
From the Director of “A Plastic Ocean,” Craig Leeson’s new cinematic epic “*The Last Glaciers: Journey to the Extreme*” is now available globally. It has been released through a revolutionary new streaming experience that promises to be a game-changer for independent content producers and audiences.

“*The Last Glaciers: Journey to the Extreme*” is an adventure film, shot over seven years in 13 countries, that captures the fragility of the natural world, the impact humans have on our life-support systems, and the friendships, personal challenges, and tragedies experienced by the explorers.

From Antarctica to the Himalayas, the Alps to the Andes, audiences are taken on an extraordinary journey to the top of the Earth’s glaciers, as Leeson and United Nations Mountain Ambassador, Malcolm Wood, risk their lives to showcase how rapidly these vital life-support systems are disappearing.

Through the work of scientists from NASA in Antarctica, France’s Ice Memory Project, Nepal’s International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), as well as the studies being done by INAIGEM in Peru, the filmmakers reveal the historical knowledge trapped in the frozen layers of each glacier and the warnings they contain about our future.

THE FILM IS A WAKEUP CALL



The team discovers communities facing an uncertain future as the relationship between earth, water, and our changing climate severely impacts ecosystems, agriculture, water systems, infrastructure, and human health. The life-support systems we all rely for our daily survival are collapsing.

Craig Leeson, Director, said, “Protection for all life on the planet against the ravages of climate change is overdue. We have witnessed the hottest year on record in 2023, and we are set to break those records again in 2024. We need all hands-on deck to make the necessary economic and systemic transition to ensure a stable climate and to mitigate the damage already done”..

Malcolm Wood, Producer, said: “This is the most comprehensive film ever produced about the relationship among climate change, mountain environments, and glaciers. It has been shocking to learn how many glaciers have died just in my lifetime. The next generation will be lucky if any remain when their kids are born.”

The film is released in partnership with Olyn, a solutions-oriented tech company that is poised to revolutionise the film industry with its innovative self-distribution model, empowering creators to manage revenue-sharing while also allowing viewers to participate in those earnings by sharing the film, earning revenue, and becoming a stakeholder in its distribution.

William Pfeiffer, Executive Producer, said, “Choosing to stream our film with Olyn’s pay-per-view revenue-sharing technology aligns perfectly with our goal of supporting and engaging both our audience and non-profit organizations, through the encouragement of active involvement and the

sharing of revenue. It's an ideal platform to deliver tangible, measurable impact through the power of film".

With the world's glaciers melting at an alarming pace, and the UN & UNESCO designating 2025 as the International Year for Glacier Preservation, there's never been a more critical moment to raise awareness.

About Leeson Media International (LMI)

From creation to completion - Leeson Media International (LMI) is a global media content and production services company providing the world's best broadcasters, studios and brands with compelling stories highlighting the human spirit with a focus on the natural world. LMI is headquartered in Hong Kong with additional offices and representation in the United States, United Kingdom, Portugal, France and Australia. More information can be found at www.leesonmedia.com. You may also connect with Craig Leeson on www.craigleeson.com, and on Instagram (www.instagram.com/therealcraigleeson), Facebook (www.facebook.com/TheRealCraigLeeson), and Vimeo (www.vimeo.com/leesonmediahongkong).

About Far North

Far North was born out of the passion of its founders – highly skilled extreme adventure athletes with a passion for only the highest quality videography to capture expeditions across all edges of the Earth. Unlike other production houses, Far North comprises of a creative team of videographers and photographers that have the expedition experience to take cameras and equipment into the hardest places across the earth, in order to produce highly emotive and visually astounding raw provocative media. Keep up to date at https://www.instagram.com/farnorth_productions/ and www.farnorthproductions.com

About Olyn:

Olyn is a leading provider of innovative solutions for content creators, empowering them to monetize their work and engage with their audience on their own terms. With a focus on flexibility, transparency, and community-driven success, Olyn is committed to reshaping the landscape of digital content monetization.

The rise of the creator economy has highlighted the importance of innovative distribution and payment solutions. Olyn introduces a participative economic model, incentivizing microtransactions within creators' networks. By enabling revenue sharing and split payments, Olyn transforms audiences into active participants in the distribution process, amplifying content reach and engagement. The launch of Olyn marks a significant milestone for independent filmmakers, who often face challenges in finding effective distribution and monetization channels. Traditional distribution networks can be inaccessible and cost-prohibitive, leaving independent creators at a disadvantage. Olyn fills this gap by providing filmmakers with a direct route to sell access to their films through shareable links, thereby democratizing content distribution and opening up new revenue streams. The goal of this innovative release partnership with Olyn is to support dedicated NGOs, charities, corporate partners, and the audience, by forming a dynamic viral film network. For more information, visit <https://www.olin.com/>

Bentley Systems Announces the Finalists of the 2024 Going Digital Awards

Winners to be Announced on October 9 at Bentley's 2024 Year in Infrastructure and Going Digital Awards Event in Vancouver

Bentley Systems, Incorporated (Nasdaq: BSY), the infrastructure engineering software company, today announced the finalists of the 2024 Going Digital Awards. The annual awards event honors the extraordinary work of Bentley's global users, showcasing how innovative software enables the advancement of the world's infrastructure for better quality of life. This year, 36 finalists, across 12 categories, were selected from over 250 nominations submitted by organizations in 36 countries.

Representatives from the finalist organizations will present their projects to a panel of 34 independent judges, to determine the award winners. Winners will be revealed on October 9, during the 2024 Going Digital Awards event, held at the JW Marriott Parq Vancouver. More information about each finalist project can be found on Bentley's website [here](#).

"Infrastructure is essential. It connects us locally and globally, supporting our society and economic growth and development," said Kristin Fallon, chief marketing officer, Bentley Systems. "This year's Going Digital Awards finalists represent an impressive mix of international projects that are pushing the boundaries of what's possible on land, at sea, and underground. These programs highlight engineering genius; they showcase the teams of infrastructure professionals that are unlocking the power of data with AI, digital twins, immersive visualizations, and more, to make modern life possible. We applaud and celebrate each finalist for their outstanding achievements to make better, more resilient critical infrastructure for an improved quality of life."

The finalists in the 2024 Going Digital Awards are:

Bridges and Tunnels

1. JMT – Digital Experience for I-95 Rappahannock River Crossing Construction Project, Fredericksburg, Virginia, United States
2. QK4, Inc. – Going Digital Survey with Bridging Kentucky, Kentucky, United States
3. Tecne Systra-Sws Advanced Tunneling Srl – Digital Implementation in Tunnel Assessment and Rehabilitation, Italy

Construction

1. PT Hutama Karya (Persero) – Navigating the Complexities of Jakarta MRT Phase 2A CP203 with Digital Solutions, Jakarta, South Jakarta, Indonesia
2. Webuild s.p.a. – 4D Modeling and Construction Management for a Pedestrian Steel Bridge Erection in the New ENI Headquarter Complex in Milan, Italy, San Donato Milanese, Lombardia to Milano, Italy
3. Proicere Ltd. – SPRS Retreatment (SRP) Sellafield, Seascale, Cumbria, United Kingdom

Enterprise Engineering

4. Arcadis – A Blueprint for Transforming Project Delivery Through Automation, Birmingham, England, United Kingdom
5. Mott MacDonald and HDR – Ontario Line – Information Management, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
6. Amey – Core Valley Lines (CVL) Transformation - South Wales Metro, UK, Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom

Facilities, Campuses, and Cities

1. Guangdong Airport Authority – Digital Innovation Application of Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport Phase III Expansion Project, Guangzhou, China

2. PT Wijaya Karya (Persero) Tbk – Nusantara Presidential Complex, New Capital City of Indonesia, Nusantara, Indonesia
3. China ENFI Engineering Co., Ltd. – Digital Construction Project of Comprehensive Garbage Treatment Facilities in Xiong'an New Area, Beijing, China

Process and Power Generation

1. MCC Capital Engineering & Research Incorporation Limited – Integrated Application of BIM Technology in the Design, Construction, Operation and Maintenance of the World's First Hydrogen Metallurgy Engineering Demonstration Project, Hebei, China
2. WISDRI Engineering and Research Incorporation Limited – Digital Innovative Applications throughout the Process of Iron and Steel EPC Projects, Wuhan, Hubei, China
3. PowerChina ZhongNan Engineering Corporation Limited – Digital Twin of Shandong Energy Group Bozhong Offshore Wind Farm Site A, Dongying, Shandong, China

Rail and Transit

1. SPL Powerlines UK – Midland Main Line Electrification, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and South Yorkshire; United Kingdom
2. Transport for London – The Elizabeth Line, London, England, United Kingdom
3. INECO – Master Design Stage RBDTD-LV-DS3 North Latvian Section, Latvia

Roads and Highways

1. China Road and Bridge Corporation, China Highway Engineering Consulting Corporation – Phnom Penh – Bavet Expressway, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
2. WISDRI Engineering & Research Incorporation Limited – Wuhan Gaoxin 4th Road Comprehensive Reconstruction Project, Wuhan, Hubei, China
3. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) – Digital Twin Implementation for NLEX-SLEX Connector Road Project, Caloocan to Manila, Metro Manila, Philippines

Structural Engineering

1. Hyundai Engineering Co., Ltd. – New Physical Modeling Method for Plant Steel Structures Using STAAD API, Seoul, South Korea
2. Arcadis – Advanced Analysis and Design of Flood Protection Structures through Automation, New York City, Indianapolis, and Dallas; New York, Indiana, and Texas; United States
3. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited – Enhancing Urban Connectivity–The Punjabi Bagh Interchange, New Delhi, Delhi, India

Subsurface Modeling and Analysis

1. Dataforensics – USACE Ground to Cloud – Enterprise Data Management Migration, Washington, District of Columbia, United States
2. Spark and WSP – North East Link Central Package, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
3. PT Hutama Karya (Persero) – Integrating Subsurface Model for Efficient Geotech Data Management in Trans Sumatera, Pekanbaru, Riau, Indonesia

Surveying and Monitoring

1. Monir Precision Monitoring - Samantha Ford – 31 Parliament Street Urban Infrastructure and Excavation Shoring Monitoring, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2. Water Supplies Department – Digital Twin of the Ex-Sham Shui Po Service Reservoir, Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR, China
3. China First Metallurgical Group Co., Ltd. – Application of Intelligent Construction Technology in the Construction of Comprehensive Improvement Project for the Outlet Reach of Fuhuan River, Wuhan, Hubei, China

Transmission and Distribution

1. Southwest Electric Power Design Institute Co., Ltd. of China Power Engineering Consulting Group – Full Life Cycle Digital Applications of Butuo ±800kV Converter Station, Liangshan, Sichuan, China
2. COPEL Distribuição S.A. – Implementation of BIM Modeling for Medium- and High-voltage Substation Projects, Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil
3. Exo Inc. – Ohio Falls River Crossing Towers, Louisville, Kentucky, United States

Water and Wastewater

1. Beijing Shougang International Engineering Technology Co., Ltd., Wanhua Chemical (Penglai) Co., Ltd. – 300,000 Tonnes/Day Seawater Desalination Project of Wanhua Chemical (Penglai) Co., Ltd., Yantai, Shandong, China
2. L&T Construction – Uttar Pradesh Tube Well Project under Jal Jeevan Mission, Uttar Pradesh, India
3. Basic Sanitation Utility Company of the State of São Paulo - Sabesp – INTEGRA 4.0 Cultural Transformation Through Digitalization, São Paulo, Brazil

About Bentley Systems

Bentley Systems (Nasdaq: BSY) is the infrastructure engineering software company. We provide innovative software to advance the world's infrastructure – sustaining both the global economy and environment. Our industry-leading software solutions are used by professionals, and organizations of every size, for the design, construction, and operations of roads and bridges, rail and transit, water and wastewater, public works and utilities, buildings and campuses, mining, and industrial facilities. Our offerings, powered by the iTwin Platform for infrastructure digital twins, include MicroStation and Bentley Open applications for modeling and simulation, Seequent's software for geoprofessionals, and Bentley Infrastructure Cloud encompassing ProjectWise for project delivery, SYNCHRO for construction management, and AssetWise for asset operations. Bentley Systems' 5,200 colleagues generate annual revenues of more than \$1 billion in 194 countries.

Close to 300 Purpose-Driven Businesses Honoured at NVPC's Company of Good (COG) Conferment 2024 for Their Commitment to Holistic Impact in Singapore

- More than 150 SMEs across different sectors were conferred this year, up from 39 in 2022
- Companies invested almost 800,000 hours on volunteering and donated around \$323M, according to the COG 2024 Cohort Report unveiled during the event
- Extension of DBS Bank's Business for Impact Banking Package to eligible conferred SMEs was also announced

The National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre (NVPC) held its Company of Good (COG) Conferment ceremony on 18th July 2024, at the Raffles City Convention Centre, where 290 organisations were recognised at the national level as Companies of Good. Over 400 distinguished guests witnessed the milestone in NVPC's COG Recognition System, marking the first year companies are assessed under the enhanced framework that goes beyond traditional metrics on corporate giving and tracks an organisation's progress and impact across Corporate Purpose and five impact areas, including People, Society, Governance, Environment and Economic.

Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat graced the event as the guest of honour, conferring the Champions of Good recognition to 78 organisations out of the 290 conferred companies.

Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of Social and Family Development, Sun Xueling, also graced the event as a Special Guest, conferring the Companies of Good — 3 Hearts recognition to 92 organisations.

The Company of Good 2024 Cohort Report was also unveiled during the event, revealing significant progress in Corporate Purpose adoption and integration, with 99% of the cohort articulating a Corporate Purpose, and demonstrating strong collective impact.

More Companies Recognised under the Enhanced COG Recognition System, Designed to Celebrate a Company's Impact and Progress

As part of the Company of Good 2.0 strategy, NVPC embarked on an enhancement of its national-level corporate recognition system, to be more holistic and inclusive. The COG Conferment 2024 marks the first year NVPC is recognising purpose-driven businesses. This new recognition system moves beyond the previous focus on corporate giving and recognises businesses' progress in integrating Corporate Purpose and their contributions across the five impact areas.

The enhanced recognition system was designed with key principles of harmonisation, inclusivity and progression in mind, and takes into consideration existing standards, marks and awards attained by organisations of different sizes and industries, and encourages companies to continuously improve. Perspectives and input were also sought from a panel of multisector stakeholders including academic experts from Institutes of Higher Learning as well as ecosystem partners such as the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), Singapore Business Federation (SBF), Singapore Institute of Directors (SID), Singapore National Employers Federation (SNEF) and UN Global Compact Network Singapore (GCNS), which constituted the InterAgency Judging Panel for the 2024 COG Conferment.

This year's recognition system saw a significant increase in the number of conferred companies, with 290 organisations recognised as Companies of Good – more than double compared to the previous recognition model in 2022. Out of the 290 companies, 78 were recognised as Champions of Good, 92 as Companies of Good — 3 Hearts, 39 as Companies of Good — 2 Hearts, and 81 as Companies of Good — 1 Heart.

The COG Conferment 2024 also saw a significant rise in SME participation, with 155 SMEs being conferred – nearly 4 times more than the previous recognition model, reflecting an increased sense of relevance and engagement for businesses of all sizes and across diverse sectors, including finance, food and beverage (F&B), energy, retail, fashion, healthcare, and services.

One such example is Social Gifting, a social enterprise that seeks to redefine gift-giving through partnerships with organisations like SPD and SG Enable. Aside from providing avenues of employment and income for at-risk individuals and people with special needs, the company also encourages responsible consumption through the upcycling of their gifts. Iconic works by Social Gifting, the Lion and Bird Paradise mosaic art pieces were presented to the GOH and Special Guest as tokens of appreciation for gracing the event. These diamond bead mosaic art pieces were handcrafted by one of Social Gifting’s talented artists, Gareth Ng, who is a teenager with autism.

Another example of an exemplary SME is Wholesome Savour, which took part in NVPC’s recognition for the first time. They blend social responsibility and sustainable initiatives with their healthy food business, aiming to revolutionise the food industry with science-backed nutrition. They champion inclusivity by hiring inmates and persons with disabilities (PWDs). Their commitment extends to community programmes for nutrition and health education, and partnerships with healthcare groups to provide nutritious options post-health screenings. With innovative products and sustainable practices, they contribute to health and environmental stewardship, aligned with broader societal goals such as Singapore’s push for a more sustainable and healthy society.

Unveiling of the Company of Good 2024 Cohort Report and Key Findings

The COG 2024 Cohort Report was also unveiled during the event. Notable findings that emerged from the report in the Corporate Purpose and five impact areas include:

- **Corporate Purpose:** Nearly all companies (99%) have either articulated their Corporate Purpose or are in the process of doing so.
- **People:** Collectively, the cohort invested 7.2M hours on training and upskilling to their employees.
- **Society:** As a cohort, their combined donations amounted close to \$323M, with volunteer hours totalling close to 800,000 in their respective past financial year.
- **Environment:** 95 companies have invested in research and development to reduce their environmental impact.
- **Governance:** On average, 65% of their employees have attended at least one form of governance training or accreditation.
- **Economic:** The collective financial investment made in other local businesses amounted to around \$10 billion.

Mr Tony Soh, CEO, NVPC, said, “Since launching the Company of Good strategy in 2016 to enhance corporate engagement in social impact, we have seen businesses committing more resources to sustainable value creation. Through Corporate Purpose, businesses are encouraged to redefine their ‘reason for existence’ beyond just generating profits, using their significant resources and capabilities for broader societal impact. As we move forward, collective responsibility across all segments of society is crucial for nurturing a thriving community and this will in turn provide the environment to nurture successful and competitive businesses. This year’s conferment, with 290 companies honoured across different industries and sectors, highlights an encouraging and growing trend, where we see more companies actively defining and integrating their Corporate Purpose into their strategies and operations, to create positive, sustained impact across multiple domains—People, Society, Governance, Environment, and Economic. This is clear evidence that companies can indeed prosper and do well, by doing good and doing right.”



Extension of the DBS Business for Impact (BFI) Banking Package

In addition to the celebration of the conferred companies, the extension of the DBS Business for Impact (BFI) Banking Package to eligible SMEs that are recognised as Companies of Good and Champions of Good was also announced during the event.

The DBS BFI Banking Package was specifically designed to address the banking needs of purpose-driven businesses and to support SMEs with sustainable business models. The preferential banking solution includes multi-currency accounts with fee waivers, insurance with preferential rates, access to working capital loans, and programmes in digitalisation and skills development.

DBS was the first bank to introduce a dedicated banking package for social enterprises back in 2009. This formed a key part of DBS Foundation's holistic support for purpose-driven businesses to scale their businesses and impact. Established in 2014, DBS Foundation is committed to uplifting lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable, and works with an ecosystem of businesses for impact and other like-minded partners to drive change. To date, it has provided grants to more than 140 social enterprises and SMEs, in addition to support measures including mentoring, networks, as well as the DBS BFI Banking Package offered by the bank's SME banking team to help companies scale up.

This extension is the culmination of the ongoing collaborative effort between NVPC, the Singapore Business Federation and DBS, a 2024 Champion of Good and two-time awardee of the President's Volunteerism and Philanthropy Awards by NVPC. This announcement was made alongside other initiatives by NVPC to further propel SMEs along their Corporate Purpose journey, such as the ongoing Grow with Purpose programme with ABR Holdings and Saladstop!, and a sustainable procurement pilot with Sodexo.

About National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre (NVPC)

NVPC is the national agency dedicated to promoting a culture of volunteerism and philanthropy. By engaging individuals, organisations, communities and leaders across the people, private and public sectors, we seek to create a more caring, inclusive, and compassionate society. Together, we envision Singapore as a City of Good, where everyone is able to give their time, talent, treasure, ties and testimony every day and everywhere.

Through its Company of Good strategy, NVPC engages organisations to adopt Corporate Purpose and demonstrate impact across the People, Society, Governance, Environment and Economic dimensions. Learn more at thecompanyofgood.sg

Journey to Punggol: SIT Welcomes First Students to its New Campus in AY2024

- SIT welcomes 3,800 SITizens from two academic clusters to its new Punggol Campus in the first phase of its move.
- The University enhances learning experiences and curriculum for Academic Year 2024, preparing students for the digital economy.
- Designed to foster community spirit and holistic student life, Punggol Campus features abundant spaces for engagement and interaction.
- Outstanding SITizens pursuing STEM education to benefit from new full scholarships by Temasek from Academic Year 2025.

The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) marked a new chapter today with a walk held at its new Punggol Campus. This event signalled the start of an exciting journey as the University welcomes the first of its students to its new campus for the Academic Year (AY) 2024 in September.

Strategically located within JTC's up-and-coming Punggol Digital District (PDD), the new campus is poised to be a dynamic hub of innovation and collaboration. One of the two campus plots, the 'SIT Campus Court', is now ready to welcome 3,800 students from two academic clusters—Business, Communication and Design; and Infocomm Technology. Located by the waterfront overlooking Coney Island, SIT Campus Court houses teaching facilities, learning spaces, laboratories, administration and communal spaces. The other plot of the campus, 'SIT Campus Heart', is targeted to be ready by the earlier part of 2025.

Involving 1,500 students, staff, alumni and guests, the event featured key moments such as teams of staff and students making their way from each of the SIT@Poly campuses and Dover campus to arrive at the new campus, participants forming the letters 'S-I-T' for a photo opportunity, handing over of mementoes, speeches and student performances. Guests at the event, including Minister for Education, Mr Chan Chun Sing and Senior Minister of State, Dr Janil Puthuchery, were subsequently given a tour of the campus facilities.



Credits: SIT and Keng Photography

Professor Chua Kee Chaing, SIT President, said, "Our new Punggol Campus is a beacon of innovation and collaboration, designed to prepare our students for a dynamic digital economy. We are excited to welcome our first batch of SITizens to this vibrant community. The digitally enhanced learning spaces at Punggol Campus and advanced curriculum initiatives will enhance the SIT educational experience, equipping our students with the skills needed to thrive in the digital age."

Tan Boon Khai, JTC Chief Executive, said, "We welcome the Singapore Institute of Technology to Punggol Digital District. As a leading university in high-tech and applied learning, SIT plays a crucial role in the holistic work-live-play-and-learn ecosystem of PDD, through the nurturing of industry partnerships, fostering entrepreneurship, facilitating knowledge exchange and skills development, and developing new talent for the district. We congratulate them on moving to their new 'home', a thriving hub for innovation and learning."

Campus as a Catalyst for the Digital Economy

Reflecting SIT's commitment to experiential learning, SIT's Punggol Campus boasts innovative teaching and learning spaces. This integrated and porous design fosters a thriving ecosystem for students, academic staff and industry partners. SIT Campus Court comprises high-tech labs, interactive spaces and virtual infrastructure for digital learning. Key features include:

- 27 labs that enable hands-on Infocomm Technology learning in cybersecurity, software engineering and immersive media. The ICT server rooms feature InRow Cooling and Containment Solutions utilising the District Cooling system, and industry-standard Cisco network training equipment, allowing SIT to expose students to state-of-the-art server facilities.
- An Autonomous Vehicle lab equipped with high-tech hardware components (such as LIDAR, radar, AI camera and ultrasonic sensors), measuring equipment, high-performance computers and servers, simulation software, and machine learning development platforms to support research and laboratory teaching.
- Designated common walkways called 'Digital Competency Corridors' that are equipped with informative and interactive kiosks, such as a holographic AI concierge, programmable robots, etc, to allow students and visitors to explore new technologies and innovations. These corridors include physical and virtual spaces equipped with advanced technologies and resources to facilitate learning, innovation and collaboration.
- A virtual data platform (also known as a data lake) to aggregate and store data collected from various sensors and systems around the campus to support applied learning and research. Known as 'Heterogeneous Info-Store for Teaching & Skilling (HITS)', the system allows students and academic staff to access real-world data from the campus so that they can work on applied projects such as optimising energy usage, improving sustainability practices, or building new intelligent applications. Such a virtual data platform for students and academic staff—the first in an Autonomous University—enhances the campus as a dynamic and data-driven space where students, researchers and industry partners can work together to tackle real-world challenges.

SIT is also advancing its curricula to bolster students' digital skills in addition to their core undergraduate studies. From September 2024, all SITizens, regardless of their fields of study, can embark on SIT's Digital Competency Roadmaps. These roadmaps offer structured learning resources in emerging and frontier technologies. For a start, students can choose to embark on six roadmaps, specifically in Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Low-Code Programming, XR (AR/VR/MR) and Blockchain. They can access learning materials designed by SIT and industry partners at their convenience through the University's learning portal. These roadmaps are designed to help learners understand and acquire essential digital skills in a scaffolded approach, preparing them to excel in the digital economy.

To further the access to higher education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Temasek will award up to 10 full Temasek scholarships to outstanding polytechnic graduates who will be pursuing STEM degrees at SIT for the academic year of 2025 and for the next two intakes. The scholarships are part of Temasek's T-Spring gift, which commemorates its 50th anniversary. These scholarships seek to cultivate a strong talent pipeline by improving access to tertiary education, especially amongst those who may face financial challenges to do so. The

scholarships' initial focus on STEM talent seeks to bridge industry skill gaps and build a resilient and future-ready workforce in Singapore.

Chairman of Temasek Holdings, Mr Lim Boon Heng, said "Our journey has always been about doing things today with tomorrow in mind. These scholarships aim to equip Singapore's workforce and organisations to be ready for a changing world and to create new opportunities. They offer students who may face financial constraints the chance to pursue studies in STEM fields, thereby fostering future-ready skills for a better and more inclusive world."

Campus for Community Building

Apart from teaching and learning spaces, SIT Campus Court also features the Kwek Leng Beng University Tower which houses the administration block, the Ho Bee Auditorium, a foodcourt, as well as sports facilities such as tennis courts, gyms, bouldering enclave, cue zone, martial arts, dance and music studios and multipurpose halls (MPH), which are designed to foster a vibrant student life. To further strengthen the SIT community, an alumni lounge cum co-working space is dedicated for SIT alumni to network and engage with one another and the rest of the SIT community. The Punggol Campus also features extensive green spaces for students, alumni and staff to unwind and socialise.

To initiate freshmen into the SIT community, SIT Campus Court hosted its first freshmen orientation, the 'First-Year Experience' (FYE). Freshmen engaged in various activities to foster the SIT spirit and integrate into university life, including a community service component, where SIT partnered with social service agencies Allkin and Hope Worldwide Singapore to run the "Happy Hearts Marketplace" on campus. SIT freshmen and FYE facilitators interacted with the elderly for a day of fun, care and community building, fostering a sense of social responsibility among participants.

About Singapore Institute of Technology

The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) is Singapore's first University of Applied Learning, offering industry-relevant degree programmes that prepare its graduates to be work- and future-ready professionals. Its mission is to maximise the potential of its learners and to innovate with industry, through an integrated applied learning and research approach, so as to contribute to the economy and society.

The University's unique pedagogy integrates work and study, embracing authentic learning in a real-world environment through collaborations with key strategic partners. Its focus on applied research with business impact is aimed at helping industry innovate and grow. SIT's new centralised campus within the larger Punggol Digital District features a vibrant learning environment where academia and industry are tightly integrated with the community.

UOB FinLab Launches the GreenTech Accelerator 2024 and Unveils Shortlisted Greentechs

UOB FinLab announced the launch of the GreenTech Accelerator 2024, a six-month regional programme that enables greentechs to grow, transform, forge partnerships and create pilots to address current sustainability challenges on 27 June 2024. The launch marked the commencement of the six-month programme which will conclude in November 2024 with a showcase day at the Singapore Fintech Festival. 34 companies were shortlisted out of more than 350 applicants. Out of the selected companies, 12 greentechs are from Singapore.

What is the GreenTech Accelerator

The GreenTech Accelerator programme is helmed by UOB's innovation accelerator, UOB FinLab, and serves as a key initiative to demonstrate UOB's commitment to sustainability across ASEAN. The programme is designed to fast-track the development of sustainable technology solutions by providing access to masterclasses, with more than 30 world-class mentors from three countries, as well as UOB FinLab's vast network of 25,000 industry leaders including businesses, governments, SMEs, and tech suppliers.

This year's programme will also offer up to SGD100,000 for greentechs to pilot relevant, impactful and deployable solutions with businesses. During the six months, the selected greentechs will tackle real-world sustainability pain points from more than 50 challenge statements contributed by 27 challenge partners including UOB and external partners such as DKSH, Marina Bay Sands, and Ngee Ann Polytechnic to co-create solutions for partnerships and pilot projects.

GreenTech Accelerator 2024 builds on the successful inaugural run in 2022 that began in Singapore and saw over 150 applications. The inaugural programme led to the establishment of eight pilots and partnerships and further resulted in more than 160 meaningful business connections. Now in its second run, this year's programme is expanding beyond Singapore to UOB's key ASEAN markets, Malaysia, and Thailand, with the aim to create a positive impact on sustainability.

The Challenge Statements

UOB FinLab worked closely with its corporate partners to issue sustainability-related challenge statements faced by companies and the industry. The selected greentechs will collaborate with their respective challenge statement partners and UOB FinLab to develop innovative solutions that would tackle real-world sustainability issues.

The challenge areas for 2024's programme are:

- Circular Economy and Waste Management
- Energy Efficiency
- Food and Agriculture
- Sustainable Cities and Urban Planning
- Carbon Management and Reporting

This list includes some of the key partners that have contributed challenge statements for the GreenTech Accelerator 2024:

- DKSH
- Marina Bay Sands
- Ngee Ann Polytechnic
- UOB

Meet the Shortlisted Greentechs - The 34 selected greentechs participating in the programme this year are from Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand and are split into 5 categories (according to the challenge statements). They are:

Name of GreenTech	Description	Country	Category
Beep + Voltality	Platform which integrates EV charging solutions in Southeast Asia, offering seamless access and payment across various networks	Singapore	Energy Efficiency
Circular Unite	Offers real-time monitoring, compliance management, and supply chain integration for comprehensive waste management	Singapore	Circular Economy and Waste Management
Co.Efficient Alpha	Delivers energy-saving solutions that help reduce costs and promote sustainability for businesses through monitoring and optimising consumption	Singapore	Energy Efficiency
Evercomm Singapore	Enables businesses to monitor and optimise energy use by enhancing carbon footprint management	Singapore	Carbon Management and Reporting
GreenFi	Consolidates and interprets diverse ESG data (risk assessments and environmental impact analyses) for financial institutions and corporations	Singapore	Carbon Management and Reporting
Hydroleap	Provides chemical-free, high-performance and modularised electrochemical technologies to replace conventional chemical and energy-intensive processes for wastewater treatment	Singapore	Circular Economy and Waste Management
Nika.eco	Specialises in climate modelling, using AI-driven software, PlanetGPT, to simplify and enhance climate data analysis for companies aiming for net zero	Singapore	Carbon Management and Reporting
Pure Active Water	Offers sustainable, chemical-free water treatment using ActivH2O, an electrolysis solution that eliminates micro-organisms, bacteria, and viruses without chemicals or salt	Singapore	Circular Economy and Waste Management

● TECHNOLOGY FEATURE

SMART TRADZT	Support processes for sustainable sourcing and evaluate suppliers' RFP with their end-to-end digital carbon emission management platform	Singapore	Carbon Management and Reporting
susGain	A gamified app which bridges the intention-action gap in sustainability, engaging communities through challenges and real-time impact measurement	Singapore	Sustainable Cities and Urban Planning
tHeMEat Company	Reduces food waste and decreases carbon emissions through their scalable valorisation patent-pending process which converts abundant vegetable side-streams into functional ingredients	Singapore	Food and Agriculture
WasteViz	Employs AI for efficient waste sorting, boosting recycling rates and reducing contamination	Singapore	Circular Economy and Waste Management

Pioneering Indian start-up develops food waste solutions to combat climate change

Author: Vineeta Rana, ESCAP Consultant

In a world grappling with climate change, innovative solutions are the need of the hour. BillionCarbon, an Indian climate tech start-up founded by siblings Ankita and Nikhil Vijayvergiya, is at the forefront of this battle. Born out of a deep-seated passion for the environment and a desire to make a meaningful impact, BillionCarbon exemplifies how vision and determination can drive significant change.

Ankita's journey into the world of climate entrepreneurship began during the COVID-19 pandemic. Working for a multinational company, she found herself questioning the true impact of her efforts. "What are we really doing with our time?" she pondered, as the world stood still. This introspection led her to the realization that her calling was in the climate sector. Together with Nikhil, she launched their first startup, Nature Healers, which focused on educating people about sustainable living.

Their work with Nature Healers revealed a critical insight: food waste treatment offered a substantial opportunity for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This revelation was the catalyst for BillionCarbon, which focuses on converting food waste into valuable resources using Black Soldier Fly Larvae (BSFL) technology. After a couple of years of rigorous research and development, they launched BillionCarbon in 2023, equipped with innovative, IoT-enabled bioreactors which convert food waste into valuable byproducts, including liquid biofertilizer and insect protein, significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the process.

Ankita's entrepreneurial journey has not been without challenges. Balancing motherhood with running a start-up has been particularly demanding. She became pregnant shortly after founding BillionCarbon, facing physical and emotional health challenges during pregnancy and postpartum. However, this phase also taught her the importance of prioritizing initiatives, ruthlessly focusing on execution, and building a robust support system. "It's crucial for women to proactively create a support system around them," she emphasizes, highlighting the role of her co-founder Nikhil, her husband, her parents, and her domestic helps in navigating this period.

Additionally, the flexibility of running a home office has been crucial. This experience has reinforced her belief in the need for supportive workplace policies that acknowledge and accommodate the unique challenges women face, particularly in balancing work and caregiving responsibilities. Her story calls for a broader acknowledgment of care work and its integration into the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

In early 2024, BillionCarbon joined a climate tech and sustainability accelerator run by Accelerating Asia in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The accelerator was tailored exclusively for women-led start-ups in the Asia Pacific region. Ankita highlights that the mentorship, resources, exposure, and networking opportunities offered by the programme have been instrumental in navigating the complex landscape of climate tech investments. In May 2024, at the second edition of ESCAP's Feminist Finance Forum in Bangkok, Ankita pitched her innovation alongside other participants of the accelerator programme. She won the pitch and was awarded a seed grant of USD 5,000 to scale BillionCarbon's work.

The roadmap for BillionCarbon is ambitious yet clear. With a goal to mitigate one billion tonnes of CO2 emissions by 2030, the startup is steadily building its foundation. Ankita envisions an exponential growth trajectory, focusing on refining their technology, expanding their capacity tenfold each year,

and fortifying their market position against competitors. This optimistic outlook is fuelled by the increasing recognition of climate tech as a critical investment area and the rising willingness of investors to fund innovative solutions in this space. Ankita is also ready to overcome challenges and stay resilient. "It's never a no; it's always about finding other ways of doing it," she says, encapsulating the spirit of BillionCarbon.

BillionCarbon's story is not just about environmental innovation – it's a testament to the power of women entrepreneurship and the essential role of care work in building sustainable businesses. Their journey illustrates that with the right support and a strong commitment to holistic values, it is possible to turn ambitious ideas into impactful realities. As the world grapples with climate change, the contributions of companies like BillionCarbon, supported by initiatives such as the Accelerating Asia - ESCAP accelerator programme, offer hope and direction for a greener, more inclusive future.

Since 2018, the Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship programme implemented by ESCAP with funding from Global Affairs Canada has mobilized over USD 90 million in capital for women-owned and led businesses, and directly supported over 178,000 women entrepreneurs such as Ankita through access to finance and enhanced skills to grow their businesses.

Our investment to accelerate clean energy in Asia Pacific

A new partnership with BlackRock's Climate Infrastructure business is adding solar capacity to the Taiwan electricity grid and advancing our goal to reach net-zero emissions

Author: *Amanda Peterson Corio, Global Head of Data Center Energy, Google*

We have a bold goal to reach net-zero emissions across all our operations and value chain by 2030, supported by a goal to run on 24/7 carbon-free energy on every grid where we operate. The path to reach these goals is challenging, and requires both commercial efforts and broader energy systems change. This includes creating new clean energy opportunities in regions that are early in their decarbonization journeys and have electricity grids that are undersupplied with carbon-free energy.

Today, we're announcing a partnership with BlackRock's Climate Infrastructure business that will help support the development of a 1 gigawatt (GW) pipeline of new solar capacity in Taiwan, advancing clean energy on the local electricity grid and our own 24/7 carbon-free goal. As part of our partnership, we're making a capital investment in New Green Power (NGP), a Taiwanese solar developer and BlackRock portfolio company, to facilitate the buildout of its large-scale solar pipeline.



Our unique partnership with BlackRock's Climate Infrastructure business to catalyze solar energy

Many countries in Asia Pacific face unique challenges with adding new carbon-free energy, including land constraints, low availability of commercially scalable wind and solar resources, and high construction costs. Therefore, fossil fuels, including imported coal and natural gas, generate nearly 85% of Taiwan's electricity. To help overcome these obstacles, companies can play a pivotal role in finding new strategies to grow the supply of available renewable energy sources and promoting emerging technologies that enable the full decarbonization of regional electricity systems.

Our investment in NGP, subject to regulatory approval, will serve as development capital toward its 1 GW pipeline of new solar projects, catalyzing critical equity and debt financing for those projects. We expect to procure up to 300 MW of solar energy from this pipeline through power purchase agreements (PPAs) and the associated energy attribute certificates (Taiwan Renewable Energy Certificates or T-RECs) to help meet electricity demand from our data center campus, cloud region and office operations in Taiwan.

Taking it a step further, we may offer a portion of this clean energy capacity to our semiconductor suppliers and manufacturers in the region so they can advance their own sustainability goals while

helping us reduce our Scope 3 emissions (the indirect emissions from our value chain). A significant share of our Scope 3 footprint can be traced back to the electricity grids that power our suppliers and users, which is why broad decarbonization — and partnerships like this — continue to be core to our net-zero goal.

BlackRock's Global Head of Climate Infrastructure David Giordano commented, "As we witness growth in demand for digital services, powered by AI and data-centric technologies, it becomes imperative to invest in clean energy. The partnership is a testament to the shared commitment between Google and BlackRock to driving the transition to a low-carbon economy."

How we're unlocking decarbonization opportunities across Asia Pacific

The partnership builds on more than five years of collaboration to accelerate the clean energy transition through market and policy development across Asia Pacific. Our advocacy and engagement efforts were a key driver of the 2017 amendment of Taiwan's Electricity Act, which opened up the market to allow non-utility companies to directly purchase renewable energy. This work led to us becoming the first corporate buyer to sign a PPA in the market. Since then, Taiwan has achieved a significant cumulative contracted capacity through corporate PPAs, becoming one of the leading corporate PPA markets in the Asia-Pacific region.

Continued progress on our carbon-free energy goal is happening across Asia Pacific with recent announcements in Australia and Japan. In parallel, we're working with partners to support policies that accelerate the decarbonization of electricity grids. We're a founding member of the Asia Clean Energy Coalition (ACEC), which brings together energy buyers, suppliers, and policymakers to help improve the policy and regulatory environment for corporate renewable electricity purchasing. Coalitions like ACEC are essential to drive the system-level transformation required for a carbon-free future in Asia Pacific.

This partnership is an important milestone in our net-zero and carbon-free journey, and there is much more to be done both in Asia Pacific and around the world. To learn more about our sustainability work, visit sustainability.google.



Green In Future is a novel venture of like-minded professionals with achieving a sustainable future as the target. Among the many services provided, the diffusion of technology to as many as possible and as far as possible, educating and generating awareness by being the link between the producer and the user, giving adequate training to the interested to adopt an innovation in Urban Landscaping, Urban farming, Education, Environmental issues and Health etc. are in the forefront.

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