

# **Establishing a Sustainability Consortium of Professionals and Educators (SCOPE): An Initiating Concept Note**

## **Background**

Around the globe and across the region, sustainability has never been more critical for a broad range of stakeholders including governments, businesses, academics.

On a global basis, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development officially came into force on 1 January 2016. These were earlier adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at a historic UN Summit. The SDGs represent a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Regionally, the 'ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together' document released in 2015 lays down, in particular, the strategy through the ASEAN Community Blueprints to realise a sustainable, inclusive and equitable regional community.

Both the global and regional commitments identify the importance of collaborative partnerships in which countries and stakeholders need to do their part to contribute to sustainable development.

In July 2016, a Sustainability Consortium of Professionals and Educators (SCOPE) was proposed by the ASEAN CSR Network (ACN) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School's Centre for Governance, Institutions and Organisations (CGIO).

## **Rationale of SCOPE**

SCOPE will have a constructive role to play in building up an ecosystem of sustainability experts and advocates to promote sustainability as well as address business and organisational issues that impact on people's lives and the environment.

SCOPE will evolve with engagement from members and institutions, and strive to become an influential entity on sustainability in the region. It will also be a forum for businesses and policy makers to share perspectives and practices so as to develop capabilities and capacities for the application of sustainability.

## **Strategic Parameters of SCOPE**

SCOPE may be established with strategic parameters as follows:

### Vision

SCOPE will be a leading group of experts and proponents in ASEAN for sustainability that generates influence and impact in both practice and education on sustainability.

### Mission

SCOPE is a platform of exchange and exposition of insights and issues on sustainability relevant to the world, with a focus on ASEAN.

### Strategic Aims

SCOPE will be guided by the following strategic aims:

- To advance the agenda and application of sustainability amongst institutions and organisations in the business and social communities
- To bridge practitioners and educators in developing and promoting the critical aspects of sustainability in teaching, practice and research
- To connect with critical agencies and bodies and in building capacities and strengthening capabilities for sustainability

### **Initiating Processes**

Inclusivity and focus are critical to the success of SCOPE.

Expressions of interest have already been obtained from the participants of the “Conference on Corporate Governance and Responsibility: Theory Meets Practice” held in July 2016 where the idea of SCOPE was announced.

Informal consultative dialogues are currently underway involving various stakeholders to develop the focus of SCOPE.

A planning meeting will be convened with interested stakeholders in November 2017, with a view towards officially launching SCOPE at a major event in the first half of 2018.

### **Contact**

Interested parties for SCOPE may contact:

Mr Thomas Thomas  
Chief Executive Officer  
ASEAN CSR Network  
Email: [thomas@asean-csr-network.org](mailto:thomas@asean-csr-network.org)

Assoc Prof Lawrence Loh  
Director  
Centre for Governance, Institutions and Organisations  
NUS Business School  
National University of Singapore  
Email: [bizlohyk@nus.edu.sg](mailto:bizlohyk@nus.edu.sg)

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