

A Fruitful Summer with the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Training Programme

CHAN Wing Sum, BBA in Accountancy, 2018 Cohort



ESG standards are currently booming throughout all industries. The statement, “ESG is not just a responsibility; it is a mindset and an opportunity for growth” is resoundingly relevant. For instance, reporting ESG activities is a growth area for consulting and public accounting firms, given the trillions of US dollars invested in funds that apply ESG standards. In the field of financial reporting, accountants are increasingly involved in developing those standards, measuring the data and reporting

it. Hence, accountants with a good base knowledge of sustainable practices are highly sought after.

It was a huge honour for me to receive the merit certificate for being one of the Top 10 performing students in the ESG training programme, a 15-hour scheme organised by the International Chamber of Sustainable Development (ICSD). The training programme aims to equip students with the essential concepts and skills to cope with pressing ESG issues around the globe. After completing the training programme, I was able to identify and address major sustainability problems, effectively communicate ESG issues with stakeholders and provide suitable advisory services to a management team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Department of Accountancy and Department of Marketing for co-hosting this meaningful event to equip students with the latest knowledge in the dynamic business environment. I agree with Dr Vincent Fok that students from marketing and accountancy are very different in thought and skills, but they should learn from each other to be well-rounded people. I look forward to seeing more opportunities for co-hosted events in the future.

WAN Ka Hei, BBA in Accountancy, 2018 Cohort

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards are one of the hottest issues globally in recent years. The Hong Kong government is catching up with the trend. All listed companies in Hong Kong are required to do ESG reporting annually. Thus, there is a high demand for ESG talent in the market. However, as a student from the 2018 cohort, I did not receive much training about ESG during my studies.





The first time I heard about ESG was not even at CityU; it was on a site visit to the Advanced Manufacturing Centre during my summer internship. I saw a high-tech greening facility in the lobby and a docent told me that it was a product from a Hong Kong start-up working on ESG projects. From then on, I understood ESG to mean being environmentally friendly. Last semester, I finally had a chance to learn more about ESG on the “Contemporary Accounting and Business Issues and Case

Analysis” course. However, the professor could only squeeze this issue into a three-hour lecture due to limited time. Therefore, we acquired only basic knowledge of the topic. So, when I first saw the poster for this ESG training programme organised by ICSD, I knew it signified a precious chance for me to learn more about ESG.

Luckily, I was a successful candidate. We received five lectures from passionate experts in different areas, including ESG reporting, investment and communication. The lectures were informative and interactive, and included some case studies. I enjoyed the programme very much. The only fly in the ointment was the online teaching mode; if it were conducted on campus, we would have felt freer to exchange ideas with other participants. If this programme is offered next year, don’t hesitate to apply for it!

