



i-ESG NEWSLETTER

VOL 1/2024

JAN-JUNE 2024

i-ESG OVERVIEW (AS OF JUNE 2024)

i-ESGReady Self Assessment

898

total completed
responses

KenalESG Outreach

1

in Penang

i-ESGClinics

3

guide industries on
i-ESG Starter Kit

i-ESGMentor

3

mentoring programme
by MNCS

Forums & Seminars

25

ESG-related forums
and seminars

GSEP

2

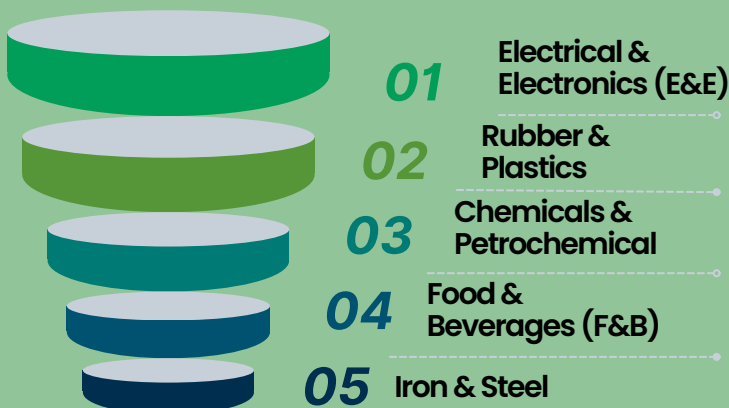
Government Sustainability
Engagement Programme

No. of Participants

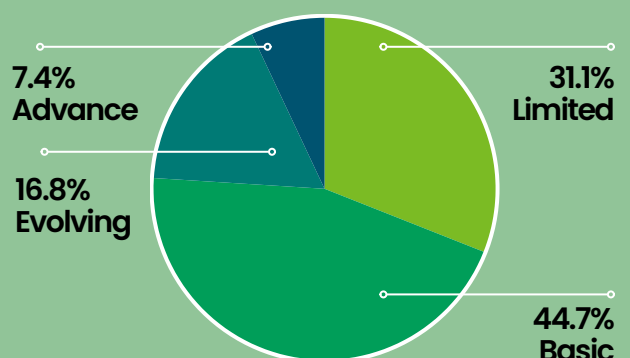
1500

of all i-ESG
programmes

Top 5 Sub-sectors responded in i-ESGReady



i-ESGReady Results



i-ESG CONFERENCE

MRC ESG CONFERENCE 2024

Dr. Jessica was one of the panelists at the Malaysian Rubber Council's (MRC) ESG Conference 2024 held on 17 and 18 January at Aloft Hotel, KL Sentral. The Conference was attended by about 100 participants and facilitated a comprehensive understanding and meaningful discussion on critical issues related to sustainability regulations and compliance within the rubber industry.



APEC MALAYSIA CONFERENCE 2024 (AMC 2024)

Puan Shireen Jasmin Ali, director of the i-ESG Division, delivered a talk during the APEC Malaysia Conference 2024 on the National i-ESG Framework at Hatten Hotel Malacca on 20 February 2024.



i-ESG MENTOR

BUILDING SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SWISS MNCS AND MALAYSIAN MSMES TOWARDS GOOD ESG PRACTICE

On 22 April 2024, the i-ESGMentor was organised by MITI in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland in Malaysia, and SMCC aimed to foster collaboration between Swiss MNCs and Malaysian MSMEs on ESG practices. Nestle, ABB, and Zuellig Pharma shared insights, case studies, and tools to assist Malaysian suppliers in adopting sustainability standards and reporting. Opening remarks were delivered by Her Excellency Andrea Reichlin and Ms. Pauline Goh. Meanwhile, Datuk Hanafi Bin Sakri, Deputy Secretary General of MITI, underscored the importance of sustainable development in his closing remarks, emphasising its role in enhancing Malaysia's economic resilience and global competitiveness.



COLLABORATION WITH HONDA

The i-ESGMentor programme for Honda Malaysia Supply Chain was held on 6 March 2024 at d'Tempat Country Club, Sendayan. The workshop was attended by 100 participants from Honda Malaysia's supply chain. The participants of the programme were presented with the i-ESG Framework and continued with hands on session on the i-ESGStart.



i-ESG PROGRAMME

EMPOWERING CHANGE – CHARTING A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR BUSINESS GROWTH



On 6 May 2024, RHB Bank and Tenaga Nasional Berhad co-organised an exclusive engagement session themed "Empowering Change – Charting a Sustainable Energy Future for Business Growth" at DoubleTree Hilton, Johor Bahru. The session aimed to guide SMEs towards embracing ESG practices in their business operations to foster a greener economy. Dr. Wong presented MITI's i-ESG Framework and shared insights into the challenges Malaysian SMEs typically encounter in adopting sustainable agendas.

A CONVERSATION ON BHR-ESG, SUSTAINABILITY AND DUE DILIGENCE COMPLIANCE AND REPORTING IN MALAYSIA & i-ESG START CLINIC



The programme was conducted on 19 February 2024 at The Wembley – A St Giles Hotel. It was a collaboration between MITI and AmerBON, Advocates and the Collective of Applied Law and Legal Realism (CALR). The programme was attended by 120 participants from various industries. The programme raised and strengthened awareness on sustainability reporting, ESG practices as well as human rights issues within the manufacturing sector in the country.

OPERATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL ASPECTS OF PALM OIL TRADE COURSE 2024



Dr. Wong presented at the 2024 Operational and Commercial Aspects of Palm Oil Trade Course on 30 April 2024 at Dorsett Grand Subang. His presentation focused on MITI's i-ESG Framework, aimed at integrating sustainable practices and enhancing corporate responsibility, fostering discussion on crucial sustainability issues within the palm oil industry and beyond.



GSEP AT HDC

Government Sustainability Engagement Programme (GSEP) was held on 18 April 2024 to Halal Development Corporation (HDC). The programme received enthusiastic feedback from its 56 participants, highlighting its success in fostering meaningful discussions. Dr. Jessica's insights resonated well with the audience and the programme effectively contributed to advancing sustainable practices within the corporation as well as the link between ESG and halal.

"SUSTAINABILITY IS NO LONGER ABOUT DOING LESS HARM. IT'S ABOUT DOING MORE GOOD." – JOCHEN ZEITZ



UUM KUALA LUMPUR CAMPUS ACADEMIC COURSE – GMUL5063 LAW, ETHICS AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



On 2 March 2024, Dr. Jessica Wong was invited as a speaker at UUM Kuala Lumpur Campus. The session focused on integrating ESG principles into Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), with the objective of enhancing students' knowledge and skills in legal issues related to CSR. A total of 40 participants actively engaged in this informative session, fostering a robust exchange of insights and perspectives.

Game Time!



EMBARK ON AN INSIGHTFUL JOURNEY TO CONFRONT CLIMATE CHANGE WITH THE FINANCIAL TIMES' THOUGHT-PROVOKING GAME

ISKANDAR MALAYSIA SME BUSINESS OUTLOOK (CHAPTER 2 – MANUFACTURING)



Mr. Adam Anuar from the i-ESG Division presented on the i-ESG Framework at the Iskandar Malaysia SME Business Outlook Programme to identify and focus on SMEs to provide them with the latest information and developments in the manufacturing sector. The programme was held on 30 May 2024 at Hotel Renaissance, Johor. This initiative, particularly highlights the direction of the Government at the national level. Collaboration with relevant stakeholders in economic development is crucial for crafting a strategic plan to identify potential and track business development both nationally and internationally.

MY ESG FORUM BY UM AND CIC CAPITAL



On 29 May 2024, Dr. Wong participated in the My ESG Forum jointly organised by Universiti Malaya and CIC Capital Consultancy. As a panelist, Dr. Wong provided insights during a session titled "ESG Integration in Investment Strategies." His contributions covered topics such as i-ESG Framework, ESG integration, challenges and opportunities in sustainable finance.


THE ABC'S OF CARBON PRICING



An online webinar was organised by ESGRight on 26 March 2024, in line with the national aspiration to achieve Net Zero Emission by 2050. Dr. Jessica briefed on the fundamentals of carbon pricing and pertinent issues surrounding carbon tax.

ILO INDICATORS OF FORCED LABOUR

THE INDICATORS REPRESENT THE MOST COMMON SIGNS OR “CLUES” THAT POINT TO THE POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF A FORCED LABOUR.




ABUSE OF VULNERABILITY

Lacking local language or legal knowledge, with few job options, from minority groups, or with disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse and often end up in forced labor.

DECEPTION


Deception relates to the failure to deliver what has been promised to the worker, either verbally or in writing.

WHY?




RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT

Restrictions on workers' freedom to enter and exit work premises, beyond reasonable limits, strongly indicate forced labor.




PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

As violence is not acceptable as a disciplinary measure under any circumstances, it is a very strong indicator of forced labour.




ISOLATION

Victims of forced labour are often isolated in remote locations, denied contact with the outside world.




INTIMIDATION AND THREATS

Victims of forced labour may suffer intimidation and threats when they complain about their conditions or wish to quit their jobs.




RETENTION OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

Without identity documents, workers often cannot find other jobs, access vital services, or seek help from authorities due to fear.




WITHHOLDING OF WAGES

Workers may be obliged to remain with an abusive employer while waiting for the wages that are owed to them.




DEBT BONDAGE

The debt can arise from wage advances or loans to cover recruitment or transport costs or from daily living or emergency expenses, such as medical costs.




EXCESSIVE OVERTIME

Forced labourers may be obliged to work excessive hours or days beyond the limits prescribed by national law or collective agreement.



ABUSIVE WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Work may be performed under conditions that are degrading or hazardous and in severe breach of labour law.



The indicators are derived from theoretical and practical experience of the ILO's Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL). They are based upon the definition of forced labour specified in the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) as: “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily”.

