

# Materiality: Determining ESG Topics That Matter

## FACULTY

- Naina Bajaj

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Senior management
- Management staff
- Sustainability professionals
- Anyone who might find this program helpful

[www.asb.edu.my/executive-education](http://www.asb.edu.my/executive-education)

Course Fee: RM1,000 before SST

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Sustainability has become increasingly important for companies and industries across the globe. Commercial, financial, governmental and civil society stakeholders want businesses to consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors in their decision-making; and to ensure that these issues are integral to the way they operate and make decisions.

For companies to effectively identify, manage and report on significant ESG risks and opportunities, we need to determine the topics that are important and 'material' to the specific business and its operating environment. A materiality assessment is vital for developing an effective ESG strategy, and forms a critical component of any sustainability report. The assessment process provides a firm foundation for strategy development, focusing of resources, engaging with stakeholders and determining sustainability disclosures.

There is a growing focus on materiality in reporting frameworks and standards. Many companies today are either looking to conduct their first assessment or revise one done previously. While many understand materiality in principle, the process of getting it done can be challenging.

This program will help sustainability professionals and managers understand what it takes to carry out an effective materiality assessment. More importantly, it will focus on how this can be done meaningfully and be translated into action.

### **At the end of the program, participants will be able to:**

- Understand the importance of materiality for ESG strategies and sustainability reporting;
- Recognize the key steps to developing an effective materiality assessment;
- Identify and prioritize ESG topics in real-world scenarios;
- Support management in developing materiality assessment as part of a wider strategy and to meet reporting expectations;
- Recognize challenges that may arise from materiality assessment.

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## PROGRAM OUTLINE

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### **Sessions 1: The Importance of Materiality**

In this session, participants will explore why materiality is a key component to developing a sustainability strategy or report. It will highlight mandatory and voluntary standards that require a materiality assessment to be conducted. The session will also cover common ESG topics and stakeholder groups, which are vital for the materiality assessment process.

### **Sessions 2: Ensuring Your Material Matters Matter**

This session will provide a deep dive into best practice examples of materiality assessments. Participants will understand what makes a materiality assessment effective as well as the steps that need to be taken to carry out a meaningful exercise. It will also cover common challenges on implementation and how to overcome them.

### **Sessions 3: Putting Materiality Into Action**

Through this interactive session, participants will apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios. Participants will carry out the identification and prioritization exercise of the materiality assessment. Sufficient time will also be allocated to discuss outcomes of the group sessions and next steps.

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## FACULTY

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**Naina Bajaj** has over eight years' experience in the sustainability field. She currently heads the reporting division at Helikonika Advisory, a leading sustainability consultancy firm based in Kuala Lumpur. Naina plays a lead role in reporting and advisory projects, with expertise in materiality, ESG reporting, public disclosure and stakeholder engagement. Helikonika has worked with some of the world's most successful companies, including Axiata Group Bhd, Bumitama Agri Ltd, IJM Corporation Bhd, Kulim (Malaysia) Bhd, Musim Mas Group, New Britain Palm Oil Ltd, PPB Group Bhd and Wilmar International Ltd.

Prior to this, she worked with UNDP Malaysia under the Energy and Environment cluster before taking on roles at social and entrepreneurial development NGOs.

Naina holds an LLB Law from the University of Manchester, UK and a MA International Relations from the University of Nottingham, Malaysia.

## REGISTRATION FORM

Materiality: Determining ESG Topics That Matter

FEE: RM1,000 before SST

NAME

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DESIGNATION

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COMPANY

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ADDRESS

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CONTACT TEL. NO. (COMPANY)

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CONTACT TEL. NO. (PERSONAL)

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EMAIL ADDRESS *(email address of participant and not a representative)*

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NAME OF SECRETARY

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CONTACT TEL. NO.

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EMAIL ADDRESS

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