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# ESG/IMPACT INVESTING – WHAT ARE INVESTORS LOOKING FOR?

Faculty  
**Amar Gill**



19 August 2024  
9.00am – 12.30pm



RM 1,200  
before SST

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

19 Jan

1 Feb

15 Feb

28 Feb

13 Mar

24 Mar

## Program Overview

This program will help directors and senior management understand the interplay between Impact Investing and environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors; the key issues in these areas that international investors focus on; and how companies should be credibly positioned on these matters.

Impact investing seeks to support and drive change specifically on environmental and social (E&S) matters. It moves beyond negative screening on businesses to seeking out companies advancing in E&S areas. However other investment strategies may also incorporate ESG criteria in stock selection, which is increasingly common given the investment mandates of asset management firms. Companies need to be aware of the relevant ESG criteria to avoid being excluded from ESG funds, and to be actively advancing E&S issues to be eligible for Impact Investing strategies.

There is an alphabet soup of strategies and related criteria in this area, including socially responsible investing (SRI), corporate social responsibility (CSR) and frameworks that range from the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) to the recently established International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB). Understanding these frameworks will help companies focus on what really matters for investors as well as meaningful corporate reporting.

Within ESG, the program will elucidate the significance of E&S in relation to governance (G) and identify some of the root causes of greenwashing.

## Learning Outcomes

At the end of the program participants will be able to:

- Understand key aspects of ESG that investors care most about;
- Be equipped to ask line management relevant ESG questions and reporting/verification issues so that businesses are ESG compliant;
- Be able to engage credibly on key ESG criteria with investors, industry bodies and regulators;
- Identify and address greenwashing risks.

## Who Should Attend?

- Board of directors, CEOs and CFOs of public listed companies
- Senior management, Risk Managers, Investor Relations and Sustainability teams
- Stewardship and ESG teams of asset managers and asset owners

## Program Outline

### **Session 1: The Alphabet Soup of ESG and Impact Investing**

Understanding ESG in relation to CSR and SRI. What is the current pushback on ESG and how might it evolve in the coming years?

### **Session 2: Case study - How BlackRock Engages Investee Companies on ESG Issues**

BlackRock is the largest asset manager globally with US\$10 trillion of assets under management. This session will examine the criteria it uses for engaging and voting on the E, S and G criteria.

### **Session 3: Case studies of Leading Companies in Sustainability Practices**

The Asian Corporate Governance Association (ACGA) published and examined the practices and disclosure of eight leading companies on sustainability practices in the Asia-Pacific region (APAC). In this session, we will discuss some of these case studies including Jardine Matheson, Thai Union Group and China Mengniu Dairy.

## Faculty



**Amar Gill** is Secretary General of ACGA, and will be responsible for directing research, advocacy and educational work in 12 Asia-Pacific markets, as well as for overall management of the association.

Amar has been a passionate advocate of good governance in the region for over 20 years, and was an ACGA council member from 2005 to 2008. From 1995 to 2018, he was with CLSA, a Hong Kong-based regional securities company, where he was responsible for thematic research. Amar was co-author of the CLSA-

ACGA CG Watch reports from 2001 to 2014. He won equity research awards from publications including Asiamoney, Euromoney and Institutional Investor, and rose to become Head of Asia Research. Before joining CLSA, he held positions at Chemical Bank in Singapore as well as Southern Bank and Rashid Hussain Berhad in Malaysia.

Amar joined BlackRock in 2018. He was Head of Investment Stewardship for APAC, leading BlackRock's largest regional stewardship team and overseeing engagement and voting in the region. In 2023, Amar led the team that produced a report entitled Board Independence in Asia Pacific: A Stewardship Perspective, highlighting the significant governance issues in markets characterized by dominant controlled companies. He has been a member of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission's Public Shareholder Group since 2020.

Amar graduated with a first class degree in philosophy, politics and economics, and completed a master's thesis in ethics at Oxford University, UK.



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