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MICPA x CA ANZ CONFERENCE 2026

Sustainability as a Business Strategy: Creating Value Beyond Compliance

SUPPORTED BY:
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ESGAM
ICAEW

DATE AND TIME
November 24, 2026 (Tuesday)
09:00 A.M. – 05:00 P.M.

VENUE
AICB Centre of Excellence, Kuala Lumpur

TOTAL CPD HOURS
8 HOURS

FEES

Categories	Early Bird Conference Fee (fee extended until November 10th, 2026)	Conference Fee (after November 10th, 2026)
MICPA & CA ANZ Members / Approved Training Employer / MIA Member / ACCA Member / ESGAM member / ICAEW Member	RM500/pax	RM600/pax
Academician / MICPA Student members	RM300/pax	
Non-Members	RM600/pax	RM700/pax

Complimentary 1 seat for every 5 registrants within the same organisation

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

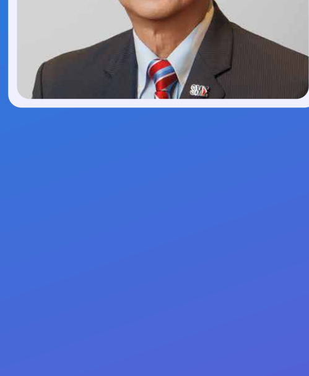
Sustainability is no longer just about meeting regulatory expectations—it has become a strategic imperative for organisations seeking long-term growth, resilience and competitive advantage. The MICPA x CA ANZ Conference 2026 brings together distinguished business leaders, sustainability experts, finance professionals and HR practitioners to explore how organisations can create value beyond compliance by embedding sustainability into the heart of their business.

From boardroom strategy and governance to people, technology, AI-enabled sustainability reporting and practical solutions for SMEs, the conference offers a comprehensive perspective on today's sustainability agenda. Participants will discover how leadership, culture, innovation and digital transformation can work together to accelerate sustainable business performance while delivering meaningful economic, environmental and social outcomes.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

8.30am – 8.55am	**Registration**
8.55am – 9.00am	**Housekeeping Announcement**
9.00am – 9.10am	**Opening Remarks by CA ANZ** Samantha Chan *International Development Leader* *Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ)*
9.10am – 9.30am	**Keynote Address by MICPA** Datuk Muhamad Umar Swift *Vice President* *The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) and Group CEO of Qualitas Health*
9.30am – 10.45am	**Panel Session #1 | "From Strategy to Standards – Embedding Sustainability in the Business DNA"** Sustainability is no longer just a compliance exercise—it has become a strategic driver of long-term value creation and business resilience. The panel discussion will explore how organisations are embedding sustainability into their core business strategy, operations, and decision-making. The panel discussion will examine the leadership role of CEOs in shaping sustainability as a business priority, the contribution of finance professionals in translating sustainability commitments into measurable ESG performance and ISSB-aligned reporting, and the role of HR in fostering a culture of accountability, employee engagement, and talent development. By connecting strategy, governance, reporting, and people, the session will demonstrate how organisations can embed sustainability into their business DNA to drive sustainable growth and long-term success. Moderator: • Datuk Muhamad Umar Swift *Group Chief Executive Officer of Qualitas Health* Panelist: • Raja Azlan Shah bin Raja Azwa *Chief Strategy & Sustainability Officer at MISC Berhad* • Chow Sheng Wai *Chief Sustainability Officer at Hong Leong Bank* • Sharifah Bakar Ali *Head of ESG at UEM Edgenta Berhad*
10.45am – 11.00am	**Break & Connect**
11.00am – 12.15pm	**Panel Session #2 | "People, Purpose & Planet – The HR Factor in Sustainability"** "People, Purpose & Planet – The HR Factor in Sustainability" explores the critical role of human resource leadership in embedding sustainability across organisational culture and workforce practices. The discussion will focus on how HR drives ethical labour standards, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), and employee awareness of sustainability principles, ensuring that responsible practices are reflected in everyday behaviours. It will also examine how sustainability objectives can be integrated into performance management systems, recruitment strategies, and talent retention frameworks to align workforce outcomes with long-term ESG goals. A key emphasis will be placed on the development of structured ESG literacy and training programmes that equip employees with the knowledge and capability to support sustainability initiatives. From a leadership perspective, the session will further highlight how leaders can align organisational purpose with profitability, reinforcing sustainability as a core driver of long-term business value and resilience. Moderator: • Dato' Megat Iskandar Shah *Malaysia Talent Leader and Partner in the Assurance practice at Ernst & Young PLT* Panelist: • Syed Mohammad Muhafiz *General Manager, Human Resources Business Partner at PETRONAS* Panelist 2 tbc Panelist 3 tbc
12.15pm – 1.45pm	**Power Lunch and Networking**
1.45pm – 2.35pm	**Speaker Session #1 | Speaker Session #1 | AI-Supported Sustainability Reporting: From Efficiency to Value Creation** Emerging technologies are transforming the way organisations approach sustainability, enabling smarter decision-making, greater operational efficiency, and more effective ESG implementation. This session examines how artificial intelligence ("AI") and automation can support sustainability reporting by streamlining the collection and analysis of sustainability data, assisting with disclosure preparation, and identifying potential reporting gaps. The speakers will also dive into how AI-powered technologies can facilitate carbon accounting by simplifying emissions data collection, calculation, monitoring, and reporting. Through practical insights and examples, participants will gain a clearer understanding of how AI and automation may support sustainability reporting and carbon accounting, and how these technologies can be adopted responsibly with appropriate governance and risk considerations. Speaker: • Dr Goh Rou Xuan *Sustainability Delivery Lead at Carbon GPT*
2.35pm – 3.50pm	**Panel Session #3 | "Sustainability for SME Success – From Compliance to Competitive Advantage"** Sustainability is no longer a corporate luxury—it is becoming a critical driver of resilience, innovation, and long-term growth for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This session explores how SMEs can embark on and accelerate their sustainability journey through practical, cost-effective approaches, even with limited resources. The discussion will cover actionable strategies for integrating sustainability into daily business operations, accessing financing and government incentives, and meeting evolving stakeholder and market expectations. Through practical insights and real-world success stories, the session will demonstrate how sustainability can evolve from a compliance obligation into a source of competitive advantage, enabling SMEs to create value for customers, investors, employees, and the wider community. Moderator: • Nicholas Yap *Chairman of Young MICPA and Chief Financial Officer at Earnest Grower Sdn Bhd* Panellists: • Desmond Anil *Council Member of the ESG Association of Malaysia (ESGAM)* • Dr Chin Chee Seong *National President, SME Association of Malaysia (SME Malaysia)* • Goh Xiao Yen *Co-Founder & Managing Director, Rurutiki Sdn Bhd*
3.50pm – 4.40pm	**Speaker Session #2 | Sustainability as a Strategic Imperative: Aligning Business Success with Nation-Building** As sustainability evolves from a corporate responsibility initiative into a business imperative, organisations must integrate it into their core strategy to drive long-term resilience, competitiveness, and shared value. In this session, the speaker will share how businesses can align commercial success with meaningful social and environmental impact. Drawing on her experience in community development, education, environmental conservation, and social innovation, she will highlight the role of business and finance leaders in building a more inclusive and sustainable future. Attendees will gain practical insights into embedding sustainability through strategic partnerships, impact-driven investments, and purpose-led leadership to create lasting value for both business and society. Speaker: • Siti Kamariah Ahmad Subki *Managing Director at Yayasan Hasanah*
4.40pm – 5.00pm	**End and Networking**

SPEAKER'S PROFILE



Desmond Anil

Desmond Anil is a distinguished Chartered Accountant, Tax Specialist, corporate advisor, ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) advocate and business leader with over a decade of experience in taxation, governance, compliance, and strategic financial advisory across Malaysia and Southeast Asia.

As the Founder and Managing Director of HernanCres Group, Desmond leads a professional advisory practice focused on helping organisations strengthen resilience, transparency, and long-term value creation through responsible financial and governance frameworks. His advisory expertise spans transfer pricing, tax compliance, SST/GST advisory, tax audit investigations, cross-border structuring, and sustainable corporate governance.

Widely recognized for his leadership in the business and governance ecosystem, Desmond actively contributes to policy advocacy, entrepreneurship development, and corporate governance initiatives through several prominent national and international organizations. Desmond actively champions the integration of ESG principles into business strategy, governance culture, and stakeholder engagement. His work supports organisations in balancing profitability with accountability, sustainability, and ethical business conduct.

Dr Chin Chee Seong

Chin Chee Seong is an accomplished business leader with over four decades of experience in Information Technology, Telecommunications, Venture Investments and corporate advisory across Malaysia and the Asia-Pacific region. He has worked with leading local and global corporations and held senior leadership and board positions in public and private companies.

He is the National President of the SME Association of Malaysia (SME Malaysia), President Emeritus of the Malaysia Cross Border E-Commerce Association, and Deputy President of the Malaysia Independent Non-Executive Director Association. He is also a former Chairman and Advisor of the National Tech Association of Malaysia (PIKOM).

Chin is the Honorary Founding Advisor of the ESG Association of Malaysia (ESGAM) and serves as Deputy Chairman of the IR4.0, E-Commerce and Technology Committee of the Malaysia-China Business Council. His expertise spans SME development, technology, ESG, corporate governance and regional business growth.

Chow Sheng Wai

Chow Sheng Wai is the first Chief Sustainability Officer of Hong Leong Bank, a position he has held since January 2024. He leads the bank's sustainability transformation, driving ESG strategies and integrating sustainability considerations across financing, investment, risk management and stakeholder engagement.

Sheng Wai also oversees the bank's efforts to strengthen ESG reporting and disclosure while navigating evolving regulatory requirements and global sustainability standards. His work supports Hong Leong Bank's sustainability performance and alignment with emerging sustainable finance practices.

Prior to his appointment as CSO, Sheng Wai served as Head of Corporate Finance & Investor Relations from 2012 to 2023. During this period, he was responsible for investor relations, rating reviews, capital raising and mergers and acquisitions, gaining extensive experience in financial markets and stakeholder management.

With expertise spanning sustainability, finance, investor relations and engineering, Sheng Wai brings a multidisciplinary perspective to ESG strategy and sustainable finance. His combined experience positions him as a key leader in advancing Hong Leong Bank's sustainability agenda.

Goh Xiao Yen

Goh Xiao Yen is the Co-Founder and Managing Director of Rurutiki Sdn Bhd, an e-commerce growth and distribution partner helping international and local brands expand their online presence through integrated marketplace management, digital marketing and fulfilment solutions.

As a fourth-generation family business owner, Xiao Yen led the transformation of the traditional distribution business into an e-commerce-driven operation, establishing Rurutiki in 2016. Her experience in driving this transformation has involved reshaping business practices, developing new capabilities and leveraging technology to enhance operational efficiency and competitiveness.

A 2022 JCI Ten Outstanding Young Malaysians (TOYM) honouree, Xiao Yen was also recognised with the SOBA 2022 Female Entrepreneur of the Year Outstanding Achievement award. Under her leadership, Rurutiki received recognition for its use of technology and green initiatives.

Beyond her business, she actively advocates sustainability among SMEs through initiatives including iGreenWarriors and the JCI Green Entrepreneur Program. She brings a practical business perspective on integrating sustainability into operations to strengthen resilience and create long-term value.

Dato' Megat Iskandar Shah

Dato' Megat Iskandar Shah is the Malaysia Talent Leader and a Partner at Ernst & Young PLT (EY Malaysia), with 25 years of experience in assurance and advisory services across Malaysia, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

He has extensive experience advising global, regional and local financial institutions, including conventional and Islamic banks, insurance companies and takaful operators. His expertise spans financial reporting, risk management assurance, regulatory compliance and technical accounting advisory. He has also led major IFRS and MFRS implementation programmes, helping organisations navigate accounting transformation, governance and evolving reporting requirements.

As Malaysia Talent Leader, Dato' Megat plays a key role in shaping EY's people strategy, strengthening talent development and fostering an inclusive and future-ready workplace. He is passionate about developing future leaders and helping individuals realise their potential in an evolving business environment. Dato' Megat is a Council Member of MICPA, a Board Member of the Malaysian Accounting Standards Board (MASB), and a member of MIA and ICAEW.

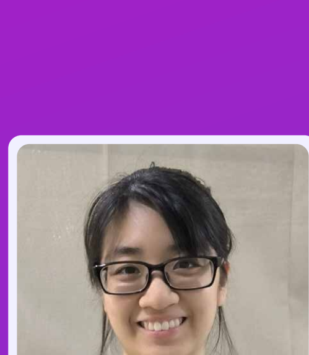
Nicholas Yap

Nicholas Yap is a Chartered Accountant with over 10 years of experience spanning Big Four advisory, CFO leadership, IPO readiness and financial governance. He currently serves as Chief Financial Officer of Earnest Grower Sdn Bhd, where he leads financial strategy, cash flow management, forecasting, governance and audit-readiness, working closely with the CEO and Board.

Nicholas has extensive experience in IPO preparation, having led IPO-readiness engagements for companies pursuing Bursa Malaysia's ACE Market. His work covers financial reporting, internal controls, corporate governance, tax, group restructuring, equity strategy and ESOS design, working alongside boards, management teams and external advisers.

Previously, as CFO and Director of ParkIt Solutions Sdn Bhd, Nicholas led financial strategy through the company's growth and scaling phases, raised over USD1 million in equity, grants and financing, and helped improve profitability across business units. He began his career with PwC Malaysia, focusing on tax due diligence and indirect tax advisory.

Nicholas is a CPA of MICPA and also a Chartered Accountant for CAANZ as well as MIA. He also serves as Chairperson of the Young MICPA Task force.



Raja Azlan Shah bin Raja Azwa

Raja Azlan Shah bin Raja Azwa is the Chief Strategy & Sustainability Officer of MISC Berhad, where he is responsible for driving the Group's strategic direction and sustainability agenda. He also serves on the boards of various subsidiaries and joint venture companies within the MISC Group, Malaysia Marine and Heavy Engineering Sdn Bhd (MHB) and Labuan Reinsurance (L) Ltd.

With extensive experience in strategy, finance, corporate planning and business leadership, he has held several senior positions throughout his career, including Vice President, Corporate Planning and Vice President, Group Finance at MISC Berhad. His previous leadership roles also include Group Chief Executive Officer of Ramsay Sime Darby Health Care Group, Managing Director of Sime Darby Healthcare Group and senior strategic and corporate finance positions within Sime Darby Berhad.

Raja Azlan Shah began his career with Arthur Andersen and Co. and subsequently gained investment banking experience with CIMB Investment Bank. He holds a Degree in Accounting and Financial Management from the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) of the Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA).

His broad experience across strategy, finance, governance and sustainability provides a strong corporate perspective on how sustainability can be embedded into business strategy to drive long-term value creation.

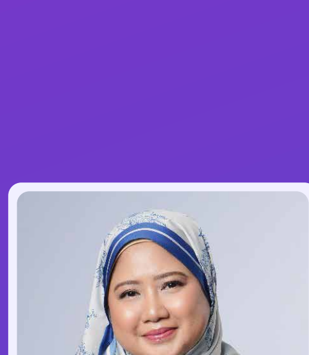
Dr Rou Xuan Goh

Dr Rou Xuan Goh is the Sustainability Delivery Lead at Carbon GPT (CGPT Consulting Sdn Bhd), Malaysia's AI-powered sustainability reporting firm and official AI Partner for Bursa Malaysia's Centralised Sustainability Intelligence (CSI) Platform.

She works with public-listed companies to translate IFRS S1 and S2 requirements into credible, assurance-ready sustainability disclosures. Her expertise covers greenhouse gas emissions inventorisation across Scopes 1, 2 and 3, materiality assessment, sustainability reporting and gap analysis. Her engagements span the manufacturing, financial services, REIT, healthcare and consumer sectors, with Carbon GPT having supported more than 130 Malaysian public-listed companies.

Dr Rou Xuan is actively involved in advancing the practical application of AI in sustainability reporting. In July 2026, she co-presented Carbon GPT's MICPA webinar on applying AI to IFRS S1 and S2 reporting, highlighting the importance of maintaining human judgement and oversight.

She is an HRD Corp certified trainer and a certified TESOL practitioner.



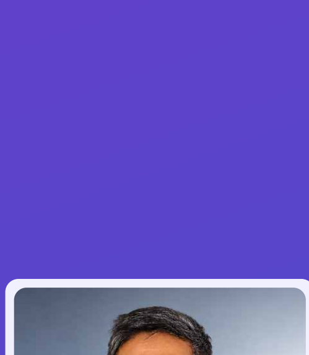
Sharifah Bakar Ali

Sharifah Bakar Ali is the Head of ESG at UEM Edgenta Berhad, where she leads the organisation's sustainability agenda, covering ESG strategy, regulatory compliance and the development of a strong sustainability culture. Since joining UEM Edgenta in 2021, she has played a key role in developing its sustainability roadmap and establishing its ESG team.

Prior to joining UEM Edgenta, Sharifah founded Bespoke Globiz, an Asia-based consulting and advisory firm providing investor relations and strategic advisory services to corporate and institutional clients in the global real estate sector. She also led transformation and change management initiatives for private and public sector organisations across Southeast Asia and Africa.

Sharifah began her career in investment banking, specialising in debt capital markets and Islamic finance. During her tenure at Maybank Investment Bank, she advised the Government of Malaysia on its landmark Residential Mortgage Backed Securitisation transaction and led global advisers in Bahrain's inaugural RMBS transaction.

Passionate about developing talent, Sharifah mentors professionals and supports individuals returning to the workforce or pursuing entrepreneurship. She is a Chartered Accountant and Certified Public Accountant.



Siti Kamariah Ahmad Subki

Siti Kamariah Ahmad Subki is a Chartered Accountant with over 20 years of professional experience across Malaysia, Australia and the United States. She has held leadership positions across the commercial, public and social impact sectors, including at PwC, Khazanah Nasional Berhad, the United Nations and Wanita Berdaya Selangor, where she served as Chief Executive Officer.

From 2015 to 2016, Siti served as an Economic, Financial and Private Sector Advisor to the United Nations Humanitarian Financing High-Level Panel Secretariat in New York, where she led the Islamic Social Finance for Humanitarian Action initiative, launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016.

She currently serves as Managing Director and Trustee of Yayasan Hasanah, where she leads the foundation's efforts in advancing inclusive growth, social impact and sustainable development. She also serves on the boards of Yayasan Khazanah, INCEIF University and Think City Sdn Bhd.

As a CA ANZ member, Siti brings a multidisciplinary perspective combining financial expertise, social impact and sustainability, with a strong focus on innovation, economic empowerment and sustainable growth in Malaysia.

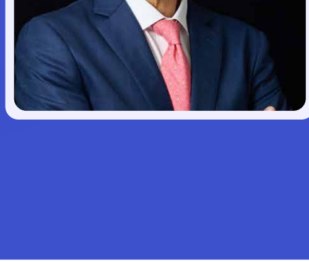
Syed Mohammad Muhafiz

Syed Mohammad Muhafiz is General Manager, Human Resources Business Partner at PETRONAS, where he leads strategic talent and workforce initiatives for approximately 2,000 Finance employees groupwide. With more than 20 years of experience in human capital management, he partners with senior leaders to align people strategies with business priorities, drive organisational transformation, and strengthen leadership capability.

Previously, he headed PETRONAS's Human Capital Investment function, overseeing education and talent pipeline programmes spanning schools, technical vocational training and universities. His earlier leadership roles covered workforce planning, talent strategy and organisational change for PETRONAS's Upstream Business, including international operations.

During his stint with Engen Petroleum in South Africa, he led HR transformation, diversity and inclusion initiatives, and the deployment of digital HR platforms across eight African countries. He also served on the boards of PETROSAINS and Institut Teknologi Petroleum PETRONAS. He supports the PETRONAS Leading Women Network, promoting inclusive leadership and career development.

He holds a BA (Honours) in Business Administration (Finance) from De Montfort University and has completed executive programmes at Cambridge Judge Business School, London Business School and MIT. He is also a Certified Coaching & Mentoring Professional and currently pursuing Chief Master Coach certification programme.



Datuk Muhamad Umar Swift

Datuk Muhamad Umar Swift is the Group Chief Executive Officer of Qualitas Health, a regional healthcare platform operating across Malaysia, Singapore and Australia. He brings over 30 years of leadership experience across financial services, capital markets and corporate governance in the Asia-Pacific region. Previously, he served as Chief Executive Officer of Bursa Malaysia, where he led significant modernisation initiatives, including digitalisation and sustainability frameworks within the capital market ecosystem. A Chartered Accountant, Datuk Umar has held senior roles at Maybank, Gas Malaysia and MAA Group, and continues to contribute to regional leadership and governance through board and advisory roles.

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