Sustainability Officer Program for Financial Institutions
AIM Campus, Makati City

In Collaboration with Bankers Association of the Philippines, WWF, Earth Security Group

Program Overview
The World Wild Fund for Nature – Philippines (WWF) and the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) will hold a 1-day free workshop on the emerging mandate and broad expectations for bank Sustainability Officers in response to regulatory guidelines on sustainable finance and reporting of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 3, 2020.

The Asian Institute of Management will then run a 2-day supplementary program on how to implement a Sustainability Officer Program for Financial Institutions on May 25-26, 2020.

Financial institutions can indirectly contribute to the degradation of the environment and society because they provide financing to companies whose operations and products may have a detrimental impact on environment and society. The emerging focus of financial institutions on environmental and social risks of their clients has evolved to what is now known as sustainable finance. The workshop is designed to be a hands-on, participative, and practical training experience to equip the participants with the skills on how to integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations in the operations of their financial institutions.

The workshop will follow an inverted pyramid or funnel approach wherein sustainability finance will be discussed first from a general perspective, followed by a discussion on the business case, and finally will drill down to implementation. The workshop will be structured to follow three stages. The first stage is to build awareness. The second stage is to convert participants as advocates of sustainable finance by establishing the business case for the integration of ESG issues in operations and due diligence. The third stage focuses on how to operationalize sustainable finance. The workshop is meant for participants who will take the lead in implementing sustainable finance in their organizations.

What You Will Learn
The 2-day workshop is divided into eight sessions. Each session is 80 minutes in length. In effect, there will be four sessions in Day 1 and another four sessions in Day 2. There will be working break/lunch in between sessions, which will be devoted to group discussions on assigned topics. This workshop will not be characterized by the traditional series of one-way lectures or presentations. The sessions will be highly interactive in order to extract any concerns and challenges that participants may encounter in the implementation of sustainable finance.

Session 1 will focus on the awareness stage to achieve a common understanding of the current developments in sustainable finance from three perspectives: Canada & the USA; Europe; and Asia. This session will include a discussion about the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), the Global Alliance for Banking on Values, and the Institute for Social Banking. There will be emphasis on the fact that Philippine banks are behind in adopting sustainable finance and must catch up.

Sessions 2 and 3 will focus on the conversion stage. During Session 2, participants will be introduced to the business case of sustainable finance through a discussion of a case study entitled “Triodos Bank: Measuring Sustainable Performance,” available through the Harvard Business Publishing Education. Triodos Bank is a Netherlands-based sustainable bank. A copy of the case study will be provided to registered participants one week before the workshop. Participants will be required to discuss the case among themselves during the break after Session 1 and report their conclusions and recommendations during Session 2.

During Session 3, participants will shift gears by exploring sustainability from the perspective of the corporate sector. They will understand and learn to evaluate company-specific sustainable practices. Participants will be introduced to the growing phenomenon of Certified B Corps. They will be required to read and discuss the case study entitled, “A Community for Change: B Lab and Certified B Corps.” The case study is also available through the Harvard Business Publishing Education. Hope in a Bottle is the first Certified B Corp company in the Philippines. Triodos Bank is also a Certified B Corp bank.

Sessions 4 to 6 will focus on how to operationalize sustainable finance.

Participants will be shown how to adjust the Risk Rating system in order to reflect the impact of ESG considerations in a client’s risk rating and ultimately on pricing. This will include the development of ESG codes in order to reflect the sustainability risk of each borrower. This session will also include guidelines on the development of an Environmental and Social Risk Management System (ESRMS) and Sustainability Reporting. The impact of Sustainability
Reporting on supply chain management will be emphasized.

Session 7 will focus on the development of technical analysis to calculate the economic case for investment in Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EBA). EBA is a multi-faceted approach to climate resilience. It includes conserving, sustainably managing and restoring ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs, forests, grasslands, rivers, and lakes.

Session 8 will be devoted to presentations from resource speakers. Participants will continue to work on their ESRMS and Risk Rating during these three sessions.

Who Should Attend
Risk, credit appraisal, compliance officers

Faculty Profile
Prof. Felipe O. Calderon, CPA, CMA, PhD is currently the Executive Director of the Gov. Jose B. Fernandez, Jr. Center for Sustainable Finance, and School Head of the Washington SyCip Graduate School of Business at the Asian Institute of Management and is also a faculty member handling courses for the MBA and EMBA programs of the Institute.

He worked with the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) in Vancouver for 22.5 years, holding leadership positions, and has extensive banking experience including syndicated lending and trade financing in the Philippines and Hong Kong. BDC is the first B certified financial institution in Canada. Dr. Calderon has led talks and has been invited as speaker and/or moderator for topics on sustainable finance; social, environmental & financial risk management, business actions and impacts of climate change, the Sustainable Development Goals, and human resource sustainability management, among others. He is co-author of “Dilemma of Sustainable Lending”, published by the Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investment.

Prof. Calderon is a Canadian CPA, CMA and holds a BSc in Agribusiness Management from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, and an MSc in International Banking and Financial Studies from Heriot-Watt University Scotland. He obtained his PhD in Management from the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, and is AIM’s lead representative to the United Nations initiative on Principles for Responsible Management Education.

Ed Tongson is currently the Chief-of-Party for Sustainable Finance of WWF Philippines. He leads the Philippine team as part of an ASEAN regional initiative with financial institutions to channel financial flows to support the Paris agreement and to achieving the SDG goals. Prior to his assignment, he was the Chief-of-Party of the USAID-funded Abuan Watershed Management Project from 2012 to 2017 and Senior Consultant for watershed and water resources for WWF Philippines from 2008 to 2012. He joined WWF-Philippines in 1998 as a Program officer, appointed Director in 2000, Asst. Vice President for Field Operations in 2001 and became the Vice-President for Programmes in 2003. Before joining WWF, he served as Executive Director for the Haribon Foundation from 1994-1998. He earned his Masters of Business Administration Degree in 1992 and Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering in 1982 from the University of the Philippines Diliman Campus. He published papers on crop models, climate change, disaster risk management, indigenous peoples and conservation financing.

Program Fee
PHP 16,500.00 The fee covers AIM Certificate, module materials and meals.