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[SDGs 17] Partnership for the Goals 全球夥伴

[17.2.1] Does your university as a body have direct involvement in, or input into, national government SDG policy development - including identifying problems and challenges, developing policies and strategies, modelling likely futures with and without interventions, monitoring and reporting on interventions, and enabling adaptive management?

Cultivate green-collar talents through practical methods

NCUT team of teachers and students assists the sustainable transformation of the industry

What exactly does ESG (environmental, social, corporate governance) refer to? How do you conduct a carbon inventory? Is carbon optimization immediately required after the inventory? How do you write a sustainability report? In addition to the epidemic in recent years, nothing has troubled companies more than the issue of sustainable development.

In terms of protecting the global environment, everyone knows the importance of ESG, but how do we actually put it into action? I believe that most people are still grappling with this. Even advanced countries such as Europe, the United States, and Japan have only recently reached a consensus on the world's first set of sustainable disclosure standards. No. S1 (General Provisions for the Disclosure of Sustainability-Related Financial Information) was finally born in June 2023, followed by S2 (climate-related disclosure).

To address current challenges, universities are well-positioned to assist small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in their journey towards sustainability," stated NCUT President Chen, Wen-Yuan. He emphasized that universities boast faculty members specializing in ESG studies, along with students eager to gain practical experience and grow in this field. Moreover, universities possess the unique ability to swiftly mobilize resources from various sectors including industry, government, and academia. This capability enables them to effectively guide enterprises towards sustainable transformation, minimizing both time and costs.

Taking NCUT as an example, in addition to establishing the "Carbon Neutral Center" and "Sustainable Development Center" since 2020, and providing comprehensive sustainability consultation and guidance services, the university has launched a program aimed at helping companies swiftly assess their current status through the "Quick Inventory Form" developed by Kuang. By completing this form, companies can gain clarity on the subsequent transformation process, including conducting a carbon inventory and identifying areas for carbon optimization.

Having collected data from nearly a hundred cases, Principal Chen identified several common challenges that companies encounter during carbon inventory and optimization:

1. **Communication Gap:** Internal staff may possess varying levels of expertise, responsibilities, and experiences, leading to conflicts arising from different viewpoints.
2. **Coordination Difficulty:** Achieving information unity across different departments proves challenging, making subsequent cooperation efforts even more difficult.
3. **Digital Transformation:** ESG initiatives involve continuous and cyclical efforts. Without proper digital management, achieving sustainability goals can be daunting. Therefore, sustainable transformation often necessitates concurrent digital transformation efforts.
4. **Talent Shortage:** Currently, higher education institutions lack specialized departments focused on cultivating ESG green talents. Given the industry's significant demand, talent shortages are inevitable.

Addressing these challenges is crucial for effective sustainability initiatives and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility within organizations.

To cultivate more green-collar talents capable of effectively assisting companies in submitting ESG sustainability reports, NCUT has expanded the service caseload of its two major centers. This initiative aims to provide students with increased opportunities to accompany teachers on practical engagements with companies. Additionally, funding subsidies are offered to support faculty members in attending practical courses to obtain relevant certifications such as carbon footprint accountants and gas accountants.

"Currently, nearly 70 teachers have obtained certification. They serve as seed teachers nurturing sustainable talents," Principal Chen emphasized. The current tutoring capacity of the two centers is approximately 100 companies per year, with at least 2 individuals participating in each case. By involving students in these initiatives, NCUT aims to cultivate over 200 talents with carbon inventory capabilities annually, thereby contributing significantly to Taiwan's overall sustainable transformation efforts.



NCUT President Chen Wen Yuan (left) and ESG TIMES CEO Fei Yude discuss the cultivation of green-collar talents

NCUT held Gaia Day Summit Forum to focus on global cooling actions

On April 22, World Earth Day, National Chin-Yi University of Technology (NCUT) hosted a Gaia Day Summit Forum to delve into the global cooling action commitments advocated by the United Nations' 28th Climate Summit (COP 28). This forum convened experts and scholars from diverse fields to explore topics such as carbon emission reduction, mitigating the urban heat island effect, energy balance planning, legal incentives, creating healthy and safe built environments, and promoting energy conservation in agriculture and animal husbandry.

In his opening speech, NCUT President Chen Wenyuan underscored the significance of promoting Earth Day's concept and highlighted the school's proactive measures, including establishing a carbon neutrality center and a sustainable development center. These initiatives aim to help industries comprehend various climate actions, fulfill carbon reduction tasks, and support enterprises in transitioning towards sustainability. President Chen emphasized the importance of collective efforts for the betterment of the planet.

The forum encompassed a wide array of themes, including policies and regulations, technological innovation and dissemination, social engagement and public education, as well as international collaboration and resource sharing. Participants eagerly anticipated collaborating with experts across sectors to propose initiatives for COP 28 and formulate concrete action plans.

Distinguished guests at the event included Weng Guoliang, Chair Professor of WEPLUS HIGH-TECH CORPORATION; He Zhaoxi, Architect of He Zhaoxi Architects; Lin Jiehong, Deputy CEO of the Taiwan Architecture Center; and Feng Minghui, Deputy General Manager of InSynerger. Through intensive discussions, experts from various domains exchanged valuable insights and suggestions, offering guidance for advancing climate action at COP 28. These deliberations are poised to contribute to the ongoing refinement and enhancement of the global climate governance process.



The **Green Energy Technology – Tree Planting Innovation Award** ceremony, hosted by **NCUT** in collaboration with the **Taiwan Energy and Environmental Development Association** and the **Central Office of the Executive Yuan**, serves as a prime example of NCUT's involvement in **climate action (SDG 13)** and sustainable innovation efforts. The event took place on **Gaia Day** in **Ping-Lin Forest Park**, Taiping District, Taichung City, showcasing the alignment of academic research, industry partnerships, and environmental sustainability.

The Green Energy Technology Tree Planting Innovation Award on Gaia Day

1. Recognition of Global Technological Tree Planting Products

- The awards acknowledge **innovative technologies** contributing to "Earth Restoration Action," with the goal of promoting sustainable solutions that address climate challenges.
- The **Taiwan Energy and Environmental Development Association** announced winners from the "Second Global Technology Tree Planting Innovation Product" competition on April 18, 2023, recognizing initiatives fostering **energy efficiency**, **carbon reduction**, and **epidemic prevention**.

2. Event Focus on Key Industries

- The 2023 ceremony shifted focus toward five sectors crucial to **global tree planting and environmental restoration efforts**:
 - **Health biotechnology**
 - **Information and communication technology**
 - **Optoelectronic technology**
 - **Epidemic prevention medical technology**
 - **Green technology**
- Product manufacturers were awarded for developing energy-efficient technologies that promote **environmental protection** and **startup incubation through academic research**.

3. Outstanding Innovation: Vipus Technology

- Vipus Technology's **outdoor natural energy conversion system** stood out for its multifaceted impact on **carbon capture**, **cooling**, **smog removal**, **epidemic prevention**, and **energy conservation**.
- Adopting the principle of "**Following Nature and Local Balance**", the system aligns with the broader goal of **Earth Restoration** by promoting environmentally sustainable development.



4. Dr. Weng, Guo-liang's Leadership and Vision

- Dr. Weng, Guo-liang, Chair Professor at NCUT and founder of the Taiwan Energy and Environmental Development Association, emphasized the importance of **addressing climate change** as a shared global responsibility.
- On **Gaia Day** (April 22), the message of "reducing Earth's temperature by X degrees Celsius" underscores the critical need for **local balance** and **natural restoration** to mitigate the harmful effects of human activities on the planet.

5. Collaboration with SMEs and Academia

- The event encourages **domestic SMEs** and **academic institutions** to incubate new startups, emphasizing **industrial innovation** and **value creation** within the energy and environmental technology sectors.
- This platform fosters collaboration between academia, industry, and government to drive **sustainable product development**.

Impact and Alignment with SDGs

The **Green Energy Technology Tree Planting Innovation Award** aligns with several **United Nations SDGs**, notably:

- **SDG 13 – Climate Action:** Focus on technologies that address climate change and promote Earth restoration.
- **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure:** Encouragement of new startups and innovative products in the green technology sector.
- **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals:** Collaboration between academic institutions, industries, and government to foster sustainable solutions.

NCUT's involvement in the **Gaia Day event** reflects its **active contribution to climate action and sustainable development**. Through initiatives like the **Tree Planting Innovation Award**, NCUT promotes innovation and collaboration across key industries, fostering environmental responsibility and encouraging global citizens to engage in Earth restoration efforts. This event also highlights NCUT's role as a **key player in regional sustainability efforts**, bridging academia, industry, and government to achieve long-term environmental goals.

