2022 ISSP
PROGRAMS REPORT
Collaboration
We convene the sustainability professional community to share ideas and resources through a globally networked member platform, networking events, virtual discussion forums, and conferences. This work alongside strategic partners extends our reach to advance progress aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other leading frameworks.

Professional Development
Education in support of the Sustainability Excellence professional credentials, on-demand foundational courses, live webinars, and an ongoing career series supports the professional development of sustainability professionals—no matter their stage of career.

Sustainability Excellence
As creator and educational partner of the Sustainability Excellence credentials (SEA and SEP), ISSP defines excellence for the profession and supports credential holders’ success.
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The global demand for sustainability expertise has never been greater, and it is increasing at an accelerating rate. Amidst the polycrisis threats of climate change, biodiversity loss, and enduring social injustice, the numbers of ethical, ambitious innovators are growing – driving positive change within organizations as well as launching impactful startups. In 2022, ISSP welcomed a cohort of extraordinary new members from around the globe – professionals from across sectors, industries, and functional expertise – resulting in a 28% increase in our membership.

These members form the center of a global community creating positive change across six continents. They include environmental engineers like Ir. Ts. Nurul Huda binti Mat Nor (SEP) in Malaysia, ESG managers like Oluwaseun Agbebi (SEA) in Nigeria, university professors like Trinidad Ruiz Trejo (SEP) in México, and community leaders like Clarence Tan (SEP) in Singapore. Their stories are interwoven throughout this report, because it is their contributions to society that make ISSP meaningful.

Across diverse workplaces and contexts, ISSP unites sustainability professionals sharing a common purpose: to enable a regenerative future in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In support of this collective effort, ISSP expanded its professional development resources in 2022 with a new member portal providing access to 50+ on-demand courses and recorded webinars.

This resulted in over 3,000 people taking ISSP courses in the last year and a steady increase in registrants for technical webinars. And over 2,400 sustainability professionals joined 37 live professional development and networking events, building knowledge and engendering alliances for years to come.

The ISSP Governing Board and staff are continually inspired by the commitment of our members to strengthen their professional capabilities and to encourage one another. Their creativity and leadership accelerates sustainability in organizations and communities around the globe. ISSP is dedicated to bringing these professionals both the resources and the opportunities to advance global progress in regenerative development.

Trisha Bauman, M.Sc.
ISSP Governing Board President
COLLABORATION

40K Professionals in ISSP network

28% Increase in new members in 2022

1000+ Student members building skills

11 Blogs from industry experts

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

37 Live PD and networking events

16 Education Partners

13 Organizational Members

SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE

In partnership with Green Business Certification Inc.

612 SEA Sustainability Excellence Associates (SEAs)

78 SEP Sustainability Excellence Professionals (SEPs)

2000+ Downloaded study materials
Expectations are growing for businesses to play a proactive role in driving efforts to achieve sustainable development goals. I am glad to be part of these efforts, during which I am able to help organizations to create more value, manage their sustainability impact, and create a more resilient economy. The SEA and SEP programs by ISSP have enhanced my sustainability knowledge and skills, especially in the decision making process.

Ir. Ts. Nurul Huda binti Mat Nor, SEP

Chief Operating Officer (COO), HSE Group, Malaysia
Professional Environmental Engineer
Sustainability Impact Consultant
President for Malaysian Environmental Professional Practitioner Society (MEPS)

Malaysia
Collaboration
Growing in number by 28% during 2022, ISSP members form the foundation of our network of sustainability professionals working across sectors and around the globe. Today, almost one in three members resides outside of North America, representing 94 different countries.

ISSP aligns its objectives with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), convening a global community of professionals and organizations. Our programming embraces the scope of the SDGs, with the view that any progress toward climate change solutions and a regenerative future is interdependent with social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion across sectors and throughout society.

Building a globally networked professional community that is committed to developing sustainability knowledge, resources, and skills is at the core of how ISSP drives impact. This community of practice centers on three primary focus areas: collaboration, professional development, and sustainability excellence.
Fostering Networking

NYC Climate Week
75 attendees connected at a meetup in partnership with Latinxs in Sustainability and IDEAS For Us.

Greenbuild Conference
Executive Director Michelle Benavides and Governing Board Vice President Nitesh Dullabh hosted a meetup for members.

Sharing Knowledge Across Sectors

The ISSPBlog curates insights from thought leaders to help members advance sustainability and career goals at both speed and scale. In 2022, the blog featured ISSP Sustainability Hall of Fame honorees such as John Elkington and Bob Willard. Other notable contributors include leaders from the University of Oxford, World Ocean Council, and Columbia Climate School.

Spotlighting Members

Each monthly newsletter features a different ISSP member. These spotlights serve to both amplify member achievements and inspire others along their career journey. In 2022, twelve members were spotlighted across the world, representing diverse industries and regions such as the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America.
Education Partners

ISSP Education Partners are universities and educational institutions that connect their students and members to ISSP’s professional development and career support. Their stakeholders benefit from membership in ISSP while unlocking a path for earning their Sustainability Excellence Associate (SEA) credentials.

Along with two new members in 2022, the Education Partner program recognizes educational institutions with commitments to sustainability excellence in curriculum, programming, and operations. Partners are accepted when there is alignment in core values and a desire to support students’ immediate pathway to a career in sustainability. In addition, higher education faculty and staff are connected to the wider network of sustainability professionals.
Organizational Members

Private, public, and non-profit organizations join ISSP to accelerate their progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Through the partnership, these organizations develop a community of practice within their teams and advance strategic business objectives.

In 2022, the ISSP Organizational Member program gained six more members, which span the workforce from packaging, manufacturing, healthcare, finance, to technology and IT.

Organizational Members receive workforce development through individual ISSP membership for member staff, organization-wide courses and training, and pathways for team members to earn and maintain their Sustainability Excellence credentials.
Because sustainability is a field that only now is beginning to have some standardized knowledge – the ESG accounting space is a good example – newcomers can use ISSP as an opportunity to learn and meet practitioners in the industry. Being an ISSP member, I have access to other members at all stages of their career.

My advice is to not use ISSP membership as a checkbox! Use it to learn, to meet other professionals, and refine your career plans. When I earned the SEA, I remember writing to my manager to give him the news. He said, “I’m also thinking of earning my credential!” I realized then that the credential and ISSP is about creating community.

What I would like to do with ISSP from here is help put more of a spotlight on Nigeria and Africa as a whole. Africans are certification-conscious. I have a mentoring group on WhatsApp (we are over 500!) and it is a good indicator of the demand for this career support and opportunity to keep growing as a community.

Oluwaseun Agbebi, SEA, MNES, MIAIA, MSIPN

Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Manager at Babban Gona (babbangona.com)

Nigeria
A core tenet of ISSP’s mission is providing leading professional development. In 2022, we launched a new learning platform to accelerate access to career development resources.

Across more than 37 convenings, including monthly technical webinar series, regular professional networking events, recorded courses, and live course series, ISSP trained more than 3,000 professionals.

Technical topics included sustainability reporting, mentorship, transportation, sustainable business strategy, circular economy, built environment, agriculture, circular economy, and decarbonization.
Advancing Knowledge In Support of Global Goals

To strengthen capacity toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, ISSP programming encompasses the scope and objectives of the 17 goals. By mapping our professional development opportunities onto the SDGs, we ensure training and support for the professionals who are implementing sustainable solutions - so no one is left behind.

Career Webinar with Lesley Stone | SDGs 4 & 8

The most popular webinar of the year, this session brought together over 300 registrants during Earth Week to learn about Dr. Lesley Stone’s research from her interviews with 100+ sustainability professionals.

Technical Webinar on Reporting | SDGs 4 & 8

Bringing her expertise from ESG Earth Academy and Presidio Graduate School, Shivani Rajapl led a technical webinar on sustainability reporting. She covered topics such as ESG, net zero commitments, and frameworks.

Women-Led Panel on Mentorship | SDGs 5, 8 & 10

Women In Sustainability Leadership Award honorees discussed ways to unlock a new career path with the right mentor. These five panelists connected their career advice to personal stories, research, and case studies.
Webinar on Regenerative Agriculture  |  SDGs 2, 13 & 15

Anthony Myint of Zero Foodprint led a technical webinar on agriculture and its contribution to carbon sequestration. He then encouraged members to engage with public-private collaborations that could speed up change.

Career Showcase with HelloFresh  |  SDGs 3, 9 & 12

Jeff Yorzyk, Senior Director of Sustainability at HelloFresh US, joined ISSP for a Q&A meeting on his career journey. This career showcase allowed emerging professionals to see behind the scenes of ESG and corporate leadership.

Live Course with Saybrook University  |  SDGs 8, 9 & 12

Designed to help professionals formulate a solid business case for bringing sustainability into organizations, this series provided participants with a cost-justified proposal for their projects.
The process of preparing for the [SEA and SEP] tests was very rewarding in terms of growing or reinforcing my knowledge, in particular, the training material with its emphasis in the systemic approach and the financial implications of sustainability.

The webinars are fantastic with topics that are relevant today and give me ideas to apply in my company and my professor roles.

ISSP offers great networking opportunities to interchange experiences and encourage each other to contribute to a better world with a green and ethical focus.

Trinidad Ruiz Trejo, SEP
Health, Safety and Environment Manager in SAF-Holland for the Americas region
México
Developed with rigorous international standards, the Sustainability Excellence credentials provide third-party verification of competency in the profession to a rapidly growing community.

Building on a long-time partnership, ISSP and Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) work together to enhance, scale, and promote the credentials in order to drive positive environmental, social, and economic change at a global scale.

The SEA and SEP continue to represent a globally-recognized mastery of the six domains of sustainability excellence that remain the core of the program.
In 2022, 649 professionals were active Sustainability Excellence Associate (SEA) credential holders.

Formerly the ISSP-SA, the SEA was designed for emerging sustainability professionals. SEAs understand and communicate sustainability topics to diverse audiences.

**SEA Geographic Distribution**
Percentage of credential-holders in each region

- **Americas**
- **Asia-Pacific**
- **Europe & Central Asia**
- **Mid-East & North Africa**
- **Africa (Excluding N. Africa)**

52 Countries Represented

In 2022, 83 professionals were active Sustainability Excellence Professional (SEP) credential holders.

This credential demonstrates a mastery of the most current sustainability issues and tools as well as the ability to apply systems thinking in developing solutions.

**SEP Geographic Distribution**
Percentage of credential-holders in each region

- **Americas**
- **Asia-Pacific**
- **Europe & Central Asia**
- **Mid-East & North Africa (UAE)**

20 Countries Represented

Data provided by GBCI, Spring 2023
As a SEP, I have gained good sustainability-related macro-economic and socio-political knowledge ahead of many others. The ability to communicate the linkage between the reasons behind global and national sustainable directions to the corporation, communities, and individual is a most powerful inspiration to get them to act.

At work, I have the advantage with my passion to continue to play my part in continuously initiating sustainability programs in the community. In addition, I was fortunate to help in designing the tender specification for mass producing SMART - LED lamps for nationwide deployment by adopting the concept of Life Cycle Assessment, Dematerialization, Repairability and Extended Producer Responsibility.

Clarence Tan, SEP, CISM, CET, CSM
Head of Digital Workplace Unit, Anacle Systems Ltd.
Singapore
ISSP Governing Board

- Trisha Bauman
  Governing Board President
  Principal & Founder, TJBauman LLC

- Nitesh Dullabh
  Governing Board Vice President
  CEO, 2POD Ventures

- Chhavi Maggu
  Governing Board Treasurer
  Sustainability Strategy Manager, Accenture

- Olusheun Olaoshebikan
  Governing Board Secretary
  Sustainability Strategy Manager, Environmental Resources Management

- Bangaly Kourouma
  Governing Board Member
  Division Manager for Technology Infrastructure, Austin Energy

- Gary Tong
  Governing Board Member
  Senior Vice President, AlixPartners

- Fabian Sack
  Governing Board Member
  Director, Sustainably Pty Ltd

- Lucinda F. Brown
  Governing Board Member
  Principal, STET Sustainability Consulting

- Denise DeLuca
  Governing Board Member
  Founder, Wild Hazel
Collaborative Partnerships

As highlighted by the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 17), building partnerships to achieve goals is critical to successfully driving sustainability. By aligning efforts with collaborative partners, we collectively extend our impact. We work with the organizations below to provide excellent sustainability resources, programming, or events for our members.

There is a reason the last UN Sustainable Development Goal is Partnerships for the Goals. At ISSP, partnerships enable broader access to critical professional development and industry resources, ensuring we are building a well-prepared and strategically networked workforce to achieve sustainability goals. They are foundational to the resources we bring to our individual members, to our organizational members, and to our broader community of stakeholders around the world.

- Michelle Benavides, ISSP Executive Director

Photo: ISSP Programs Manager Alex Smith (left), ISSP Governing Board President Trisha Bauman (middle), and ISSP Executive Director Michelle Benavides (right)
ISSP in the Year Ahead

Cultivate Community and Collaboration

Foster and expand the global ISSP membership in partnership with key stakeholders to accelerate progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This includes launching a community platform for members to collaborate and network in the first half of 2023.

Build Member Capacity

Curate and develop professional development products and services to meet the needs of the existing and future ISSP membership, including diverse learning pathways and programming.

Strengthen ISSP Diversity and Inclusion

ISSP stakeholders, including partners, contracted affiliates, programmed presenters, educators, authors, and featured professionals, will reflect greater diversity of identity and global geographic representation.