



Curtin University

Sustainability in Business and Law

May 2024 Update

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Sustainability in Business and Law | May 2024

Learn about the exciting initiatives demonstrating our progress in alignment with our faculty priority SDGs.



Gender equality

Gender equality in climate finance

Nigar Sultana, Professor, ESG/Sustainability Accounting and Governance



I had the pleasure of presenting on "Gender Equality in Climate Finance" to African delegates as part of the Australia Awards Africa short course on Financing Climate Action funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

I am deeply grateful that all 25 participants were so engaged and eager to learn ways to bring about real change in this important area in their respective regions. Climate change affects women more disproportionately than men. Unfortunately, current climate change adaptation and mitigation policies/strategies are not gender-inclusive, resulting in significant costs to the global economy and community.

Research suggests that if women farmers in developing countries had equal access to finance, resources, education, training, and technologies compared to their male counterparts, their farm yields would increase by 20-30%, 100-150 million people would no longer go hungry, and carbon dioxide emissions could be reduced by 2.1 gigatons by 2050 through improved farm practices. It is alarming that at the current



rate of progress, it could take up to 169 years to reach gender parity in economic participation and opportunity.

This costs the Australian economy \$128 billion a year and the global economy \$7 trillion. However, closing the gender financing gap by promoting women's financial inclusion not only promotes inclusive climate leadership but adds US\$1.1 trillion to the global economy by 2030. If we are to succeed in the energy transition, the critical role of women in this imperative needs to be universally understood, supported and resourced.

Financial literacy workshops for women at risk

The first workshop for 2024 took place in Geraldton with a highly successful turnout. We have plans to expand this program to more regional, rural and remote areas where women need financial advice.



In alignment with priority SDGs the workshops offer women an opportunity to engage directly with financial experts and gain practical insights to kick-start their financial journey and enhance their overall well-being.

Pioneering the elimination of violence against women

Astghik Mavisakalyan is a Professor of Economics at the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre and is also a Chief Investigator of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEVAW) and leads Curtin's node of the Centre.

CEVAW is the world's first Centre to address the full range of forms of violence against women in Australia and the Indo-Pacific region. Headquartered at Monash University, the CEVAW network comprises 13 Chief Investigators from six Australian universities, and 45 Australian and international partner organisations.

With a \$35M investment from the Australian Research Council, CEVAW is poised to make significant global impact by examining the structural drivers that cause and compound violence against women, and pioneering new, evidence-based approaches to radically improve policy and practice across Australia and the Indo-Pacific.





Prof Anthony J. Langlois, Stan Perron Dean of Applied Ethics at the Curtin Centre for Applied Ethics led a panel discussion delving into the convergence of two significant Australian observances.

Closing the Gap, Eliminating Racial Discrimination, and Harmony Day: recognising March 21

The Curtin CaLD (Cultural and Linguistically Diverse) Reference Group organised a panel discussion at Curtin University delving into the convergence of two significant Australian observances – Harmony Day and Closing the Gap Day.

Facilitated by Prof Anthony J. Langlois, Stan Perron Dean of Applied Ethics at the Curtin Centre for Applied Ethics, the panel discussion featured seven speakers sharing their unique perspectives. At its core, the panel aimed to foster awareness, promote understanding and underscore the importance of upholding human rights.

This was an impactful event, symbolising the ongoing endeavours to advance equality, embrace diversity and foster inclusion within our communities.



Decent work and economic growth

Poverty - an introduction

Associate Professor Richard Oloruntoba, Faculty of Business and Law

UNSDG 1 aims to end poverty by 2030. Indeed, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is commemorated every October.

Poverty is inaccurately perceived as a developing world problem, where poverty is a complex and multifaceted problem without a single solution. In Africa, instability, corruption, climate change, conflict and inequitable distribution of public resources contribute to this multi-dimensional problem.



Sadly, women, children, the elderly and rural and remote area dwellers are most affected.

Although unrecognised, there is also poverty in developed countries. In Australia, USA, the UK, Germany, France and many Western European countries there is an acute cost of living crisis.

We have experienced steep increases in food, fuel and housing prices unparalleled by salaries and wages, with families and households unable to pay for basics like groceries and healthcare. Inequality seems to be growing, and politicians and policymakers seem to be out of touch with people experiencing poverty.

A 2022 UN report estimates that 75 to 95 million people in developing and developed countries were pushed into extreme poverty because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Poverty must be broken. Hence, we have collated outstanding research works on poverty, and welcome you to read these works as a step towards formulating and implementing effective poverty reduction policies, globally.





Reduced inequalities

Australia Africa University Network Africa Forum 2024



Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor, Sonia Dickinson and Curtin Dean Africa, Associate Professor David Mickler, led a small Faculty of Business and Law delegation to establish connections with African Universities and foster collaboration with the University of Pretoria (Faculty of Law and Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences) and their postgraduate school, the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), as part of the strategic partnership between Curtin University and the University of Pretoria.

The delegation comprised of Dean of Applied Ethics, Professor Anthony Langlois, Head of School of Management and Marketing, Professor Julia Richardson, and the Director of the Australian Centre for Student Equity and Success, Professor Shमित Saggur, along with Curtin Mauritius Pro Vice-Chancellor Lina Pelliccione.

They participated in the Australia Africa University Network Forum and the Times Higher Education Pan Africa Conference. During these events, and their visit to the University of Pretoria and GIBS campuses, they identified numerous opportunities for collaboration including with the GIBS Centre for Business Ethics and their Centre for Leadership Ethics and Dialogue, together with the University of Pretoria Law Clinic, Centre for Child Law, and their Centre for Human Rights.

Inclusive language guide

In March the Learning Innovation & Teaching Excellence Centre (LITEC) published the Curtin Inclusive Language Guide which is [now available online](#).

The information in the guide covers inclusive language expectations in a whole range of areas including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Age, Diverse Sex, Sexuality and Gender, Mental Health, Neurodiversity, Disability and more. This guide is a wonderful resource for everyone!



FBL iSoLT Small Grant Award

A huge congratulations to Wesley Lim who was successful in receiving funding for their project titled “Equitable internship experiences – An international students’ perspective”.

The project aligns with Curtin's strategic priorities and UNSDG areas for FBL.

Celebrating Eid



During the Islamic calendar month of Ramadan, Muslims around the world engage in fasting, prayer, and introspection. Eid al-Fitr, known as the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," signifies the conclusion of this spiritual journey, inviting moments of joy, thankfulness, and togetherness.

The recent FBL Eid Potluck Lunch celebration beautifully captured the spirit of Eid al-Fitr and the sense of community it fosters. Including colleagues in the celebration not only spread joy but also promotes understanding and inclusivity. It's wonderful to see such initiatives in the workplace!

Indigenising the curriculum workshop



Associate Professor Tuguy Esgin, Dean Indigenous recently presented his approach for equipping students with the confidence and skills to engage effectively with Indigenous communities.

He introduced his comprehensive toolkit, which will serve as a resource that enables students to become future change agents in their respective industries. By providing students with the necessary tools and knowledge, FBL aims to foster a learning environment that is not only inclusive but also culturally responsive.

This approach will ensure that students are well-prepared to engage respectfully and meaningfully with Indigenous communities and incorporate Indigenous perspectives into their future professional roles.

Dr Mitch Low, Academic Lead, Assurance of Learning also provided an overview of the faculty's strategy for incorporating Indigenous Perspectives, Knowledge, and Cultural Capability (IPKCC) into curriculum.



Responsible production and consumption



Sustainable events guide

We were excited to launch the Sustainable Events Guide earlier this year.

In alignment with SDG12 and 13, this new document provides a step-by-step check list to help embed more sustainable business practices and was a Students as Partners initiative.

These guidelines were inspired by a Tourism Hospitality and Events student assessment completed by Chrisina Jardim, as part of MGMT2003 Sustainable Event Development. [You can read more and download the guide here.](#)





Climate action



The Sustainable Collective at Curtin (SCC) community recently helped clean up Tomato Lake.

Cleaning up the community

Recently the Sustainable Collective at Curtin (SCC) community came together to clean up Tomato Lake, a park in Kewdale located 15 minutes away from the Curtin Bentley campus. The SCC is a club open to Curtin University students and associates from all faculties and at all knowledge levels. Their goal is to foster a sustainable Curtin community, encourage curiosity around sustainability, and promote access to sustainable ways of living both on-campus and in life.

Financing climate action

Curtin University recently conducted the Preliminary Activity sessions of the Australia Awards Short Course on 'Financing Climate Action.' Government officials from 14 African countries joined the sessions and successfully completed the planned activities.

The Australia Awards are prestigious international scholarships funded by the Australian Government, aiming to contribute to the long-term development needs of Australia's partner countries, in accordance with global, bilateral, and regional agreements. These courses showcase Australian and industry expertise, expose participants to emerging technologies and capabilities and foster the advancement of Australia's bilateral relationships through cooperative learning.

Carbon literacy training



The first of two Carbon Literacy training programs for 2024 took place in April with Curtin staff and students joining forces to combat climate change.

This marked an exciting moment for the program with a session co-facilitated by our very own Curtin student, Laura Pitts. Laura completed her Carbon Literacy certification in 2023 and has continued to support the program under the Students as Partners model.

The Carbon Literacy Project, launched at Curtin University in 2023, was designed to empower our staff and students with the necessary know-how to shrink their carbon footprint and inspire others to follow suit.



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