



ProSPER.Net Leadership Programme 2022

Shifting to Net Zero: Implementation strategies for net-zero transitions

5-8, 16 December 2022 (5 days in total)

Organized by the United Nations University – Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

Concept Note

(As of 8 September 2022)

Background

As States Parties aim to turn the 2020s into a decisive decade for climate action and support, breakthroughs towards halving global emissions by 2030 and transitioning to net zero economies by 2050 are underway. Seventy three percent of global emissions are now covered by a net zero goal, and upgrading to a zero carbon future within this decade can create 35 million more jobs and USD\$26 trillion more in economic benefits (UNFCCC, 2021). In the face of these breakthroughs, however, many continue to suffer from the global climate emergency of mega-droughts, glacier melts, and unprecedented weather conditions. To combat the impacts of climate change and achieve the net zero agenda, information exchange on successful policy implementations, innovative solutions for implementation at scale, and demonstrated examples of climate leadership is of the essence.

Since 2013, the Leadership Programme (LP)¹ under the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network (ProSPER.Net) of UNU-IAS has been providing a platform for building skills and knowledge among young professionals and emerging leaders across different sectors on sustainable development. This year's LP aims at promoting climate leadership for solutions-oriented actions for diverse sector drawn from effective net zero strategies across the world and by incorporating climate action into leadership training.

The main target group is young and early career professionals from the public, private, and non-governmental organization sector in the Asia-Pacific region, who are actively engaged in net zero and climate actions at various levels. Those who want to garner skills to address gaps in their decarbonization knowledge and implementation strategies within their work will also benefit from the LP.

¹ Leadership Programme 2022 is the 9th edition of the flagship capacity building activity of ProSPER.Net for young professionals in the area of sustainable development. For more information, visit [here](#).

Objectives

- To provide young professionals and emerging leaders with a platform for dialogues and knowledge exchange on successful net zero strategies from around the globe, remaining implementation gaps, and various scenarios for solutions
- To guide and develop solution-oriented thinking and leadership skills vis-à-vis climate action and net zero implementation to address complex local community needs

Scope of the workshop: Selected participants will attend a five-day training programme consisting of lectures and workshops on the topics related to strategies and policies for net zero implementation, and proven success factors and existing gaps towards achieving a decarbonized economy. Strategies for decarbonization that will be discussed within the LP will include energy efficiency, urban design, mass transit planning, and nature-based solutions such as reforestation and biodiversity conservation. Participants will be given an opportunity to interact with both facilitators and each other throughout the sessions, giving them space to reflect on their current practice, share their experiences with other participants, and build a collaborative solution to address identified climate issues in different communities.

Training approach: The participants will learn from lectures and will engage in assignments, reflective exercises, groupworks, and presentations. Some assignments will be individual, while others will involve group work (4-5 members per group) to propose needs-based and inclusive strategies for net zero implementation within a community. The outputs of these activities will be shared with the ProSPER.net community via the portal website.

Expected results: Approximately 20 emerging leaders from the public, private, and NGO sectors across the Asia-Pacific region equipped with:

- Knowledge of technical and policy implementation related to climate change to enable understanding of its cross-border and complex nature
- Problem-solving skills in seeking innovative and inclusive solutions to address the obstacles in realizing the climate goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement
- Leadership and interpersonal skills in bringing about positive change to partners, stakeholders and sectors at all levels

Selection criteria: Participants will be selected on the basis of a written application, according to the following criteria:

- Young professionals and emerging leaders from academic, public, private, and civil society sectors working in the Asia-Pacific region². All ages are eligible to apply but priority will be given to those aged 35 or under as of the application deadline (14 October, 2022).
- High proficiency in written and spoken English language
- An advanced understanding of sustainability, climate change and net zero emissions approaches, and its relevance to his/her own work
- Demonstrated leadership ability to work in a team environment and contribute to climate actions

There will be no participation fee, and participants of the Leadership Programme will receive a certificate of participation from UNU-IAS.

Venue: The 2022 ProSPER.Net Leadership Programme will be held fully online using the Zoom platform. Participants are asked to ensure they have access to Zoom and a stable internet connection during the event dates.

² For the list of Asia-Pacific States in accordance with the United Nations Regional groups of Member States, please visit [here](#).