

2022 ProSPER.Net Leadership Programme

By United Nations University - Institute of Advanced Sustainability

An incisive learning experience for my leadership journey in sustainability

- Alokita Jha

2022 ProSPERNet Leadership Programme was unique in so many ways. This year's program had the theme "Shifting to Net Zero: Implementation strategies for net-zero transitions" as its focus. The curriculum also put a strong emphasis on offering leadership training for sustainable development objectives, in addition to imparting information on approaches and strategies for net zero targets.

The experience while attending the program was distinctive and all-encompassing. The program was interactive, there was a specific amount of time set aside for questions and answers, and it encouraged inclusion and diversity of people from other nations.

Various leadership exercises were included in the programme that give details on what a leader should do especially in context of net- zero targets. I personally developed the understanding of how leadership requires collaborative competency which is the ability to learn from others and understand and respect the needs, perspectives and actions of others. The various exercises on leadership and brainstorming on group projects further enhanced the knowledge on participatory problem solving.

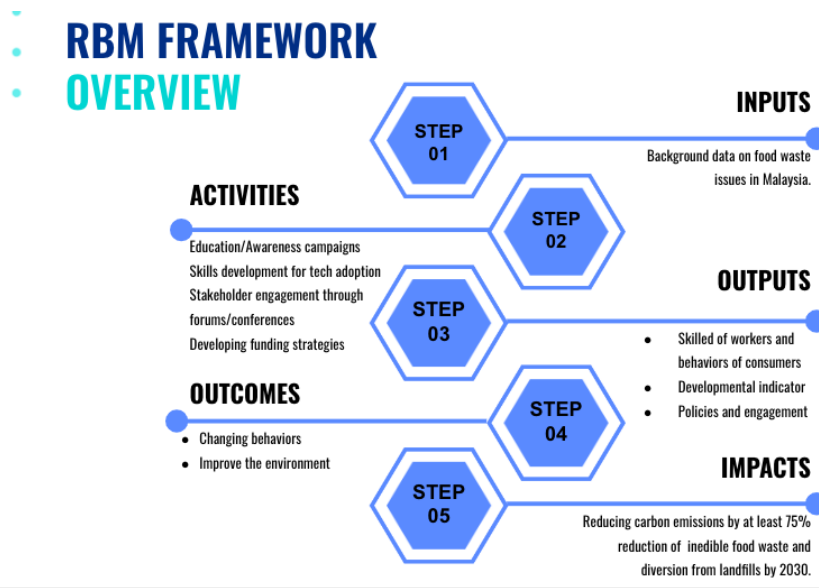
The program gave successful examples on net - zero strategies from various countries. Various lectures such as Energy Efficiency in Waste Management by Prof Fumitake Takahashi (Tokyo Institute of Technology) Principles of Sustainable Urban Design by Dr Philip Vaughter (United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability) and Tokyo as a Case Study in Urban Sustainability by Dr Jorge Almazan (Keio University) were few among the many important lectures that gave an understanding on sustainability. Examples from many cultures and regions also helped me understand how policies and programmes are based on the ecological, geographical, and cultural context of the areas in which we live and how to take that context into account when creating policies..

Lecture by Professor Dr. John Jongho Park, a knowledge of leadership for sustainable development was developed. The different methods for attaining the goals, such as the

results-based framework used when creating the policies, helped to deepen our understanding of how to manage programmes in our cities and states.

I understood the context to reflect that planning any intervention required taking into account a variety of stakeholders, ranging from scientists to policymakers to interventions at various levels. Furthermore, the improvements for net zero should include creating explicit goals and then setting targets based on those goals. Once the goals are established, stakeholders at all levels should work together to achieve net zero goals for the city based on available resources, scientific understanding, and a policy-based approach. Net zero changes require both clear goal-setting and target-setting. Goals should be set with input from stakeholders at all levels. In my group for presentation work, we were five members and we presented a project on Transitioning the Carbon Loop of Food Waste to Net Zero

We tried to deep dive into the food waste in Malaysia, especially focusing on a city called Bandar Sunway located in Selangor Malaysia. We tried to look at the challenges from multiple perspectives especially in context of geography and political outlook of the place and considered various dynamics of the city while devising the solution and strategies. We included results based framework while designing the policy framework.



Results based Framework for the group project on Food wastage

Based on the presentation, we were given several suggestions such as the differentiating between outcomes and outputs while deciding the indicators. and how important it is to have short-term to long-term indicators and inclusion of behavioral aspects of the population.

Setting goals and being aware of the group dynamics are essential to leadership. It is all about giving the group as a whole more power. It is about being future-focused and people-centered. Actually, this has altered my initial idea. Leaders must have a big picture perspective while also being goal-oriented. Leadership requires setting objectives and understanding the advantages and disadvantages of each group member. I now believe that although visionary, goal-oriented leaders are also necessary. Future leaders must therefore work their way up from the bottom up in order to achieve the objectives at the national and state levels.. Therefore, in order to fulfill the goals at the national and state levels, future leaders must start at the bottom up and take into account the resources at their disposal, which should comprise science, policy, and people equally. I will inculcate these learnings in my efforts for driving the world into a sustainable path.