Unitar Online Catalogue

CIFAL Singapore - Sustainable Procurement for Institutes of Higher Learning: Driving Demand-Side Change for Climate and Sustainability Impact

People

Deadline: 20 Jul 2026

Type:	Course
Location:	Singapore, Singapore
Date:	1 Sep 2026 (To be confirmed)
Duration:	12 Hours
Thematic Area:	Corporate Sustainability and Responsible Business Conduct
Website:	https://www.ntu.edu.sg/sustainability/cifal
Price:	$0.00
Event Focal Point Email:	d-cifal@ntu.edu.sg
Partnership:	NanRise Pte Ltd

BACKGROUND

Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) play an important role in advancing sustainability through their operational practices, including procurement decisions. Procurement activities often represent a significant portion of an

institution’s environmental footprint, particularly in relation to Scope 3 emissions associated with purchased goods and services.

As IHLs increasingly commit to climate neutrality and sustainability targets, strengthening sustainable procurement practices has become a strategic priority aligned with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

This program proposes a structured, evidence-based capacity-building initiative to support IHLs in embedding sustainability into procurement decision-making from the demand side. The approach comprises:

• Preliminary high-level spend analysis
• Demand-side stakeholder interviews
• A customized, data-informed training workshop

Together, these components provide participating institutions with:

• An evidence-based understanding of procurement-related sustainability impacts
• Insights into operational realities and behavioral drivers
• Practical tools to integrate sustainability considerations into purchasing decisions

The program also fosters cross-departmental collaboration and supports institutions in aligning procurement practices with broader sustainability and climate strategies, particularly in addressing Scope 3 emissions.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

The program aims to:

• Establish an evidence-based understanding of procurement patterns and sustainability impact areas within participating institutions.

• Capture on-the-ground procurement practices, constraints, and opportunities through engagement with demand-side users.

• Build shared capacity and awareness of sustainable procurement practices among procurement officers and operational staff.

• Identify priority procurement categories and quick wins for sustainability integration.

• Support institutions in developing actionable pathways to address Scope 3 emissions associated with purchased goods and services.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the foundational principles and strategic importance of sustainable procurement within IHLs.
2. Identify sustainability impacts at the requisition and purchasing decision stages, particularly in relation to Scope 3 emissions.
3. Align procurement decisions with institutional sustainability, decarbonisation, and reporting frameworks.
4. Analyse high-impact procurement categories using institutional data and identify practical improvement opportunities.
5. Collaborate across departments to design and implement feasible sustainable procurement initiatives.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The program consists of three integrated and mutually reinforcing components designed to ensure that training is grounded in institutional data and operational realities:

1. Preliminary Spend Analysis
A high-level review of institutional procurement data to identify:
• High-spend categories
• Sustainability hotspots
• Potential improvement opportunities

The spend analysis component is designed as a high-level diagnostic to inform learning and discussion rather than a full procurement audit. The depth of analysis will depend on data availability. Where institutional data is limited, anonymized international IHL benchmarks and published data snapshots will be used to ensure meaningful contextualisation and comparative learning.

2. Demand-Side Interviews
Semi-structured interviews with key functional units (up to five interviews) to understand procurement behaviour, operational constraints, and sustainability

awareness.

Where feasible and subject to institutional interest, an optional short electronic pulse survey may be deployed to complement stakeholder interviews. This simplified survey will capture general awareness, behaviours, and perceptions regarding sustainable procurement and will serve as contextual input to the training workshop.

3. One-Day Training Program
A customized one-day course integrating findings from the spend analysis and interviews.

Course sessions include:
• Global and Singapore sustainability context
• Fundamentals of sustainable procurement
• Procurement impact areas in IHL sectors
• Sustainability measurement tools and reporting frameworks
• Sustainable supplier engagement
• Group activities to design procurement action plans

Participants work in mixed groups to develop institution-specific sustainable procurement initiatives.

METHODOLOGY

The program adopts a practice-oriented and evidence-based methodology, combining:

• Data-informed analysis of procurement patterns
• Stakeholder interviews to capture operational realities
• Interactive lectures and case studies
• Peer learning and cross-functional dialogue
• Collaborative development of sustainable procurement action plans

This blended approach ensures that training is grounded in institutional realities while providing practical tools that participants can apply in their respective roles.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

Demand-side procurement users and institutional stakeholders within Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), particularly those who initiate, specify, influence, or approve purchasing decisions.

- Faculty and research staff
- Facilities management teams
- IT and administrative staff
- Transport and logistics teams
- Food services and campus operations staff
- Procurement office staff

The mixed-cohort approach encourages cross-departmental collaboration in procurement decision-making.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contribution to the UN SDGs:

This program contributes to the advancement of:

- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

The initiative supports institutional capacity development for sustainable procurement within the higher education sector and may serve as a scalable model for replication across regional IHLs.