



Institute of Banking and Finance of Trinidad and Tobago

## **ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE**

### **One-Day Workshop Outline**

This workshop focuses on understanding the sustainability and societal impact of investments in companies and their influence on social and environmental challenges. Environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) is increasingly important for investors, business leaders, employees, and the public. Companies are working towards ESG goals, but the decision now shifts to meaningful and practical pursuits. In recent years, ESG reporting has become one of the major factors in how companies and corporations achieve investor and public trust. Investors progressively make decisions based on objectives for reducing risk, enhancing returns, screening out undesirable investments and generating positive sustainability impacts. Pressure from stakeholders and investors is combining with increasing regulations to drive an ESG boom, and ESG is increasingly being integrated into enterprise value. Many international agreements and benchmarking organizations and groups are dedicated to increasing ESG action, accountability, reporting and transparency, as well as achieving the prized carbon goal of net zero emissions.

#### **OVERVIEW:**

The focus of this workshop will allow participants to understand the sustainability and societal impact of an investment in a company or business. It also looks at the influence of social and environmental trends on companies and the impact of companies on social and environmental challenges. ESG is how a company behaves itself when it comes to the environment, the people it interacts with and the wider community in which it operates. Investors, business leaders, employees, and the general public increasingly care about environmental, social, and corporate governance issues. Some companies are already making strides towards meeting significant ESG goals; others are earlier in their process. ESG has considerations relevant to analysts and investors, consumers and employees, and it has also become a key topic of discussion at the Board table.



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This workshop also provides an overview of an ESG framework and how it supports a company's overall risk management. It examines each component in detail and provides insight into how they converge to impact a company and its stakeholders. For many businesses, the discussion is no longer about why sustainability is needed, but how to pursue it in a meaningful and practical manner.

The following topics will be discussed in greater detail:

### **Introduction to ESG:**

- Explain what ESG stands for and its significance in today's business landscape.
- Highlight how ESG factors impact long-term financial sustainability and value creation.
- Factors and themes.

### **ESG Reporting Frameworks and Standards:**

- The rise of regulations and leading ESG guidance and reporting frameworks.
- How to navigate and select appropriate frameworks for your organisation.
- Reporting ESG data accurately.

### **Trends and Issues:**

- Explore current trends in ESG practices.
- The development of ESG taxonomies.
- Greenwashing.
- ESG and stakeholder engagement.

### **Phases of an ESG Journey:**

- Recognize the different stages in an organization's ESG journey.
- Roles and responsibilities.
- Aligning ESG with business strategy.
- Case studies: best practices in ESG reporting.



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**Who Should Attend:**

- Executives and managers across all levels.
- ESG reporting and sustainability professionals.
- Investor relations and corporate affairs teams.
- Finance and marketing departments.
- Product stewardship and corporate social responsibility personnel.

**FACILITATOR'S PROFILE**

**Ricardo Lewis**

Ricardo Lewis is a learned professional in finance, treasury, accounting and risk management with over eighteen years' experience in the energy sector, which locally have been the key drivers of change regarding ESG.

He currently holds the position of senior manager – treasury & risk management at The National Gas Company of Trinidad & Tobago Limited. Having held various senior positions in banking, auditing and the energy sector he has amassed an impressive record of prowess in driving change and transformation in the organizations he has worked. Ricardo's proficiency is indisputable as his professional accomplishments are matched by his academic achievements. He holds an executive master's degree in business administration and he is also a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). Ricardo also completed global certifications in enterprise risk management, international treasury management and upstream and downstream risk management.

From these certifications, Ricardo obtained both academic and practical experience and is able to share his vast knowledge on how to assess the use of environmental, social and governance (ESG) as part of enterprise risk management, with an understanding of how to design and implement an ESG risk management framework having participated in several workshops on crafting a sustainable ESG framework (UWI/Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business).