

THE ESG COMMITTEE

of

CENTRE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS

is organizing

INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY CONCLAVE

Oth and 11th February 2024



https://www.linkedin.com/company/ctrcr-centre-for-training research-in-commercial-regulations/





MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI

Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai, established under the Maharashtra National Law University Act 2014 on 20th March 2014, is one of India's premier National Law Universities. The Act envisaged to establish a National Law University in Mumbai, Maharashtra to impart advanced legal knowledge and promote Society-oriented research in legal studies for the advancement of societal life of the people in the country. The primary goal of the University is to disseminate advance legal knowledge and processes of law amongst the students and guide them in developing their skills of advocacy, legal services, law reforms and make them aware and capable to utilize these instruments for social transformation and development.



CENTRE FOR TRAINING & RESEARCH IN COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS

The Centre functions with a vision to be a pivot for discussion, training, and research in areas of commercial law and related areas. The Centre was established to provide an environment of debate, discussion, research, and training in corporate law and the areas intertwined with it by bringing together academicians, professionals, legal experts, economists, regulators, judges, and students to discuss, debate, and spread awareness about recent changes and challenges faced by different businesses in the Indian and International markets. With these objectives in mind, the Centre has conducted training workshop for students and professionals alike, taking its vision ahead.



THE ESG COMMITTEE

The Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Committee is built on the idea that firms must adapt to a changing environment by taking some preventive and corrective steps to ensure their long-term viability. The ESG Committee was created to do research on the contemporary issues being raised, which will be crucial in influencing legislative changes that would enable business entities to manage risk in a strategic and balanced manner. By doing this, the ESG Committee hopes to create a strong and forward-thinking corporate regime. The purpose of "The ESG Committee" is to promote ESG disclosures (country/continent specific) and offer innovative solutions for a sustainable corporation.

"A Regime for Corporates with a Thought for Future" forms the motto for the ESG Committee to lay down for the evolving corporate regime.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

| 10 February 2024, Saturday | Day 1 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00 AM- 11:30 AM | Inaugural Session |
| 12 Noon - 1:30 PM | Plenary Session I |
| 1.30 PM - 2.30 PM | Lunch |
| 2.30 PM - 3.30 PM | Plenary Session II |
| 3.30 PM - 5.30 PM | Paper Presentation |
| 11th February 2024, Sunday | Day 2 |
| 10.00 AM –12.30 PM | Workshop on ESG Compliances by Companies |
| 12.30 PM –1.30 PM | Valedictory Session and Certificate Distribution |
| 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | LUNCH |



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Dr. Bertold Bär-Bouyssière Partner, Dentons Link Legal



Dr. Dominika Wojewska Associate, Dentons Link Legal



Mr. Ketan Mujhija Partner, Dentons Link Legal



Mr. Rahul Sinha Associate Partner, DSK Legal



Mr. Sahil Kanuga, Partner, NDA



Ms. Yogita, General Manager, SEBI



Dr. Akhil Prasad, Board Member, Group General Counsel at Boeing



Mr. Swami Nathan Executive Vice President - Legal, Company Secretarial, Regulatory Affairs & ESG TATA AIA Life Insurance



Ms. Sheetal Nagare Assistant Vice President – ESG



Mr. Piyush Mishra Partner, L & L Partners

THEMES

1. ESG & FINANCING

Financing mechanisms like green bonds and sustainable loans have gained traction, providing capital specifically earmarked for environmentally friendly projects. Additionally, regulatory bodies impose stricter disclosure requirements, pushing companies to be more transparent about their ESG performance.

2. DECARBONIZING BUSINESS MODELS

Decarbonizing business models is the essential transition towards reducing or eliminating carbon emissions in a company's operations. This involves assessing carbon footprints, implementing energy-efficient technologies, transitioning to renewable energy sources, optimising supply chains, and promoting sustainable product development.

3. INVESTING IN THE BLUE ECONOMY

ESG-focused investments prioritise companies dedicated to ocean conservation, responsible resource utilisation, and community engagement. By financing these ventures, investors bolster sustainable development, promote marine biodiversity, and ensure the well-being of coastal communities.

4. ESG & USE OF AI

Integrating ESG principles into AI development fosters innovation that not only drives economic growth but also ensures environmental sustainability, social equity, and ethical governance, thereby advancing responsible technological advancement.

5. COMBINATION, EFFICIENCY, AND ESG CONSIDERATIONS

By harmonizing combination, efficiency, and ESG considerations, businesses not only bolster their financial performance but also contribute to environmental preservation, social well-being, and ethical corporate conduct, thereby fostering sustainable development and responsible capitalism.

6. ESG COMPLIANCES: CHALLENGES

This sub-theme is focused on the challenges of data accuracy and transparency, with the need for robust reporting systems, in light of the lack of global nomenclature for ESG reporting and differences in national systems and mechanisms in place.

7. ESG DATA (MONITORING, MEASURING, AND TRACKING PERFORMANCE)

This theme revolves around the collection and assessment of data related to a company's impact on the environment, its treatment of employees and communities, and its governance structure. Additionally, selecting relevant ESG metrics tailored to a company's industry and objectives poses complexities.

8. CROSS-SECTORAL EFFECTS OF ESG POLICIES

These guidelines ensure that corporations give sustainability the utmost importance in their operations by addressing environmental challenges, interpersonal issues, and corporate governance procedures. ESG regulations could contribute to the growth of more sustainable food systems by encouraging responsible procurement, minimizing waste, and supporting fair labour standards.

9. SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM

The effective implementation of sustainable food systems depends on cooperative behaviours such as knowledge and exchange of resources among many stakeholders, cooperation with governments and NGOs, and the adoption of transparent and moral corporate practices. In turn, encouraging people to become knowledgeable and conscious of the value of sustainable food choices can enable them to take action that contributes to a more sustainable future.

10. CARBON MARKETS, SMART CITIES, REBRANDING AND TRANSFORMATIVE GOVERNANCE, CONSUMER ACTIVISM.

Carbon markets involve the trading of carbon credits, but face challenges related to market volatility and shifting regulations. Smart cities initiatives aim to enhance urban sustainability and efficiency through technology, requiring significant infrastructure investment while aligning with ESG principles. Rebranding and transformative governance entail reshaping corporate identities and structures to prioritize sustainability, a process fraught with complexities. Lastly, consumer activism highlights the growing influence of socially conscious consumers, urging companies to align with ESG values and demonstrate authentic commitment to sustainability.

WELL-RESEARCHED PAPERS ARE INVITED ON THE ABOVE SUB-THEMES. A FEW OF THE SELECTED PAPERS IN THE CONCLAVE WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE FORM OF AN EDITED BOOK OR IN THE STUDENT JOURNAL OF THE CENTRE.

(THE ABOVE SUB-THEMES ARE SUGGESTIVE AND NOT EXHAUSTIVE)

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Professionals and students from diverse backgrounds, including commerce, management, law, economics, and the sciences, who engage with facets of sustainability are instrumental in addressing the complex challenges associated with sustainable development. Their collective expertise and multidisciplinary approach contribute significantly to fostering sustainable practices and advancing global initiatives aimed at environmental, social, and economic well-being

OUTCOME OF THE CONCLAVE

E-certificates will be provided to each participant. A few best-researched papers from the conclave will be published in the edited book with *ISBN*. Also, a few of the selected papers may be published in an issue of the student journal of the centre. Further certificates for paper presentations will also be provided and a Certificate for the Best Paper Presentation in each session will be awarded along with the Top 3 Best Research Paper in the conclave. *

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Research papers exploring the multifaceted dimensions of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices across various disciplines. We invite faculties, researchers, and students from diverse fields, including but not limited to environmental studies, social sciences, governance, economics, business, and allied sciences, to contribute their insights to the ongoing discourse on sustainable practices in the corporate landscape.

An abstract of the papers to be presented with not more than 300 words should be submitted on or before 22 December 2023. After the acceptance of the abstract, the full paper should be submitted on or before 15th January 2024.

* Papers will be reviewed by Asst. Profs. and Associates of law firms.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The abstract is to be submitted to our mail esgcommittee.ctrcr@gmail.com. The participants are requested to submit an abstract of 350 to 500 words in Microsoft Word document, font style – (italic) times new roman, font size – 12, line spacing – double. The abstract may include keywords (maximum: five). The abstract must include a clear indication of the objectives, methodology, major results, implications, and key references. All abstracts will be subject to blind review and only those abstracts approved by the reviewers will be selected to submit their complete paper for the final presentation. The criteria for evaluation by the reviewers are based on relevance, methodology and originality.

The deadline for the Abstract submission is 22nd December 2023.

PAPER GUIDELINES

Last date for Final submission of final paper is on 15th January 2024.

- The name of the author(s) or any other form of identification must not be mentioned in the research paper.
- Co-authorship is limited to a maximum of three authors.
- The presentation of the paper can be done by any 1 or all the co-authors. However, the Best Paper Presentation certificate will only go to the presenter/s.
- Word limit: 3000 5000 words, excluding footnotes, index, and bibliography
- Font style Times New Roman
- Font size 14 for headings, 12 for body, 10 for footnotes
- Line spacing 1.5 for body, 1.0 for footnotes
- Citation style Bluebook 20th edition
- Margins 1 inch (i.e., 2.54 cm) on each side
- Note: speaking footnotes are allowed in the submissions but are not mandatory.
- The plagiarism limit is 10% in accordance with UGC guidelines.
- The use of artificial intelligence for submissions is strictly prohibited and highly discouraged.
- The abstracts that are selected for the final paper presentation will be provided with the final paper submission link via email esgcommittee.ctrcr@gmail.com

Registration Fees

| Early Bird Registration | Rs. 500 for online presentation* | Till 22nd December |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Rs. 1,500 for students | |
| | Rs.2,000 for professionals | 2023 |
| Registration | Rs. 750 for online presentation* | |
| | Rs. 2,000 for students | After 22nd December 2023 |
| | Rs. 2,500 for professionals | |

*Online paper presentations would not be considered for best presentation awards and for publications.

The registration will be done by all the co-authors and the registration fees would be paid by each of them to become eligible for the paper presentation and other awards.

Registration Link : <u>https://forms.gle/s8sQybV85g15VSJ36</u>

Payment Details:

| Bank Account Number | 50200062453710 |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Name of Account | MNLU CNTR FOR TRNG FOR RESEARCH IN COM REG |
| Bank Name | HDFC Bank |
| Branch Name | Powai Hiranandani |
| IFSC Code | HDFC0000239 |

*Registration would include participation in all the sessions, a Conclave kit, lunch and tea in between the sessions. Accommodation for participants will not be provided.

Patron: Prof. (Dr.) Dilip Ukey Vice-Chancellor, MNLU Mumbai

> **Co-Patron:** Prof. (Dr.) Anil G. Variath Registrar, MNLU Mumbai

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Venue: 2nd Floor Conference Hall, MNLU Mumbai



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