



European Union  
Delegation to Singapore



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Event: EU-Singapore Dialogue: “Accelerating Climate Action  
Post-COVID-19: Shared Concerns and Opportunities”**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 10:30am-1700**

**Format: Virtual**



## **EU-Singapore Dialogue on Climate Change**

On Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) with the support of the European Union in Singapore presents the EU-Singapore Dialogue on Climate Change. The theme: Accelerating Climate Action Post-COVID-19 – Shared Concerns and Opportunities.

The Dialogue aims to bring policy-makers, private sector representatives, and experts from the European Union and Singapore on a shared platform to exchange ideas, insights and best practices on current efforts to accelerate climate action, even amidst the pandemic. It will explore opportunities for collaboration on green recovery from COVID-19, the potential of nature-based solutions in both European and Asian markets, and finally the emerging fields of green finance and green procurement.

Says Barbara Plinkert, Ambassador of the European Union to Singapore: “The EU and Singapore have proven their common commitment to maintain climate action as a priority, even in the midst of the crisis, demonstrating our mutual ambition to step up our promise for a sustainable and green recovery. Our think tank dialogue falls within this commitment. The discussion that scholars, experts and policy-makers will hold form part of the free exchange of ideas that is needed for finding innovative solutions to “build back better” for a green future. It is our hope that the insights generated during this conference will help us identify new ways to accelerate climate action.”

Associate Professor Simon Tay, Chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), said “Climate change is a global issue and Singapore is looking at how to do our share and be an effective partner for regional and interregional cooperation.”

He added, “In this dialogue, the SIIA hopes to draw attention to the impacts of COVID-19 on global climate action and the need for green recovery even as the world is still dealing with subsequent waves of COVID-19 infections. Policymakers, academics, and the private sector need to take this opportunity to work together so we can emerge from the pandemic greener and stronger. We believe this can be a basis for moving forward with EU-Singapore and EU-ASEAN cooperation.”

**Date & Time:** 5 November 2020, Thursday, from 1030 to 1700 (Singapore Time)

**Format:** Virtual

**Register:** <https://sustainableresourcesdialogue.org/register-now/>

This dialogue is organised in partnership with the Energy Studies Institute (ESI) and the Institute of Marine Sciences (ICM) of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC).

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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**EU-Singapore Dialogue:  
Accelerating Climate Action Post-COVID-19: Shared Concerns and Opportunities  
5 November 2020  
Programme**

Platform: Zoom Date: 5 November 2020, Thursday Time: 1030 – 1700 (Singapore Time)	
1030-1050	<b>Registration</b>
1100 - 1110	<b>Welcome Remarks:</b> <b>Barbara Plinkert</b> , Ambassador of the European Union to Singapore <b>Associate Professor Simon Tay</b> , Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs
1110 - 1125	<b>Opening Keynote: Emerging Stronger – Globally and Sustainably</b> <b>Mr Desmond Tan</b> , Minister of State, Ministry of Sustainability and Environment, Singapore
1125-1140	<b>Keynote Address: The European Green Deal in a Post-Pandemic World</b> <b>Mr Mauro Petriccione</b> , Director General, European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action
1140-1255	<b>Panel 1: Green Recovery from COVID-19 and Implications for Climate Action</b> Although the disruption caused by COVID-19 has temporarily reduced the daily global greenhouse gas emissions, with the easing of lockdowns we see their resurgence to pre-crisis level. Some economic stimulus dispersed during the pandemic has been used to lay the groundwork for a more sustainable future, but proportionately more resources have been channelled towards meeting immediate needs of severely hit economic sectors. This panel will examine the challenges faced by countries around the world in meeting environmental goals amidst a global health crisis, what it means to achieve green recovery and the steps necessary towards this goal, as well as the implications for the Paris Agreement and international climate action. <b>Speakers:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Dr Carlos M. Duarte</b>, Professor, Marine Science, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology</li><li>2. <b>Mr Pascal Lambert</b>, Group Country Head, Singapore and Head, South East Asia &amp; India, Société Générale</li><li>3. <b>Mr Joseph Teo</b>, Chief Negotiator for Climate Change, Climate Change Negotiation Office, Ministry of Sustainability and Environment, Singapore</li></ol> <b>Moderator:</b> <b>Associate Professor Simon Tay</b> , Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs

1255-1415	<b>Break</b>
1415-1530	<p><b>Panel 2: Nature-Based Solutions – Green and Blue Approaches to Fighting Climate Change</b></p> <p>As the world searches for cost-effective answers to climate challenges that can also boost growth post-COVID-19, nature-based approaches provide a promising avenue to protect ecosystems while providing economic benefits. Both Singapore and European Union countries are exploring nature-based solutions to strengthen coastal defences against sea level rise. Forest and seascape projects are also increasingly being recognised as important sources of carbon sequestration, generating carbon credits for the voluntary offset market. This session will discuss the current challenges and opportunities surrounding the uptake of nature-based solutions, and explore lessons learnt from projects in Europe and Southeast Asia.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Dr Myron Peck</b>, Head, Department of Coastal Systems, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ)</li> <li>2. <b>Dr Jean-Marc Roda</b>, Senior Scientist, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), and Research Fellow, Forest Research Institute, Universiti Putra Malaysia</li> <li>3. <b>Mr Eugene Seah</b>, Senior Director (Special Projects), GCEO's Office, Surbana Jurong and Managing Director, Surbana Technologies</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr Marta Coll</b>, Senior Researcher, Institute of Marine Science (ICM-CSIC)</p>
1530-1645	<p><b>Panel 3: Green Finance and Procurement – Innovative Models for Climate Action</b></p> <p>The European Union has pioneered the development of frameworks for capital markets and investors to engage with opportunities that contribute to environmental objectives, for instance introducing an EU Taxonomy that lists economic activities that contribute to climate change mitigation. Singapore's financial sector is likewise working to play a useful role in regional and global sustainability, developing areas such as the green bond market in Singapore. With the COVID-19 pandemic straining government budgets around the world, mobilising capital and encouraging the private sector to incorporate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria into their decision-making processes will be increasingly important.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mr Joris Dierckx</b>, Regional Head of Southeast Asia, BNP Paribas</li> <li>2. <b>Mr Ritesh Maheshwari</b>, Managing Director and Head of Market Outreach, Asia Pacific, S&amp;P Global</li> <li>3. <b>Mr Stefan Ullrich</b>, Director, The Warren</li> <li>4. <b>Ms Cherine Fok</b>, Director, Sustainability Services, KPMG Singapore</li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr David Broadstock</b>, Senior Research Fellow, Energy Studies Institute (ESI), National University of Singapore (NUS)</p>
1645-1700	<p><b>Closing Remarks:</b></p> <p><b>Associate Professor Simon Tay</b>, Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs</p> <p><b>Barbara Plinkert</b>, Ambassador of the European Union to Singapore</p>
1700	<b>End of Dialogue</b>

*Note: This programme is subject to change*

## **About The Organisers**

### **Singapore Institute of International Affairs**

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Established in 1962, the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) is a non-profit and independent think tank committed to producing policy analysis, fostering in-depth dialogues and bridging gaps between policymakers, private sector decision-makers and experts to shape public policy and social responses. Centred around ASEAN focused themes, the institute aims to deliver policy analysis in international affairs and on issues driving environmental sustainability. The SIIA has been consistently ranked as one of the leading think tanks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, in the Global Go-To Think Tank Index by the University of Pennsylvania. Since 2017, the SIIA was ranked the No. 1 independent think tank in Asia. It was also recognised as one of the top 50 think tanks globally, excluding the United States of America. In 2019, it was recognised as the No. 1 think tank in South, Southeast Asia and Pacific (excluding India).

### **About the SIIA's Sustainability Programme**

The SIIA's Sustainability Programme was established in 1997 when it organised Singapore's first haze dialogue with the Singapore Environment Council. Since then, the Sustainability Programme has evolved to address sustainability issues ASEAN faces with a focus on the haze and resource sector and using finance as a lever to advance sustainability in the supply chain. As part of its Sustainability Programme, the SIIA facilitates dialogues between government, private sector and NGOs to prevent and mitigate the recurrence of transboundary haze. One of the SIIA's key platforms is its flagship event, the Singapore Dialogue on Sustainable World Resources (SDSWR). Since it was launched in 2014, the annual event attracts about 300 high-level participants from government, private sector, academia and NGOs to share best practices and discuss new commitments and noteworthy cross-sector collaborations in ASEAN's resource sector. A key research output by the Institute is the annual SIIA Haze Outlook report. Launched in 2019, the report serves as a risk assessment and predictive tool for countries in the region to determine the likelihood of a severe transboundary haze incident.

### **European Union Delegation to Singapore**

Set up in December 2002, the EU Delegation to Singapore formally opened on June 30, 2004. Since then, the EU's diplomatic representation has worked to promote closer ties between the EU and Singapore. The wide-ranging relationship has strengthened over the years. In close coordination with the diplomatic missions of the EU Member States, the Delegation ensures consistency and effectiveness of the EU's external action in Singapore.

With 27 countries, more than 450 million people and the largest GDP in the world, the EU is of increasing importance to Singapore, especially since the entry into force of the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) on 21st November 2019, as well as ASEAN. The Delegation covers a range of issues such as trade, foreign policy, climate change, environment, transport, industrial policy, research, science, technology as well as education activities such as the Study In Europe fair and on the cultural front presents the annual European Film Festival (EUFF). [www.europe.sg](http://www.europe.sg)

### **Energy Studies Institute**

The Energy Studies Institute (ESI) is an independent research institute within the National University of Singapore. The ESI's research and analyses focus on the areas of Energy Economics, Energy Security and Energy and the Environment.

[www.esi.nus.edu.sg/](http://www.esi.nus.edu.sg/)

### **Institute of Marine Sciences (ICM of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)**

The Institute of Marine Sciences (ICM) is CSIC's own research institute entirely devoted to the study of oceans and seas. Its research is focused on marine ecosystems and the ability to assess changes and the human impacts on the environment and to seek appropriate solutions.

[www.csic.es/en/investigacion/institutos-centros-y-unidades/institute-marine-sciences](http://www.csic.es/en/investigacion/institutos-centros-y-unidades/institute-marine-sciences)