

MEDIA RELEASE

**Stewardship Commons 2021 Calls for the Public and Private Sectors to
Strengthen Collaboration to Safeguard the Global Commons**

The event will explore stewardship values and purpose in helping organisations drive meaningful impact on the environment.

Singapore, 21 September 2021 – Stewardship Commons 2021 will explore how organisations can track their environmental impact using the Global Commons Stewardship (GCS) Index and will present the Stewardship Compass as a framework for leadership and governance in addressing the world’s existential challenges.

Stewardship Asia Centre (SAC)’s second iteration of Stewardship Commons, titled “Navigating a Resilient Commons,” will be held in conjunction with Temasek’s Ecosperity Week 2021. The event will gather as many as 80 business leaders, academic professionals and environmental groups for an interactive exchange on the role of stewards in safeguarding the earth’s system of climate, forests, oceans and land, collectively known as the Global Commons.

Professor Naoko Ishii, Director for the Center for Global Commons and Executive Vice President at the University of Tokyo, will showcase the GCS Index in her keynote address.

Developed by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy and the Center for Global Commons at the University of Tokyo, the GCS Index is a tool to help countries and organisations track their domestic and transboundary environmental impact resulting from their social-economic activities.

Professor Ishii said: “The Global Commons Stewardship (GCS) Index was first created to help countries and stakeholders understand their environmental impact domestically and internationally. Stewardship Commons 2021 will help push the discussion further in exploring the role of private organisations and businesses in helping to mitigate their environmental impact. We hope that through engagements

like this, there will be increased private and public collaborations in securing our Global Commons.”

Ms Fay Fay Choo, the Asia Cocoa Director for Mars Incorporated, and Mr Bey Soo Khiang, the Vice Chairman of RGE Group and Chairman of APRIL Group, will explore the implications of the GCS Index for businesses. This discussion, which will be moderated by Dr Richard Jeo, the Senior Vice President of Asia-Pacific Field Division, Conservation International, will look into the role of the private sector in mitigating the environmental impact of both domestic and international activities.

Mr Bey said: “The GCS Index may be focused at the country level, but businesses can still harness the Index not just to identify risks but also create opportunities that could help turn tragedies of the Commons into triumphs. The key is how we can encourage companies to leverage the GCS Index to advance their sustainability agenda without adding to their disclosure load.”

Ms Choo said: “Sustainability is achieved when the planet is healthy, people are thriving, and society is inclusive. With the increasing impacts of climate change, the pandemic and social injustice, Mars is as committed as ever to the critical actions needed to tackle the environmental and societal threats we face through science-based actions and in support of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. We welcome this innovative step to bring a measurable approach for the various stakeholders to collaborate for improved stewardship of our collective commons.”

Dr Jeo said: “Everyone on the planet relies on nature for our survival. Data on impacts to the Global Commons, the shared resources provided freely by nature, can provide actionable insights into our planetary boundaries and guide decision-making and improve policies. Conservation International is honoured to participate in the dialogue with key industry leaders at this year’s Stewardship Commons. We hope the tools and examples presented can help build the partnerships needed to steward our planet’s future.”

In the second session, Ms Annisah Smith, SAC’s Research & Advocacy Manager, will explain the importance of steward leadership in addressing the world’s looming environmental challenges, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SAC’s CEO, Mr Rajeev Peshawaria, who will close the event, will demonstrate how businesses and individuals could practise stewardship by activating the four core values in the Stewardship Compass.

Mr Peshawaria said: “More than ever, our world needs steward leadership to influence decision-making and encourage positive business transformation to ensure a win-win-win outcome for the planet, its people and businesses. We are thankful to our partners and friends who will be sharing their insights at this year’s Stewardship Commons, and we will continue to explore the role of stewardship in creating a better future for all.”

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About Stewardship Asia Centre (SAC)

SAC is a non-profit organisation established by Temasek, dedicated to helping business and government leaders, investors and individuals activate stewardship practices through research, executive education and engagement. We define stewardship as the mindset and practice of creating value by integrating the needs of stakeholders, society, future generations and the environment.