

Graduate Certificate  
in Business



**Murdoch**  
UNIVERSITY  
PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# FOOD SECURITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SCRIPT is one of Australia's first research and development centres in Singapore established by Murdoch University. As an interdisciplinary centre, its focus is on helping industry, government and society at large realise productivity benefits through innovation and technological interventions. SCRIPT houses Murdoch's Executive Education Centre (EEC) which has delivered executive and professional development programs in Australasia since 2010.

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Food security lies at the nexus of natural resources, energy, technology advancement and sustainable business practices. Thus, situating food security and sustainable development in an Asian context requires a balance between the 'supply' and 'demand' driven activities which are ecologically (environmentally) friendly, economically sound and socially equitable.



## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

— The growth in human population is placing extreme demands on nature; and, anthropogenic influences on the natural resource base of land, water, air and biodiversity are clearly apparent. There is increasing evidence in parts of Asia that suboptimal practices have devastated the natural resource base required to sustain the needs of human societies. This program focuses on one such need – food – and food security, without which it is not possible to have sustainable development.

This program addresses a number of inter-linked questions related to leadership, strategy development and execution for sustainable development. It focuses on better understanding the role of information in an Asian context and analysing the socio-economic challenges. In addition, some provocative questions that are discussed include:

- *Does food security pose a threat or an opportunity for business?*
- *What information is needed to explicate this question?*
- *What is the role of business in meeting the four dimensions of food security (availability, physical access, economic access, food utilisation) and to ensure stability?*

In responding to such issues, it is critical that the lifelong learning needs of professionals at all levels within businesses, government and non-governmental organisations in the agrifood and related industries are addressed. This customised postgraduate executive award qualification is designed to blend 'knowledge' components with 'know-how' elements.

Professional knowledge is advanced through Activity-Based Learning at the workshops comprising discussion, problem solving exercises and assessable presentations, literature reviews, case studies, preparation of reports, projects and reflective journals.





## WHY THIS PROGRAM

- This executive program takes into account various international initiatives that have helped bring food security challenges into focus. These include, but are not limited to, the Second Murdoch Commission on Food Security, Trade and Regional Partnerships; Rice Bowl Index and other similar initiatives.

The partnership with Asia BioBusiness further strengthens the program. It will see participants from the region come together to adopt, embrace and participate in a program that is holistic and encompassing of the entire food security ecosystem.



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Four modules form part of this customised, executive program. These modules will be delivered in a format that is flexible and suitable for working professionals. The blended delivery model allows for the workshops to be delivered in a staggered manner across one or multiple cities within Asia Pacific over a period of time, generally 6-12 months.

### PROGRAM MODULE

#### Module 1: Contemporary Trends & Challenges

##### *Food Security and Sustainable Development*

This module includes a focus on topics relating to the changing scope, context and dimensions of food security; role of contemporary technologies in food security and its alignment to sustainable development, "lighthouse" achievements in Asia and so on.

#### Module 3: People and Performance

##### *Responding to Changes in Asia's Agri-food Landscape*

This module includes a focus on developing people and performance skills such as coaching for team performance, handling crisis etc., needed to function effectively in an increasingly inter-disciplinary and complex environment within which the issues of food security and sustainable environment are situated.

#### Module 2: Developing Strategic Intelligence

##### *Understanding the Agri-food Landscape in Asia*

This module includes a focus on topics relating to a "deep dive" into the agri-food system in ASEAN and provides opportunities for future's projects by participants. Each "Future's" project requires participants to develop a case study for a regional (ASEAN-wide) topic or a country-specific topic guided by a recognised expert on the topic.

#### Module 4: Effective Leadership

##### *Leadership in a Complex Environment*

This module emphasises leadership practices for ASEAN economies. Understanding the importance of followership in Asia and its blend in creating innovative responses to deal with emerging challenges of the agri-food system are aspects that will challenge participants in this module.



### PROFESSOR PAUL TENG

Professor Paul Teng is Principal Officer, National Institute of Education, and Senior Fellow (Food Security), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He has over thirty years of experience in agri-food security issues from positions at the WorldFish Center, the International Rice Research Institute and Monsanto Company. Paul's work has included research on rice, fish, vegetables and corn. His recent work has focused on urban food security and agri-production, from perspectives of enabling policy and technologies, including emergent technologies.



### DR ANDREW POWELL

Dr Andrew Powell is CEO of Asia BioBusiness Pte. Ltd. in Singapore. A resident of Asia for almost 30 years, Dr Powell uses his network to advance the bio-based business agendas of clients from both the public and private sector and advises on risk management strategies, with a special focus on regulatory, technology and market risks. He is also a risk communication practitioner and has worked on projects for Monsanto, USDA, APEC, Biotech Corp of Malaysia, the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture, CropLife Australia, CropLife Asia, Life Science Association of Manitoba, and the Indian Ministry of Environment, amongst others.



### ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER VAS

Associate Professor Christopher Vas is Director of Murdoch University's first offshore R&D centre SCRIPT. The Centre was formed on the back of a \$0.5m productivity and innovation benchmarking research study funded by SPRING Singapore in which Dr Vas was one of the Chief Investigators. He was also Commissioner and Executive Director of the Second Murdoch Commission on *Food Security, Trade and Partnerships: Towards Resilient Regional Food Systems in Asia*.

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## ENQUIRY AND CONTACT DETAILS

This program is an executive program that has been customised for the needs of industry partners. As such, enrolment in the program can only be undertaken following consultation with the faculty leaders.

#### **Dr Andrew Powell**

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