

FSSD CERTIFICATION SUSTAINABLE PHILIPPINES

BUILDING A NATION OF RESILIENCE AND COMMUNITY

IN COLLABORATION WITH



FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (FSSD) + INNOVATIVE THINKING SYSTEMS (ITS®) CERTIFICATION COURSE

This 2-day program provides a clear roadmap, guiding organizations through actionable steps to integrate sustainability while maximizing existing tools and fostering innovation. Upon successful completion of this course, you will be awarded the International FSSD Practitioner Certificate.

Our Nation's Challenge

Our communities are facing serious challenges. Climate change and pollution are no longer distant concerns; they shape our daily lives. The loss of biodiversity threatens our ability to grow food, access clean water, and sustain the natural systems we all depend on. Day by day, poverty, traffic congestion, flooding, and unfair business practices put livelihoods at risk. The long-term consequences for future generations will be even more profound.

“Yet amid these challenges, we’ve found something powerful: HOPE”

About these frameworks

Back in the late 1990s, a group of scientists, policymakers, business leaders, and changemakers set out to define what sustainability really means and how to achieve it. They created a science-based framework that outlines the boundaries we must respect to ensure a livable future, along with a planning method that works across cultures, sectors, and scales.

Since then, this framework has been tested, refined, and applied around the world. It helped shape the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), inspired the circular economy, and informed the Planetary Boundaries framework. It has guided thousands of organizations and millions of people toward strategic, systemic change.



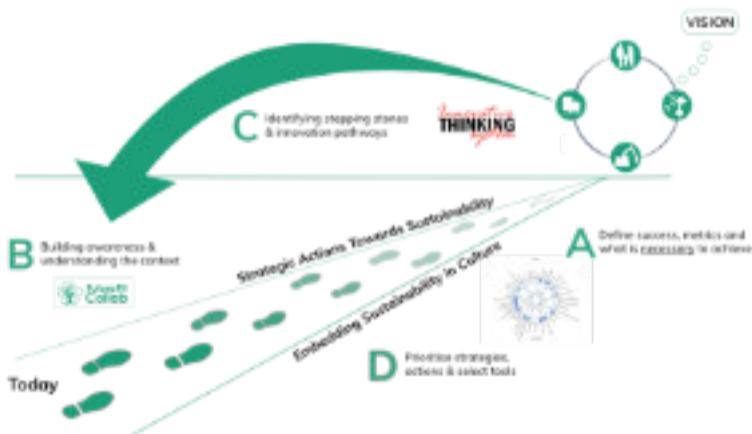
A powerful foundation

Today, this same framework offers a powerful foundation for shaping a Sustainable Philippines. It equips individuals, institutions, and communities with the tools and structure to meet urgent challenges head-on. This program builds on that legacy, offering multiple ways to engage, and it may well serve as a vital blueprint for the next decade of transformation.

Program

Pre-Course Work

Participants come to the certification course with varying levels of knowledge and experience. To ensure everyone starts with a common foundation, all participants are provided access to the FSSD Foundational eLearning. This course builds a solid understanding of the scientific basis of sustainable development and aligns everyone with the core concepts of the FSSD before the live sessions begin. As a result, we can dive straight into deeper content and application during the certification program. The first session includes a reflection on the eLearning, with space for questions and clarification. The eLearning is accessible on both smartphones and desktop or laptop devices for flexible learning.



Part 1: Systems Thinking & Visioning

Reaching full sustainability doesn't happen overnight. It begins with a deep understanding of the system we're working in. Knowing the context helps us define a shared vision of the future, and also reveals the leverage points, barriers, risks, and opportunities we may encounter along the way.

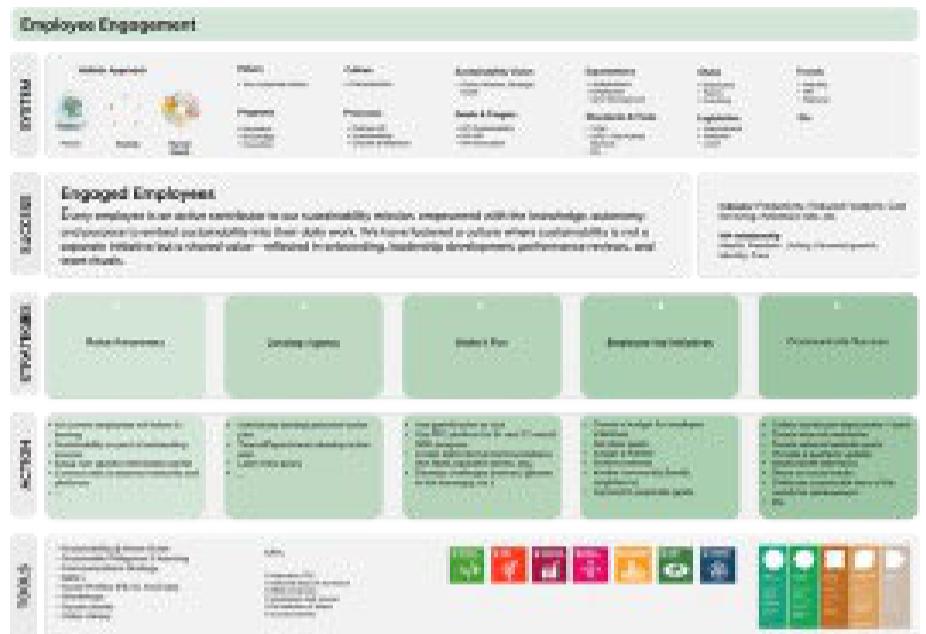
Once we understand how our system works, we can begin to shape the outcomes we want to achieve. A strong, compelling vision - supported by clear strategic goals - helps us stay focused, build momentum, and track our progress over time. When described well, a vision acts like a magnet. It attracts energy, people, and new ideas. It creates a sense of purpose, offering a hopeful and practical counter to the often negative stories surrounding sustainability.

Part 2: Strategic Planning

Now that we understand what sustainability requires, the next step is to assess where we are today. Establishing a clear baseline allows us to map out short-term, mid-term, and long-term solutions to guide our journey forward. Often, low-hanging fruits can be identified early, offering quick wins that build momentum and help communicate progress to stakeholders and partners.

For more complex challenges, we will use Innovative Thinking Systems (ITSM) to uncover hidden assumptions, generate synergistic solutions that address multiple issues at once, and guide decisions around investments, organizational changes, and key enablers for long-term impact.

But it is not just about ideas, it is about making smart, strategic choices. To support this, we apply three core strategic questions, combined with local regulations and focus areas, to help identify the most effective actions, tools, and strategies to include in our sustainability plans.



The Sustainability Roadmap

The Five Level Framework (5LF) provides a structured, visual overview of the outcomes from the backcasting process, also known as the ABCD method. For each strategic goal, it maps out key information, including relevant systems insights, a clear definition of success when no negative impact remains, indicators to measure progress, strategies to achieve the goal, specific actions to carry out those strategies, and the tools needed to support decision-making, monitoring, and learning.

When combined, these visual frameworks form a complete strategic plan for an organization, faculty, LGU, or barangay. It acts as both a roadmap and a compass, guiding actions over the next several years.



Post-Course work

During the certification program, each participant will complete at least one 5LF. After the program, participants will finalize a full version that includes their vision and strategic goals. They will receive feedback on their work, either individually or as a team, depending on whether they represent the same organization, department, or unit.

DATES

This course will take place in:

Metro Manila: 16 + 17 January 2026

Location: AIM - Conference Center Manila

Catbalogan: 21 + 22 January 2026

Location: Samar State University

Day 1: 09:00 AM - 05:00 PM PH Time

Day 2: 09:00 PM - 05:00 PM PH Time

The investment per participant is ₱ 40,888.00

Attending with a team? Contact us for reduced rates

What You Get:

- 2-day immersive course, pre-course and post-course
- International FSSD Practitioner Certificate
- Ready-to-use tools + Access FFC Learning Platform
- Peer learning and mentorship
- 2 top-trainers with hands-on experience
- FSSD + ITST™ Course book
- Post-course feedback on your plans
- 5 free Sustainable Philippines eLearnings to inspire others (SP-Pay-it-Forward)
- 2 mangrove seedling to be planted in the local mangrove ecopark of Balaring, Silay City, Negros Occidental (with certificate)
- Lunch, snacks, coffee/tea

Who should attend?

Teachers, students, business leaders, HR leaders, civic employees, sustainability professionals, program managers

From: Universities, schools, business, LGU's, NGO's

Once registered, you'll receive a link to your FutureFit Collab account, where you can access the course materials and the community.

Registration and Terms of Payment

How to Register:

- You can register [here](#)

If you have any questions, please contact:

- gem@acghumancapital.com
- info@futurefitcollab.org

Limited Spots Available – To ensure a high-quality learning experience, the course is capped at 25 participants.

Confirmation & Course Details:

Your spot is secured upon registration and confirmation.



“More than just the accolade of being certified internationally, what I appreciate the most is the deepening of my perspectives. I was introduced to a whole new set of empowering frameworks, principles and tools that made me deeply understand both Sustainability and Regenerative in ways I could never get by just simply reading and learning on my own. The learning conversations I had with Berend and Ms. Gem were empowering as they were insightful and profound.”

Jun Roy, CEO and Transformation Enabler at Regenerative Transformation Institute Board Chair at Philippines Society for Talent Development





“The whole world has dreamt about a solid definition of sustainability that would allow systematic step-by-step planning. When the definition arrived, delivered by the FSSD, it was remarkable to see how simple it was. Why hadn’t anybody thought about it before?”

Paul Hawken, Author of *The Ecology of Commerce, Natural Capitalism and Blessed Unrest*

Trainers

Dr. Gem Brion Zabala

Dr. Gem Brion Zabala is a passionate advocate for sustainability, education, and social equity, working across the Philippines and Southeast Asia. She is a Certified Master Trainer in LIFO® / Life Orientations® (USA) and ITST™ Innovative Thinking System (Japan), and is certified in The Natural Step / FSSD (Netherlands), integrating science-based sustainability into leadership and strategy.

She co-founded the first licensed LIFO® and ITST™ agency in the Philippines and holds degrees in Political Science, History, and a Doctorate in Business Administration, with research on sustainable innovation.

Her heart lies in helping children in poverty access education and opportunity. She also leads national awareness efforts as founder of the International Sustainability Summit and Plog the Planet, a community fun-run for the environment.

Outside of work, she's a coach to beauty queens, martial arts enthusiast, and committed environmental advocate.

Berend Aanraad, ISS

Berend Aanraad is a Certified Master Trainer and Master Facilitator in The Natural Step / FSSD (Sweden) and the founder of FutureFit Collab, The Natural Step Netherlands, and ICSE (International Centre for Sustainability Excellence). With a background in systems thinking and sustainability leadership, he has spent over two decades helping communities and organizations around the world turn purpose into action.

Berend has worked across Europe, Southeast Asia, Africa, and North America, partnering with schools, governments, NGOs, and businesses to embed sustainability into strategy, leadership, and culture.

He is especially passionate about building thriving, just communities, and believes education is the strongest force for long-term change. His deep connection to the Philippines continues to shape his work with young people, educators, and local leaders who are driving solutions from the ground up.

Whether he's mentoring students, advising national teams, or facilitating in the field, Berend brings clarity, compassion, and an unwavering belief that the next generation can and will shape a better future.

