



Post-Event Reflections

Learning Without Boundaries: Sustainability Reporting

19 July 2024, Friday, 2 PM to 4 PM SGT @ LT 17, Temasek Polytechnic

A big thank you to Temasek Polytechnic for inviting Aeterni.eco team to share with the students at the seminar, “Learning Without Boundaries: Sustainability Reporting”, last month. We enjoyed hearing the views of our young people and learning about Temasek Polytechnic’s sustainability reporting journey.

With the Temasek Polytechnic team, we:

- exchanged notes about our materiality assessment approaches;
- commiserated over the problem of waste and waste reduction; and
- agreed that sustainability reporting must help achieve real impact and not become a distraction.

With the students, we:

- shared about skills, attitudes and tools to design their own learning and discovery journey;
- recounted our observations and challenges faced as sustainability consultants; and
- conducted two polls to facilitate a dialogue.

Here are results of the two polls:

<p>Qn 1: What are the skills and/or attitudes young people need to thrive in the workplace, particularly in a sustainability-related role?</p>	
<p>Qn 2: What do you think are the challenges faced by enterprises "doing sustainability"?</p>	

Citing a [recent study, “Beyond checking the box”](#), by IBM Institute of Business Value, that “Spending on sustainability reporting exceeds spending on sustainability innovation by 43%”, we highlighted the danger of approaching sustainability as an accounting or reporting exercise rather than a transformation play.

Indeed, money and costs are all major considerations, but the good news is that organisations that truly embed sustainability in their operations show better sustainability and financial outcomes. According to the study, “they are 52% more likely to outperform their peers on profitability, with a 16% higher rate of revenue growth”.

Overall, we hope that we have managed to contextualise the place and practice of sustainability reporting from an industry perspective; while giving the students handles to chart their own paths.