



Inspiring Sustainable Futures.

# Alumni Newsletter

Xavier School of Sustainability (XSoS)  
Xavier University Bhubaneswar (XUB)



## Vivek Balachander Senthil

MBA SM Batch 2015 – 17

**Designation – Consultant, KPMG India.  
Area - Sustainability & Climate Change  
Advisory, Risk Consulting.**

*“When I reflect on my two years at XSoS - XUB MBA program, I conclude that the experience made me understand (the concepts) and rethink the traditional paradigm of business management and discover how bringing about a change through a new paradigm of sustainable development is the most critical litmus test for the present generation. The entire faculty have not only been instrumental in developing key technical and managerial skills but also taught us valuable life lessons. I would always cherish the time spent and am grateful to platform provided by the department and university”*

**How has your journey been in corporate world as the flag bearer of sustainability? What changes do you feel is being incorporated in today's business practices?**

Working in a sustainability related advisory and audit role has been a great learning and intellectually stimulating experience. Making a strong business case for applying the principles of sustainable development in the management practices followed by the corporates remains a challenge. Presently changes incorporated in business practices is visible in the way a company communicates and reports its operational / business performance by aligning it to the tenants of sustainability. A relatively minor proportion of business leaders are in the process and able to internalize sustainability into their business practices. For majority of the business leaders' sustainability is still an afterthought and practices are business as usual.



**Batch of 2015 - 2017**

*XSoS congratulates Mr. Vivek Balachander Senthil for getting promoted to Consultant position from Associate Consultant*

**Sustainability is an ever-evolving discipline with multidimensional scope. Where do you think the changes will happen in the next five years and where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?**

Change is expected in the finance space. Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Integration or sustainable finance, climate finance etc. can become a major driver that could influence and eventually force companies to adapt sustainability considerations into aspects of their business model. However, sustainability professionals need to develop a deeper understanding of the financial markets and related concepts to be able to influence and ride this wave.

On the other hand, promoter driven companies will continue to be mainly influenced by peer performance and regulations. Unless we see a clear push from the demand side who integrate ESG performance into their vendor or supplier selection process.



**What skillset do you think a fresher need to have to standout during job interviews?**

Any fresher would be required to demonstrate that they are best suited for the role being interviewed that can typically be achieved by being honest about their strengths and weaknesses and clearly communicating their ability of being a quick learner with an open mind to meet the expectations of their roles and responsibilities.

In some cases, a fresher can even have an advantage over an experienced candidate if they are able to convince the interviewer of their intent to work in the organization for a longer period.

Would recommend fresher to have publications (e.g. conferences, journals, etc.) and have certified training / courses corresponding in their area of interest (e.g. ISO 14001, 45001, labor practices, climate science, etc.) under their belt.

### **XSoS Alumni Committee**

Elizabeth Abba – Faculty Coordinator

Pallavi Ranjan – Student Coordinator

Abhinav Verma - Deputy Coordinator

Shyamli Shekhar - Treasurer

Tejaswini Panda - Core Member