



Chris Tobias Curriculum Vitae

e: theworld@christobias.com ph: +65 8318 8275 (SG) +64 21 0225 2650 (NZ)

Life goal: To lead transformative change through the creation of innovative, forward-focused strategies.

Key Abilities and Skills

Sustainability enthusiast	Effective communication skills	Solutions oriented
Capable project manager	Relationship management skills	Systems thinker
Development outcomes focused	Thorough research abilities	Multicultural awareness
Multi-tasking ability	Sound judgment	Confident public speaker

Focused Experience

- 8/11–Present **Assistant Director, Knowledge + Resource Centre, [Singapore Environment Institute](#)**
Responsible for publications and outreach, the role includes responsibilities for managing writing, editing, content managing, and oversight of NEA technical magazine *Envision*, interviewing Singapore environmental pioneers including Lee Ek Tieng and Daniel Wang, and industry professionals and thought leaders such as IDEO’s Chief Creative Officer Paul Bennett on design thinking. Role also contributed to overall NEA knowledge management strategy, and groundwork for the forthcoming resource centre and intranet knowledge portal.

- 4/08–8/11 **Managing Director and Lead Strategist, [Forward](#)**
Sample client work:
[iLight Marina Bay Festival](#) – Sustainability management, community engagement, & stakeholder coordination for leading international art festival put on by Smartlight International and Urban Development Authority; [Interfaceflor](#) – Conducted brainstorming session with APAC staff on maximizing people-focused sustainability outcomes; [Burson Marsteller/Singapore Energy Market Authority](#) – Strategy and planning proposals for Singapore International Energy Week event and CSR strategy; [Kranji Countryside Association](#), Singapore – Strategic sustainability planning for multiple stakeholder group; Private Client – Research and feasibility study for development of organic farm/education centre; New Zealand Business Cleantech “[100% Plan](#)” – Research, editing, promotion; [Celsias.co.nz](#) – Founding editor, business development, strategic planning; [Celsias.com](#) – Editor-at-Large role, content facilitation, site admin; [HB Media](#) – business strategy and sustainability columnist; BRANZ Ltd. – [level.org](#) Environmental Management Systems module development; [NZICA](#) – Sustainable Development Reporting toolkit production; [Organic Explorer](#) – business planning, strategy, and event management; [Unitec Hortecology Sanctuary](#) – stakeholder management, liaison, development; [Sustainable Business Network](#) – website project management/stakeholder communications

- 11/07–4/08 **Consultant/Sustainability Strategist, [Wright Communications](#)**
Provided sustainability expertise to an innovative, Corporate Responsibility (CSR) and public relations consultancy. Researched and wrote sustainability reports to GRI/G3 standards for Ricoh New Zealand and Urgent Couriers, co-production of [Green Drinks for ecostore](#), media support for the management of Tiger Beer Dragon Boat Festival, recruited media partners, wrote media releases which resulted in major exposure for Calibre Boats, illustrated business thought processes and strategy, and created sponsorship proposals.

- 9/06–10/07 **Business Development Manager, Green Globe New Zealand**
Responsible for management and growth of the Green Globe sustainable tourism brand in New Zealand. Key outcomes included growth of membership by 30% and mailing list



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- 28%. Raised public profile through nationwide workshops and conference participation. Created content/direction for state-of-the-art web platform, produced communications content and newsletters, media submissions, and managed media relationships.
- 7/06–9/06 [Communities for Climate Protection](#) Project Administrator, [Auckland City](#) [contract role]
Actively worked towards the completion of Milestone 1 objectives for ICLEI Communities for Climate Protection Campaign. Responsibilities included locating and analyzing energy data sources, generating carbon emissions figures, finalising data, and production of Milestone 1 report. Also assisted with other planning department related concerns, including heritage site documentation, livable communities projects, researched council Fair Trade scheme.
- 12/05–4/06 [Sustainable Foundations](#) Project Manager, [BRANZ, Ltd](#) [contract role]
Development and launch of Sustainable Foundations (EMS programme for NZ builders). Strategic direction of the programme, branding, research, tool development, recruitment of case study companies, coordination of industry groups, launch plan, contributed to press releases, website structure and plan, project photography, and manage the web development team.

Guest Lectures and Public Talks:

- 3/11 [TEDxNTU speaker](#) – The Next Step in Human Evolution
3/11 Guest Lecturer, Lee Kuan Yew School– Public Policy for Sustainability Module: Cleantech Futures
3/10, 2/11–4/11 Guest Lecturer, National University of Singapore Department of Geography – Environmental Sustainability Module
10/10 Presenter/panelist – [Asian Youth Energy Summit 2010](#)
9/10 Presenter, [Singapore Green Drinks](#) – SG Energy Futures
10/09 Presenter, [Singapore Green Drinks](#) – Permaculture in Business
8/07 Ecotourism Conference: Presenter – Standards and Benchmarking
3/05 – 8/05 [Rotary Club](#) of Rogers Park: Chicago. IL, USA – Sustainability in the Built Environment

Media Exposure:

- 8/11 Feature Crossroads Interview in [Zaobao](#) newspaper
1/11 Co–Presenter, [Eco Gone Mad TV Pilot](#)
11/10 [Reuters feature on iLight Festival](#) (global circulation)
11/08–10/09 Editor, [Celsias.com](#)
4/07 [Prometheus Ethical Finance Newsletter](#):
Biofuel Vehicles Ownership Feature
12/06 [National Business Review](#): Exciting Tourism Brands



Event Organisation and Participation:

- 9/10–12/10 LOHAS Luncheon Co–organizer
9/10 [350 Singapore](#)/10:10:10 public boardroom event MC
6/09 – Ongoing [Forward Thinking](#) Event Organiser
9/08 “[What Matters Most to New Zealanders?](#)” Auckland, NZ – Group facilitator
9/07 E–Waste Collection Day: Tauranga, NZ – Collector
5/07 [GreenFleet](#) Planting Day: Tauranga, NZ – Tree planter
10/05 [Sustainable Business Network](#) Conference & Expo: Auckland, NZ – Conference assistant
9/04 – 5/05 [Foresight Design Initiative](#): Chicago. IL, USA – Greeter/Social Mixer



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General Public Service:

- 4/11–Ongoing Singapore Environmental Achievement Awards Judging Panel (Technical Working Group)
- 3/11–9/11 Seng Poh Community Garden Establishment Committee
- 11/08 – 10/09 [Nexus](#), Auckland University Student Sustainability Organisation– Mentor
- 12/08 – 2/09 New Zealand AIDS Foundation, Auckland NZ – Volunteer
- 9/04 – 5/05 [Chicago Greentech](#): Chicago. IL, USA – Resource librarian, exhibition assistant, guide
- 7/03 – 8/03 Green Homes for Chicago: Chicago. IL, USA – Demonstrator

Formal Education

- 4/08–6/09 Certificate Permaculture Design, PINZ Modular PDC, Auckland NZ
Module courses focusing on urban applications of permaculture.
- 9/98 – 5/02 BFA Design, Harrington Institute: Chicago, USA
Achieved Bachelors of Fine Arts in Design, GPA 3.48

Training + Practical Exposure

- 8/11 International Conference on Asian Food Security
- 10/10 Singapore Compact for CSR Summit
- 9/10 World Green Building Congress, Singapore
- 6/10 World Cities Summit, Singapore
- 4/10 Business for Environment Summit, Seoul, South Korea
- 10/09 CSR–Asia Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 7/09 International Sustainable Development Research Conference, Utrecht Netherlands
- 3/09 Applied Earthbuilding Course, Warkworth New Zealand
- 9/08 Living Systems Thinking – Leading Innovative Programmes, Auckland NZ
- 1/08 Product Stewardship and Waste Management Tour, Auckland NZ
- 4/07 NZGBC Green Star NZ Training, Auckland NZ
- 5/06 RMIT “Green Building and Design 2006” Short Course: Melbourne, Aus.
- 8/06 [Auckland Digital Earth Summit](#): Youth Voice Delegate
- 8/05 – 9/05 La’akea Permaculture Gardens: Hawaii, USA
- 9/04 – 11/04 Chicago Greentech Continuing Education Coursework: Chicago. IL, USA

Selected Published Material

- Ongoing [Thought Leadership Series Interviews](#) (Tim Flannery, Jaime Lerner, Michael Braungart, John Elkington, etc.) on Forward Thinking and other online channels
- 4/10 Live coverage of Business for Environment Summit on Eco–business.com (and subsequent coverage at other major summits and events)
- 8/09–10/09 Reuters.com– Singapore’s Poh Ern Shih Temple Green Building Project, Asian CSR Issues
- 8/09 Celsias Magazine – Politics, evolving ‘sustainability’, personal action and responsibility
- 5/09– 1/10 [Idealog](#) Results Only Work Environment (ROWE), Permaculture in Business, NZ Film Fest
- Various 2007 [Tourism News](#): Carbon Offsetting, International Travel, Innovations, Kaikoura Profile
- Various 2007 [Tourism Business Magazine](#): Climate Change, EMS and Tourism
- 4/07 [NZ Business Magazine](#): Sustainable Practices in Tourism
- 9/03–5/06 Self–Published Author: [Satellite Life](#)

Technology Experience and Online Interaction

Knowledge of Internet content management systems (DNN, Word Press, Django, CMS Made Simple, EvoSuite), Google Analytics, MS Office Suite, Adobe Photoshop, [Forward Thinking Blog](#), [Celsias News & Opinions](#), [Twitter](#)



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Worldwide Exposure and Interests

Travelled, lived, and/or worked in 25+ countries in Europe, North America, Asia, and South Pacific. Established priority to gain international experience and understanding of different cultures. Interests in sustainable buildings and societies, education and advocacy, permaculture, personal development, electronic music, fine art photography, design, comparative religions, writing.