ICSP, NCCR, and Unmul Open a Sustainability Reporting Certification Pathway for Students

Author *: ICSP (SAR)*
About the Article *: ICSP and NCCR collaboration with University for Certification Program*



Jakarta, 4 November 2026 - The Institute of Certified Sustainability Practitioners (ICSP) and the National Center for Corporate Reporting (NCCR) have officially entered into a partnership with Mulawarman University (Unmul) in Samarinda, East Kalimantan, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 2 March 2026. This partnership opens a professional certification pathway in sustainability reporting, the Certified Sustainability Reporting Specialist+ (CSRS+), for Unmul's undergraduate (S1) and postgraduate (S2) students.

The collaboration is already underway. The curriculum review has been in progress since the MoU was signed, and teaching of the related courses has begun this semester. This year, implementation is being carried out together with Unmul's Faculty of Economics and Business.

The MoUs were drawn up separately according to each institution's role: Unmul with ICSP, as the association that administers professional certification in sustainability reporting, and Unmul with NCCR, as the institution that provides sustainability training. The MoUs were signed by the Chairperson of the ICSP Board, Prof. Dr. Sylvia Veronica N.P. Siregar, SE, Ak, CA, CSRS, CSRA, CSP; the Chairman of the NCCR Board, Dr. (Hon) Ali Darwin Ak. MSc., CSRA, CSP; and the Rector of Unmul, Prof. Dr. Ir. H. Abdunnur, M.Si., IPU., ASEAN Eng.

How the Program Works

The CSRS+ professional certification program for students requires readiness on the part of the university and its teaching staff. Partner universities must have held at least one in-house training and certification batch for lecturers, conducted by NCCR and ICSP. At Unmul, this requirement has been fulfilled.

Lecturers teaching the related courses must hold CSRS+ certification and be active ICSP members. This requirement is intended to develop educators' capacity so that it aligns with the needs of Indonesia's sustainability ecosystem. To maintain the quality of learning, ICSP and NCCR also review the curriculum, syllabi, and teaching materials of the related courses to ensure alignment with the GRI Standards and other sustainability reporting standards.

The program does not end with students' participation in the related courses. Unmul S1 and S2 students who pass these courses can proceed to CSRS+ professional certification through a special examination scheme administered by ICSP and NCCR. Students who pass will receive a CSRS+ certificate along with ICSP membership.

Once the program is underway, the expected outcome is stronger student capacity in sustainability reporting and sustainability practice. As a result, students who have passed the courses and completed the certification program can compete in the job market and have opportunities to pursue careers as sustainability practitioners.

Meeting the Need for Sustainability Professionals

This collaboration is driven by the growing demand for professionals who are competent in sustainability reporting. Through this program, ICSP seeks to ensure that the teaching of sustainability reporting in higher education keeps pace with developments in international standards, while encouraging collaboration among academics, universities, and practitioners in building sustainability capacity.

Many standards serve as references for preparing high-quality sustainability reports. One of the most widely used in Indonesia is the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard. The CSRS+ professional certification refers to the GRI Standards, but the curriculum also covers other sustainability reporting standards.

The Foundation of Indonesia's Sustainability Ecosystem

NCCR was founded in 2005 as the National Center for Sustainability Reporting (NCSR) and transformed into NCCR in 2022. It was the first organization in Indonesia to introduce sustainability reports and encourage companies to publish them. Since 2011, NCCR has been an official GRI training partner, and more than 4,000 professionals have completed training and certification through its programs. Each year, NCCR also conducts a sustainability report rating through the Asia Sustainability Reporting Rating (ASRRAT), which in 2026 reaches its 22nd edition.

NCCR has issued the CSRS certification for sustainability report preparers since 2007. As the number of certificate holders grew, an independent professional body was needed, and so ICSP was born. Since 2016, ICSP has brought practitioners together and carried on the administration of the CSRS+ professional certification and other sustainability certifications. Today, ICSP has more than 4,000 members and continues its efforts to maintain the competence of sustainability practitioners. Together with NCCR, ICSP holds the Sustainability Practitioner Conference (SPC) every year. Other collaborative programs, including with universities such as Unmul, are also carried out to strengthen Indonesia's sustainability practitioner ecosystem from the university level.

This article is available in two languages. The Indonesian version was written by the ICSP Secretariat. An English translation is provided for the convenience of international readers and may be downloaded via the link below. Please note that the translation was not prepared by the author and may not fully reflect the nuances intended by the speaker.