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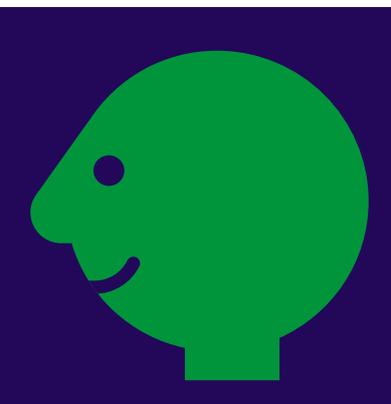
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# Green careers guide

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# Quintin Jose V. Pastrana

## Head of Business Development, WEnergy Global

President, WEnergy Power Pilipinas  
University of Cambridge alumnus (2009-2011)



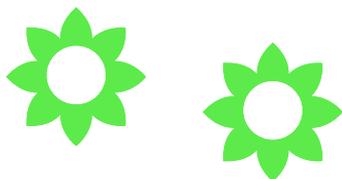
**I read and graduated with a Master's Degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge, where I focused on Sustainability, Political Risk, and International Trade agreements for my research and dissertation.**

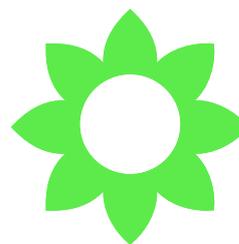
I wanted to understand how to move the needle i.e., find a sector and specialisation that had the greatest impact in terms of sustainable development and climate change as this was the most systemic of risks with both immediate and lasting implications that underpinned the survival of the planet and our life in it. I found that the infrastructure sector, particularly energy, to be a key sector in reducing carbon emissions while serving as a linchpin for development. Without access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy, national economies are rendered stillborn, community development is threatened, and human agency and individual empowerment cannot be unleashed. Furthermore, my focus on trade and investment agreements allowed me to explore the breadth and depth of the impact regulatory regimes have in facilitating inclusive investment in areas they are needed most, especially in developing countries where millions of households and many more citizens remain disenfranchised without access to this critical resources and catalyst.



Beyond the formation and affiliation as a graduate of a pre-eminent global institution like Cambridge, my research and findings enabled me to add value to my career in my previous and current engagements as an energy executive and entrepreneur. From assessing political risk and developing strategies to overcome these, I have been able to help my organization, WEnergy Global, channel vital capital and technology to the dynamic region that is Southeast Asia, where close to 100 million people still have no access to proper energy sources and electricity.

As Head of International Business Development as well as President of local subsidiaries, I have also been able to pinpoint and apply areas of my research and skillsets to expand our investments while protecting them by advocating specific policies and regulatory reforms to ensure a level playing field for private sector investment. Currently, we are focused on countries like the Philippines, Indonesia, and Myanmar, where energy – specifically renewable power and hybrid microgrids that we invest and develop





to catalyse growth at the rural level. These last-mile delivery solutions require significant capital, technology, and regulatory support; and my career path, strengthened by my graduate education in the UK, have enabled me to add value to slowly but surely make an impact to this dynamic field for good.

These have resulted in a diverse, growing, and exciting portfolio and pipeline of projects across the region --- from PV Solar installations in universities, manufacturing and commercial firms, but also microgrids, beginning with one of Southeast Asia's first clean and smart microgrid in Sabang, Puerto Princesa, Palawan in Philippines, which hosts the new 7th Wonder of the World, the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River, and the growing community. In areas like these, with a growing population, economy, and also vulnerability from development pressures, it is critical to enable this growth by using clean energy, which is what we have developed with our 24/7 hybrid system that uses a world class hybrid solar, battery, and biodiesel system to power the current and future needs of this dynamic eco-tourism hub, community, and ecosystem.

We intend to expand these projects across the region using other energy sources, working with policy makers and stakeholders to create the proper environment for these investments, and in the process replicate and even build on the initial success we've had, and empowering more communities in the process while advancing the Sustainable Development Goals with the multiplier effects from these foundational projects. In aggregate, these hubs and pockets of sustainable growth are showing the way towards a decentralised, empowered, and inclusive model for development.



Careers and vocations in the sectors and institutions that champion sustainability are set to grow exponentially as the policy and economic incentives match the technological advancements in the energy, water, transport sectors which will lead the way and absorb more investment. My advice for those who wish to pursue such a career is to invest in a proper education that will infuse your thinking, skill sets, and networks with the right approach, attitude, and application of knowledge that will have lasting effects on our communities, economies, and planet. Sustainability as a framework for life is instructive in this regard: be forward thinking, collaborative, inquisitive, systematic, and committed to the inclusive benefit of this interdependent ecosystem of people, communities, and economies that make up the world we live in and need to leave better than we found it.

