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Arabia CSR Network®

Arabia CSR Network

newsletter

September 2017
Volume 6 | Issue 73



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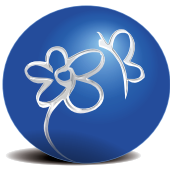
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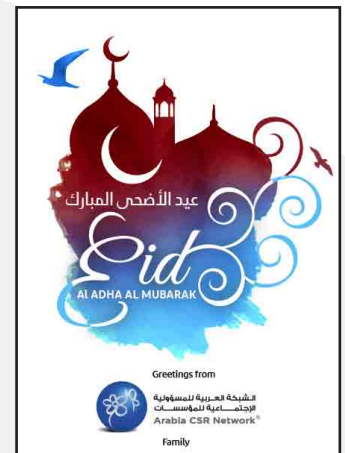
Note from the President & CEO Arabia CSR Network

We stand at the doorway of being able to bend the GHG emissions curve downwards by 2020, as science demands, in protection of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular the eradication of extreme poverty," said Christiana Figueres, former head of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"The opportunity given to us over the next three years is unique in history." Figueres is also the convener of Mission 2020, a broad-based campaign calling for urgent action now to ensure that carbon emissions begin to fall by 2020. 60 scientists, business and policy leaders, economists, analysts and influencers, including Gail Whiteman from Lancaster University; Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation; Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer of Unilever plc; Anthony Hobley, Chief Executive of Carbon Tracker; Christian Rynning-Tønnesen, CEO of Statkraft; and Jonathan Bamber, President of the European Geosciences Union have contributed and signed up to the 'Nature' article. According to them technological progress and political momentum have gained enough traction to kick-start the 'great sustainability transformation'.

Credible research has shown that restricting global warming below 2 degrees Celsius becomes almost infeasible if climate action is delayed beyond 2020. And should the 2°C-line be breached, it would degrade a number of what is called 'Earth system tipping elements', such as the great ice sheets. Therefore the time to act is imminent and this is where the private sector needs to take ownership of a central role. Governments in many parts of the world have already begun the war on climate change and substantial results have been evident. For example, in Europe, almost three quarters of all new power installations have come from renewable sources such as wind and solar.

Here in the Middle East solar energy is growing albeit slowly. Dubai, with over 3,500 sunshine hours per year, offers up enough potential to incubate solar energy applications. DEWA is at the forefront of the transition to renewable energy mix and its Shams Dubai solar rooftop project would allow home owners an excellent opportunity to embrace a green lifestyle. Private companies have also started to appear in the market that offer new solutions for greener power. Indeed we live in interesting times. A lot has already started to happen. Amidst all the gloom and doom, these rays of hope sustain our dream of a sustainable future. Here's wishing everyone Eid Al Adha Al Mubarak from the ACSR Network Team!.



Arabia CSR Upcoming Trainings



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الاجتماعية للمؤسسات
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26 - 28 SEP 2017

GRI Standards (English)



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17 - 18 OCT 2017

Integrated Reporting Training



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19 OCT 2017

Materiality Matrix Workshop



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Arabia CSR Network®

20 - 23 NOV 2017

CSR Advance (English)

GRI Standards Launch Event Abu Dhabi

Tuesday, September 19, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 2:45 PM (Gulf Standard Time United Arab Emirates Time) Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates



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Arabia CSR News



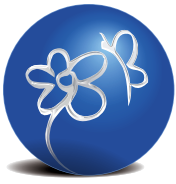
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"The UAE leads in the Region in the preservation of women's interests and their empowerment. We were among the first to launch policies, strategies and initiatives aimed solely at women. The government of the UAE has always held women's interests in high priority, which is corroborated by the great strides made by Emirati women in all walks of life. Our voice is not only heard but keenly sought out by our leadership, who are on the constant strive to make our lives meaningful, productive and happy.

The UAE has an impressive record in gender related achievements, ranked first in gender equality in the region, as per the World Economic Forum's 2014 Global Gender Gap report. Women are free to pursue their dreams in this country, and their dreams are given a nurturing environment. Women are provided with a safe, secure and supportive ecosystem for their growth and fulfillment, and that makes me most proud as an Emirati woman."

Habiba Al Mar'ashi
President & CEO, Arabia CSR Network

Members Update

DEWA makes customers aware of safety before travelling

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has launched its annual 'Tips before Travelling' campaign, for the fifth consecutive year, through media channels, social media platforms, and its website. The campaign is part of DEWA's efforts to raise awareness on the sensible use of electricity and water, reducing waste, and following safety guidelines. This is part of DEWA's annual 'Let's Make this Summer Green' campaign. Tips before Travelling includes a number of guidelines for customers to follow before going on vacation or leaving their homes for long periods of time during the summer. The campaign aims to conserve electricity and water, while maintaining the safety of homes.



DEWA's tips include simple steps to reduce electricity and water use in homes before travelling. These include switching off lights, unplugging electrical appliances and electronics to save energy, making sure there are no water leaks in the house by checking all taps and internal pipes in bathrooms and kitchens, and shutting off the water supply to avoid any water leakage. Simple tips that can be followed at home before travelling for summer vacations are a quick and effective way to protect natural resources, reduce costs, and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. For example, not repairing a small leak in the kitchen that wastes one drop of water each second, could lead to wasting 32,000 gallons of water per year," said DEWA's Senior Manager of Marketing Communications at DEWA.

Source: <https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/about-dewa/news-and-media>

EGA summer internships for 30 UAE national students

Emirates Global Aluminium, the largest industrial company in the United Arab Emirates outside oil and gas, is to provide internships for 30 of UAE National university and high school students this summer, giving them valuable work experience that should enhance their career prospects. The students will work for a month at EGA's smelter operations and head office departments in both Jebel Ali in Dubai and Al Taweelah in Abu Dhabi. EGA has been running its summer internship programme for more than 20 years. EGA typically has over 100 graduate trainees employed at any time on 18-month graduate training programmes before assignment to permanent roles in the organisation. EGA also runs apprenticeship schemes for young UAE Nationals pursuing careers in technical roles.

EGA's workforce includes almost 1,200 UAE Nationals, in line with the UAE National Vision 2021's goal of harnessing the full potential of national human capital. EGA is currently sponsoring over 150 UAE Nationals in their university studies. EGA is targeting 42 per cent Emiratisation by 2020 of in-focus positions – those that could feasibly be Emiratised.

Source: <http://www.ega.ae/en/media/newsdetail/?id=6105>



General News

Future economic leadership depends on green economy

The future of economic leadership and growth is tied to green economy, according to United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres. Mr. Guterres' statement was part of a call to action on climate change delivered to an audience of students, academics, and business leaders on 30th May 2017 at New York University. These words highlight a growing recognition of the role that green policymaking will play in shaping economies of the future. During the speech, Guterres underscored the need for both national governments and private industry to become highly engaged in the worldwide green transition, proposing "Those that will be betting on the implementation of the Paris Agreement, on the green economy, will be the ones that have a leading role in the economy of the 21st century."

Guterres furthermore outlined the downside of inadequately embracing green measures, explaining that "Those who fail to bet on the green economy will be living in a grey future [but] those who embrace green technologies will set the gold standard for economic leadership in the twenty-first century." The message is clear: economies of the future will depend upon green policies and measures. The economic growth referred to by Guterres may be a result of the various opportunities that climate action provides, such as the creation of jobs, growth of key industries, and international cooperation to name a few. PAGE's work in 13 countries, focusing on putting sustainability at the heart of economic policymaking has provided witness to these benefits first hand. PAGE's partner countries, as well as nations across the globe, are increasingly recognizing a green economy pathway as key to addressing poverty and climate change, and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As Guterres suggests, first movers towards this sustainable and resource efficient economic system will reap benefits of increasing profits, wellbeing, and environmental resilience. *To read the full story, please visit www.un.org*

First climate impact fund rating platform launched by CDP

CDP's new initiative – Climetrics – was launched on 6th July, rating private equity and exchange traded funds on their environmental impact. The initiative is funded by the EU's climate innovation initiative Climate-KIC, and is the first of its kind. The platform lists 2,500 European funds – equal to €2.5 trillion – and aims at helping investors in their investment decision-making taking the climate change impact of the funds into account. Climetrics rates 80 per cent of all European assets in equity funds currently for sale according to a rating system on a scale of one-to-five 'green leaves'.

Academics, NGOs, asset managers and asset owners have worked in collaboration to help develop the rating system, which takes into account factors including the environmental impact of the companies invested in – the portfolio score, the integration of governance and investment practices – asset manager score, and the specific ESG mandate – fund policy mandate. CDP is hoping this new rating system will encourage organisations to develop more climate-responsible fund products. Only 221 of all the listed funds have received the highest rating of five green leaves so far. CDP's Executive Chair Paul Dickinson said: "Climetrics is a missing link between individual investment choices and the global problem of climate change, and will move the needle in incentivizing both investors and companies to contribute to the low-carbon transition." *Source: <http://www.climateactionprogramme.org>*

Women-owned businesses supported by UN Women

Companies are being encouraged by the UN to trade with women-owned businesses and integrate them into their supply networks. The UN is aiming to provide a "deeper understanding of the barriers and challenges" preventing women's businesses from breaking into local and global trading chains. It outlines the tools and techniques for breaching the barriers and using the "untapped economic potential represented by women-owned businesses". The guidance is given in a manual released by UN Women, the arm of the organisation that promotes empowerment of women. The manual responds to the signatories of the Women's Empowerment Principles document drawn up by UN Women in partnership with the UN Global Compact, which advises all businesses on adopting sustainable and socially responsible policies.

UN Women points out: "In today's economy less than 1 per cent of spending by large businesses on suppliers is earned by women-owned businesses." Yet, it adds, women's enterprises contribute significantly to global growth and generate millions of jobs. UN Women's argument is that it is therefore smart economics to invest in women-owned businesses and bring them into corporate supply chains. The proposals are in line anyway with the UN's sustainable development goals, which recommend that companies should help to create enterprises and back the supply chain and marketing practices that empower women. UN Women emphasises that for many women "entrepreneurship offers a path to economic empowerment". This article has been written by Brian Collett and featured on <http://www.ethicalperformance.com/article/9746>



Feature Article



Mena Region's Movement Toward a Clean Energy Future

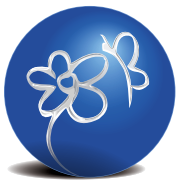
Established in 2008, the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) is a non-profit organization with a mission to establish a leading forum for companies and government entities focused on the development and deployment of clean energy in the MENA region. The CEBC seeks to promote the clean energy industry and inform the wider community of the benefits of the sector in the region. In collaboration with government agencies and stakeholders, the CEBC develops policies and regulations in this quickly developing and exciting sector. Strategic alliances are a key initiative, partnering with research institutions, international associations, media and others to drive the delivery of clean energy solutions for MENA.

The Arabian Gulf is an ideal place to generate solar energy, Dubai's climatic conditions are amongst the world's best for generating photovoltaic energy. However, even when the costs of solar panels fell dramatically in 2012, the uptake in the region was slow. Some of the objections that CEBC experienced were technological (e.g. solar does not work due to dust in the desert) and some were related to both the technology and the economics (e.g. solar is only available during the day. Why does that make sense for me?).

Due to a supportive policy environment in the UAE including the contracted 1000MW at Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, many of these reservations have been disproved and gradually the region is warming up to solar. However, you still do not see as many solar panels as you would expect driving through the UAE. This is particularly the case in commercial and industrial sectors.

With Dubai and Abu Dhabi's new net-metering programmes, this is starting to change. CEBC has recognised that this is often an educational issue as to the benefits of solar and have invested large amounts of time and energy to change the mindset of businesses and encourage higher adoption of rooftop solar. CEBC has one eye to the future and recognises that storage is the next great revolution and as the economics get more and more attractive, a future with only renewables and storage becomes increasingly possible.

Source: <http://www.cleanenergybusinesscouncil.com/mena-regions-movement-toward-a-clean-energy-future>



Case Study from the Archive - Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA)



Abstract

DEWA has made a name for itself in not just its business but as a Social Responsibility champion. It is DEWA's intent desire to serve its business and societal stakeholders through a number of initiatives that it has spearheaded through the years. Sustainability is seen as an integral component of the business and DEWA has concentrated its strategy, mission and values around the fundamental concepts of sustainability. DEWA has an impressive array of initiatives that support sustainable energy, climate change and water conservation.

DEWA's efforts to create value for the community, particularly the national population is praiseworthy, and there are a number of initiatives that testify to this. DEWA has also taken up its environmental responsibilities with earnestness and dedication, joining local and global platforms that serve to improve the state of the planet.

DEWA focuses a great deal on innovation, which is a part of the business strategy to be a leader within its industry on an international scale. DEWA works hard to support and advance national strategies and mandates including those on sustainable development. A DEWA 2021 plan guides a seven year course towards triple bottom line performance.

DEWA is truly a world class leader and champion of sustainability. The organisation has chosen the accurate path to excellence and success by espousing sustainability and integrating it successfully into strategy and day to day operations. As a government organisation and bastion of national sustainability efforts, DEWA finds itself under the spotlight time and again. It has taken the onus of advancing climate change action, green energy and green economy through numerous impactful measures. These reflect the UAE leadership's dedication to take up universal development challenges and craft out local solutions to global problems.

DEWA has taken various steps to move towards a more sustainable model of business, without compromising any of its commercial objectives. DEWA presents a lesson in point for using sustainability for competitive advantage and demonstrating the value added that CSR and sustainability most certainly offer. DEWA has taken communication and reporting to a whole new level, and uses transparency and accountability as strategic tools to secure the buy in of stakeholders and enhance their Social Licence to Operate.

DEWA's accomplishments are many and are spread across various areas of focus, from Emission Management, Water Management, Renewable Energy, Smart City to Indigenisation and Community Engagement. DEWA can claim pioneer status for many of the initiatives that it has launched or helped to launch. DEWA's work in the area of clean energy is remarkable and truly singles out the organisation among one of the most sustainability oriented in the country. Globally as well DEWA is keen to pursue a prominent role in the sustainability of the utility sector and forward real contributions to sustainable development. DEWA will continue to progress towards more positive outcomes with its economic, social and environmental commitments and showcase the UAE government's visionary work in sustainability.

Arabia CSR Best Practices: 2016

This abstract has been taken from the ACSRN publication titled 'Arabia CSR Best Practices: 2016'. For more details on DEWA' and other companies that have been recognised for their innovative and effective CSR strategies write to us at admin@arabiacsrnnetwork.com and book your copy now! Please mention "Arabia CSR Best Practices" in the subject.

The Arabia CSR Network welcomes new members to be a part of its CSR journey. To learn more about how to be a member, and how your organisation will benefit from it, call us at +971-4-3448120 or write to us at admin@arabiacsrnnetwork.com
For more information on the Arabia CSR Network visit www.arabiacsrnnetwork.com