

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الإجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

Arabia CSR Network

newsletter

November 2017
Volume 6 | Issue 75

"Rethinking Infrastructure: The 5P's" 4th Panel Discussion recieved well



GRI Standards concluded with highly effective lectures,
discussions, exercises, and case studies

Arabia CSR Upcoming Trainings Pg 2

Arabia CSR Network in World Forum for
Responsible Economy Pg 3

Best Practices from the Archives Pg 7

Follow us on:

LinkedIn

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Arabia-CSR-Network-3835323>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/arabiacsrnnetwork>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/ArabiaCSR>

and help us expand our outreach one click at a time!

WE ARE SOCIAL!

Building Partnerships for
a Sustainable Future ©

P.O Box 112101, Villa No. 117a, JMR 68, Jumeirah 1, Dubai United Arab Emirates
Tel: +971 4 344 8120, +971 4 344 8622 Fax: +971 4 344 8677
Email: admin@arabiacsrnnetwork.com Web: www.arabiacsrnnetwork.com

Editorial Team:
Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Sudipa Bose, Jefferson Balisi



Note from the President & CEO Arabia CSR Network

In this issue we have also included an important event that happened in the month of September about which we were not able to write in the October newsletter, as it was solely dedicated to the coverage of our 10th Arabia CSR Awards anniversary. The GRI's launching of the new Standards marked a significant development in the CSR and sustainability space. For the first time GRI becomes a non-certifiable standard for sustainability reporting, augmenting its reputation as the leading international and most preferred standard for sustainability reporting. Through my long association with GRI as a member of the Stakeholder Council I have witnessed how successive iterations of GRI have shaped up through extensive multi-stakeholder inputs and collaborative processes. It gives me great satisfaction to know that I have been a part of GRI's transition and have had the opportunity to

contribute. So when the Standards were officially launched in our Region I welcomed the chance to play an active role in it. I brought in two of the leading responsible organisations in the Region, GPIC and ENOC, to share their reporting experience with the audience. I was also happy to participate in a thought provoking discussion on the future of sustainability reporting within the context of the GRI standards.

In October I had another wonderful opportunity to be a part of a leading global forum, where I have also participated in the past and led delegations from our Region. The World Forum for Responsible Economy has always traversed new thinking, ideology and concepts to initiate conversations about some of the most critical issues that the current and future generations are faced with. This year the focus was on five unique challenges brought about by the revolutionary changes taking place in the marketplace, workplace and society. New forms of economic self organisation juxtaposed against Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, make for a dynamic scenario, albeit with novel implications and impacts. Social enterprises are the new kid on the block and much is expected of them in the wake of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for development. Also there is the emergence of B-Corps, public benefit corporations that use their wealth, assets and power as a force for good.

I was delighted to read that one million Arabs will be given free training to develop computer codes. HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai unveiled the One Million Arab Coders Initiative, which is a part of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives foundation and will go a long way in equipping Arab youth in computer science and programming, which will increase their employability. Such developments and trends indicate that the world is slowly but certainly working towards the dream of a sustainable, equitable and inclusive future. I hope we will seize the moment to make our imprints on the sands of time, leave an enduring legacy of a bigger purpose and help to redefine the notions of growth and value.

Arabia CSR Upcoming Trainings

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

A 'PRACTICAL APPROACH TO INTEGRATED REPORTING'

15-16 NOVEMBER 2017 DUBAI, UAE

INTRODUCTION

Arabia CSR Network offers a practical training on how your organisation can take the first step to complete your own integrated report. Integrated reporting can help organisations to promote a more cohesive and efficient approach to corporate reporting. It will also enhance accountability and stewardship for the organisation's different types of capital, (i.e. financial, manufactured, intellectual, human, social and natural).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

- Present the business case & value of integrated reporting
- Identify the main elements of the <IR> Framework
- Recognise what activities would need to be undertaken during the integrated reporting process
- Evaluate the effectiveness of an integrated report

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Top level executives
- CSR managers
- Sustainability Focal Points
- Internal and external communication specialists
- Marketing, PR and brand specialists
- Government, NGOs, Academics and Researchers
- Strategic Planners

COST OF THE TRAINING PER DELEGATE

US\$ 2,295 This will include the training material, necessary handouts

To register for this event, please fill in the registration form and contact Arabia CSR Network for any further details: Tel: +971 4 3448622, Email: admin@arabiascrnetwork.com

Certified Training Partner
Arabia CSR Network
© United Arab Emirates

GRI Standards for Sustainability Reporting

Around the world, thousands of organisations report annually to disclose their performance in environmental, social and governance areas. The most commonly used framework for sustainability reporting has been the GRI guidelines.

And NOW, from Global Reporting Initiative comes, for the first time, a new set of Standards for Sustainability Reporting!

The GRI Standards include all the main concepts and disclosures from the G4 Guidelines, but feature a new modular structure and revised format with clear reporting requirements. The Standards were developed and released by the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), which is GRI's dedicated standard-setting body.

Arabia CSR Network, a Certified Training Partner of GRI, will organise a **3 Day Training Course on the new GRI Standards**. The accredited course content will be delivered through lectures, discussions, exercises and case studies. It will be organised into the following segments:

- Introduction and background
- Overview of the GRI Standards
- GRI Standards in detail
- Start your reporting process using the GRI Standards
- Additional resources

The training will be of immense value to organisations currently using the GRI guidelines to report non-financial performance or those that are preparing their sustainability reports. It will be particularly beneficial to report writing teams, sustainability professionals, consultants, researchers and so on.

Cost of the training:

US\$ 2,175 per participant
US\$ 1,750 Early bird discount (30 days before the training)

Group discount: if you register more than three participants from the same organisation

Note: Participants can only avail one discount.

38 » GRI Trainings conducted till date
367 » Professionals Trained from the Arab Region
140+ » Sustainability Reports Issued

Date: Dec 12 - 14, 2017

Upon completion of the course, participants will be issued with a certificate by GRI, The Netherlands

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

For more details or to register please contact admin@arabiascrnetwork.com or call us on +97143448120/+97143448622

www.arabiascrnetwork.com
twitter.com/ArabiaCSR
www.facebook.com/arabiascrnetwork
linkedin.com/company/arabia-csr-network-385323



Arabia CSR Network in GRI launch

In 2017, Global Reporting Initiative organised a set of events in different countries to launch the GRI Standards. The launch for the Arab Region took place on September 19th in Abu Dhabi. It was hosted by Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company, Masdar, with the sponsorship of Union National Bank and support of Sustainability Excellence. It was attended by Government and business leaders, CSR practitioners, reporting organisations and NGOs.

The programme included a presentation on the newly launched GRI Standards from Juliette Gaussem, Stakeholder Relations Manager for the region, a speech delivered by Dr. Nawal Al Hosany, Executive Director of Sustainability and Brand at Masdar, the launch of Union National Bank's GRI Standards report, another presentation by Darin Rovere, Founder & CEO of Sustainability Excellence, and a panel discussion focusing on how the GRI Standards could catalyse a new wave of sustainability reporting.

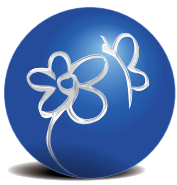
ACSRN President & CEO Habiba Al Mar'ashi was among the speakers in the panel discussion. In the afternoon session she also moderated one of three concurrent sessions hosted by GRI Certified Training Partners. It featured two organisations, GPIC and ENOC, who spoke about their experience with GRI reporting. The GRI Standards are currently being translated into Arabic as a result of funding from Zamzam Society for Charitable and Voluntary Health Services and Saad and Abdul Aziz Al-Mousa Endowment.

Arabia CSR Network in World Forum for Responsible Economy

The World Forum for Responsible Economy is a leading annual conference that gathers together sustainability frontrunners from around the globe. Held in Lille, France from October 17th to 19th under the leadership of Philippe Vasseur, former Minister of Agriculture of France and President of WFRE, the eleventh edition of WFRE focused primarily on the great upheavals or 'revolution' taking place in the world driven by technological, economic, social, environmental and geostrategic changes. Themed 'Responsible Revolution, Sharing Today's Solutions to Tomorrow's Problems' It highlighted the risks and opportunities associated with these changes. The sessions were clustered under five challenges,- Technological shocks, knowledge and competence, Geostrategic and new equilibriums, New entrepreneurial models, and Common good. The agenda consisted of plenary sessions, workshops and company visits.

Under the spotlight were around 100 leaders and experts who spoke on a range of topics such as Artificial Intelligence and ethics, Revolution in education to achieve responsible business, the B-Corp movement and the hybrid company, The convergence of digital transition and energy transition, Third industrial revolution, Transitioning to a responsible organisation, Feeding the growing population in the future, Model of economic sustainability for Africa, Business against corruption, Gender equality and women's empowerment, Culture and technology in the workplace of the future, Social Innovation, Emerging tools in sustainability reporting, Social entrepreneurship and so on. ACSRN President & CEO Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi moderated a creative lab session on the 18th themed Transitioning to a responsible organisation. The session focused on new business models and value chain, redefining of inside out and outside in linkages, new technologies and future of work practices.

The speakers were Ms. Evelyn Astor, Policy Officer from International Trade Union Confederation, Switzerland; Mr. Tiberius Brstaviceanu Co-founder of Sensorica, Canada; and Svenia Busson, Associated entrepreneur, learning lead & builder from Mangrove, France. Ms. Astor spoke about new entrepreneurial models, and such trends as the growth in global supply chains and the rise in atypical, precarious forms of work in some countries, such as dependent self-employment and platform work (e.g., Uber, Deliveroo). She also discussed the implications that these new employment models are having on workers' wages, job security and working conditions. Mr. Brstaviceanu's presentation was on Sensorica, an open hardware cooperative that created and implements a very sophisticated distributed business model based on the concept of Open Value Networks. Ms. Busson focused on Mangrove, an organisation that experiments a new way of working focused on collaboration and personal fulfillment. She explained that at Mangrove they are experimenting the future of work, focusing on transparency, freedom and goodwill. Each presentation was followed by a Q&A round where Mrs. Al Mar'ashi asked the speaker about different aspects of their work and the broader implications in the context of corporate responsibility.



Panel Discussion on Rethinking Infrastructure by incorporating spheres of sustainability: People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity & Partnerships.

Held at Fairmont The Palm Hotel on October 11th, 2017,, the aim of the event was to start a dialogue on Infrastructure that integrates the five spheres of sustainability: People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity & Partnerships. The event was organised by EEG and Arabia CSR Network, Emirates Green Building Council and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The event was sponsored by Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA).

The theme reflected the importance of Sustainable Development Goal No.9 (SDG 9) which talks about developing quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being. The ‘five Ps’—people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership are embedded into the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. The SDGs aim at tackling key systemic barriers to sustainable development such as environmental deterioration, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, inadequate infrastructure and lack of decent jobs among others.

The panel discussion highlighted the importance of remodelling our current infrastructure to transition to a sustainable future. Participating on the panel were Mr Jon Woodhead, Regional Manager UK of DNV-GL who directed focus towards the imperative for diversifying the power business by accelerating the use of renewables for infrastructure development, and Mr. Saeed Al Abbar, Chairman of Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC), who underscored the efficacy of partnerships in capacity development and mutual support. In the ensuing Q&A, the audience asked about the relevance of the shared value concept in partnerships, partner selection aspects, role of partnerships in rethinking infrastructure, Artificial Intelligence and the risk of job loss, gender issues in the clean energy industry, challenge of inequality in the context of economic growth, how would connectivity benefit the society, etc. The event concluded with a group discussion session among the audience who represented every sector of the community including- government, corporate, academic entities as well as individuals.

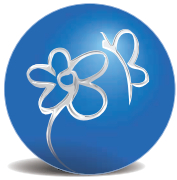


Materiality Matrix Workshop

Arabia CSR Network recently organised a successful Materiality Matrix Workshop in Dubai as part of its continuing move to help today's companies and organisations on how to design, develop and implement a successful CSR/sustainability strategy based on key impacts and material issues. The event was attended by participants that play an important role in their organisation's CSR and sustainability initiatives and also by individuals wanting to learn more about how to prioritise CSR issues and align them to a complementing business strategy. Held on October 23rd, the one day workshop taught participants how to apply the best approaches to follow in engaging stakeholders; identifying issues and prioritising them in terms of importance, and materiality in various standards like GRI, AA1000 and SASB.



The workshop also highlighted practical examples and featured interactive sessions. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, President and CEO, ACSRN, said, "Materiality is being seen as an important driver in the efforts to run a successful CSR/sustainability campaign. It is a cornerstone of the strategy, which ensures that the right decisions are made--leading to the long-term success of the strategy. In line with this, we successfully organised a one-day workshop that focused on the materiality matrix--teaching participants about the best approaches and guidelines to follow, along with key examples to review and discuss. This workshop will be highly effective in building the requisite capacity for CSR/sustainability strategy formulation and sustainability reporting."



GRI Standards Trainings

ACSRN, a certified training partner of Global Reporting Initiative, ran two three-day training courses on the GRI Standards on September 26th, 27th and 28th as well as October 24th, 25th and 26th, 2017. They focused on the latest iteration of the GRI sustainability reporting standard with an aim to help organisations better understand and communicate their non-financial performance and their sustainability related impacts. The individual sessions that the trainings were broken into included Sustainable Development Goals, Sustainability Reporting & about GRI, Overview of GRI Standards, The (Foundation, General Disclosures), its continued (Management Approach, Topic Specific Standards), Reporting process – Part One (Applying Reporting Principles, Reporting General Disclosures), Reporting process – Part Two (Material Topics & Boundary), Reporting process – Part Three (In accordance) and Reporting process: Part Four (Presenting & Compiling Information). A session on the support services, resources and tools offered by GRI to reporting organisations was also delivered to the participants for each training. The trainings concluded with a highly effective exercise wherein participants reviewed and evaluated two GRI Standards compliant reports issued from the Region. This practical activity ensured that the participants had fully grasped the content of the training module and were able to successfully apply the knowledge they had gained.

The accredited course content was delivered through lectures, discussions, exercises, and case studies. The trainer spearheaded extensive and free-flowing discussions on the new GRI Standards to help participants begin their reporting process using the latest criteria. A certificate was issued to each attendee upon the successful completion of the course from the Headquarters of GRI in Amsterdam.

Members Update

McDonald's sustainability challenges and achievements

The biggest challenge for McDonald's UAE is "making people buy more salads," according to its managing director and partner Rafic Fakih. There is little demand from UAE customers for healthy options at the fast food chain, which is most popular for its burgers. However, the low demand has not stopped the US brand, operated by Emirates Fast Food in the UAE, from making healthier changes to its products. Last year, McDonald's reduced the fat content in its classic mayonnaise and decreased its calorie count by 50 percent. It also started cooking its fried food using a blend of sunflower and canola oil that has 80 percent less saturated fat. In the UAE, McDonald's cooking oil goes to a factory in Jebel Ali where it is reproduced to become diesel, but from a vegetable source, not from petrol, which makes it sustainable. So far, it has covered up to 7m km since 2011 with its oil.



Mutaz Ghandour of Metito Named Water's Longest-Serving Chief Executive

Mutaz Ghandour, Metito Chairman and CEO, named the longest-serving Chief Executive in the Water Business as reported by Global Water Intelligence (GWI). Running long-term businesses need long-term leaders, and Mutaz Ghandour has been leading Metito Group successfully for more than 51 years demonstrating that there is no limits to success when there is a deep rooted vision and a committed leader who is able to inspire his people every day, everywhere.

DEWA and Honeywell team up to deliver smart energy to Dubai

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has appointed Honeywell (NYSE: HON) to help deliver a first-of-its-kind smart energy project in the Middle East, which will see Honeywell provide a further 150,000 smart meters in addition to the 250,000 it has already deployed across Dubai. The multi-million-dollar initiative will enable Dubai to manage electricity use more effectively within the residential sector across the city. Honeywell's smart meters support DEWA's commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency. Unlike traditional meters, smart meters give customers access to detailed and automatic readings of both their current and historical energy usage, allowing them to better understand and control their consumption.

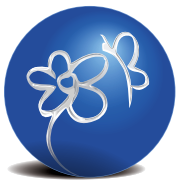
DEWA has set ambitious targets for implementing advanced technologies in line with the strategic direction of UAE Vision 2021 and the Dubai Plan 2021. DEWA expects to have installed more than 1 million smart meters by 2020, covering the whole Emirate, replacing all mechanical and electromechanical meters. The Smart Grid is a key component of DEWA's strategy to develop advanced infrastructure to support Dubai's efforts to become a smart and happy city. In addition, it supports the Demand Side Management Strategy, to reduce energy and water use by 30% by 2030, and also supports the Dubai Plan 2021.

DEWA's programmes, initiatives, and awareness campaigns have helped reduce electricity by 19% and water consumption by 28% in the residential sector between 2009 and 2016. Consumption of electricity in the commercial sector has been reduced by 10% and water 30%, and by 15% and 21% respectively in the industrial sector. Educational institutions have decreased their electricity use by 9% and water by 24% over the same period, with government and semi-government buildings making savings of 12% and 21% respectively.

Dutco Balfour Beatty to build DEWA's sustainable HQ in Dubai

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has awarded the contract for the construction of the first phase of its new headquarters, Al Sheraa to Dutco Balfour Beatty, the UAE-based contractor. Al Sheraa is set to be the tallest, largest and smartest government net Zero Energy Building (ZEB) in the world. It will have more than two million square feet, covering more than 200,000sqft of land at the heart of the Cultural Village in Al Jadaf. The building will have 16,500sqm of photovoltaic solar panels on the roof, which will produce in excess of 3,500kW. It will also include an addition 2,000sqm of building-integrated photovoltaic panels. In total, the building is expected to generate total renewable energy of more than 5,800MWh per year.

Al Sheraa's design has been inspired by the traditional houses in the UAE, with enclosed spaces overlooking an open courtyard. The courtyard will be the focal point, and the most prominent feature of the building. To reduce heat in the open courtyard, a sail design is used to provide shaded areas. Natural light during the day will stream through specific openings in the sail, giving sufficient light without the associated heat. It will also feature trees, planted areas, and plants within a sustainable environment. The building will use the latest technologies including the Internet of Things, IoT, Big Data and Open Data, and Artificial Intelligence, AI. Robots will be used for cleaning and to provide security services. Dewa's new headquarters is targeted to receive a platinum rating by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).



Case Study from the Archive - Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services Partnership Project



Abstract

Sponsor10 is a unique project conceived and rolled out by Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services. The project provides an avenue to banks and private companies in UAE to exercise their social responsibility by supporting specialists and professional work teams working with children with disabilities in the Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services. The project's partner is Bank of Sharjah, that delivers an annual donation for a period of 5 years, which takes care of the salaries of physiotherapists and occupational therapy department staff in SCHS.

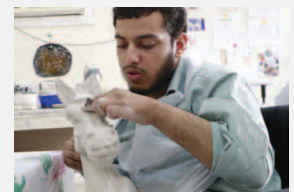
The project is a timely one that aligns well with national strategies and mandates and has been conducted under the auspices of Sharjah's leadership. The project hinges upon the provision of services for early intervention and disability awareness through natural and occupational therapy at an early age. It is a national priority to harness the capacities of all citizens to the fullest, given that everything that will be invested on the child will return to the community in the future and support substantial savings for the national economy.

The Sponsor 10 project is a great showcase of cross sector partnership and collaboration. It succeeds in creating synergies between the nonprofit and private sectors. It ensures salaries of specialists on a continuous basis, provides technology support to students that is crucial for their rehabilitation, manages to attract people with the right capabilities required for special needs, and allows companies to contribute through a socially responsible initiative.

It is remarkable that project partners, in spite of not having technical know how or expertise to deal with disabilities, are able to provide the foundation on which SCHS succeeds in reaching out to hundreds of people with disabilities. The project therefore clearly demonstrates that a common vision and the will to create long term societal value are good ingredients for success, and pivotal in the initiation of partnerships for sustainable development.

Lessons Learnt

- The need to form an integrated team of marketing for the project in order to achieve its outputs
- Drive social responsibility by government and private institutions to fulfill society's needs



Arabia CSR Best Practices: 2016

This abstract has been taken from the ACSRN publication titled 'Arabia CSR Best Practices: 2016'. For more details on - Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services and other companies that have been recognised for their innovative and effective CSR strategies write to us at admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.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@arabiaccsrnetwork.com
For more information on the Arabia CSR Network visit www.arabiaccsrnetwork.com