



الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الإجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

Arabia CSR Network

newsletter

December 2017
Volume 6 | Issue 76



The Sustainable City hosts the Arabia CSR Network session with Swedish CSR Ambassador



Best Practices from the Archive: Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) pg7

Arabia CSR Upcoming Trainings	Pg 2
Members Update:	Pg 4
Feature Article: 'They lied': Bolivia's untouchable Amazon lands at risk once more	Pg 5

Follow us on:

LinkedIn

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

Facebook

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

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/ArabiaCSR>

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

WE ARE SOCIAL!



Note from the President & CEO Arabia CSR Network

According to the Swedish government, Sweden is to become one of the world's first fossil-free welfare nations, and the Government is now implementing the largest initiatives on climate and the environment in modern times. With SEK 300 million investments per year between 2018–2040 in support of the transition towards zero net emissions of greenhouse gases, Sweden's climate policy is ranked as the best within the EU. Statistics from the Swedish Standards Institute show that Sweden has one of the highest per-capita levels of environmentally certified companies in the world. Arabia CSR Network has had the privilege of collaborating with the Embassy of Sweden in the UAE, Swedish Business Council and CSR Sweden for a number of years. We have had continuous support from the CSR Ambassadors of Sweden. I recall with great pleasure the instances of good will, encouragement

and cooperation extended by the former Swedish CSR Ambassador, Mr. Bengt Johansson, who was a speaker in several Arabia CSR Forums. I was therefore delighted to be contacted by the Swedish Embassy with the request to organise a session with leading businesses in the UAE and the new CSR Ambassador. It was not surprising that we had many things in common; we share a deep conviction in the power of business to change the current trajectory of growth and development, backed by robust policy frameworks and a forward looking agenda.

According to the UN flagship World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2017 report, global policy cooperation and coordination are crucial to achieve further and equitable economic gains in trade and investment, to expedite clean technology transfer, to raise climate finance, to strengthen international tax cooperation and to address the challenges posed by large movements of refugees and migrants. The report proposes more investments in research and development, education, and infrastructure, fully integrated with structural reforms targeting various aspects of sustainable development, including poverty, inequality and climate change. However on the environmental front the report indicated that the level of global carbon emissions had stalled for two consecutive years, pointing towards declining energy intensity of economic activities and the rising share of renewables in the overall energy structure. The report also found that renewable energy investment in the developing countries exceeded that of the developed countries in 2015. In January of this year UAE announced its intention to invest \$163bn (£134bn) in projects to generate half of the nation's power needs from renewables by 2050 and says it wants to balance economic needs against environmental goals. DEWA is leading the quest for sustainable energy development in the country. UAE President & Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum had famously said, "He who does not think of energy is not thinking about the future." At the Arabia CSR Network we are advocating tirelessly for sustainable development enshrined in the 17 SDGs and will continue to focus our efforts towards more partnerships and collaborations at the national, the regional and the global level to fulfill our vision, mission and objectives.

Arabia CSR Upcoming Trainings

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 *10 days before the training
--------------------------------------	--

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

Note: Participants can only avail one discount.

GRI STANDARDS THE FUTURE OF REPORTING

Universal	Essential	Advanced	Optional
GRI 100	GRI 200	GRI 300	GRI 400

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.

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

www.arabiacsrnetwork.com
www.facebook.com/arabiacsrnetwork
@arabiacsrnetwork

Organised by: EEG, UNEP, etc.

In Association with: etc.

Sponsored by: EGA, etc.

20th Dec 2017, UAE

Panel Discussion on the topic Innovation, Sustainable Development - New Manifesto for SDG's

It is said that meeting the interlinked global challenges of poverty reduction, social justice and environmental sustainability is the great moral and political imperative of our age. This can be fulfilled by a transformative change in our thinking and performance of innovation.

Apart from science and technology, it precludes new ideas, institutions, practices, behaviours and social relations that shape scientific and technological development, purposes, applications and outcomes. Social and economic innovations are essential and must themselves become the drivers of change.

All of this will entail new institutions (or restructured old ones) that actively further the nexus of science & technology and located needs & demands, and the creation of new learning platforms, virtual and face-to-face. Investment should extend its focus from rudimentary science, to other aspects of the innovation system, including engineering, design, science services, and social entrepreneurship.

Speakers:

Mr. Taher Diab
Senior Director,
Strategy & Planning
Dubai Supreme Council of Energy
Secretary General,
Emirate Energy Awards

Mr. Esam Al Mazroei
Vice Chairman,
Bahri & Mazroei Group

More speakers in the pipeline

Register Now!

Entry Fee:

Non Member	AED 250
Member	AED 150
University Students	AED 50

Tel: +971 (4) 344 8120 +971 (4) 344 8622 Fax: +971 (4) 344 8677

info@arabiacsrnetwork.com www.facebook.com/arabiacsrnetwork twitter.com/arabiacsr www.linkedin.com/company/arabiacsrnetwork



Arabia CSR News



Roundtable with Ms. Diana Madunic Swedish CSR Ambassador

8th November 2017
10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Venue:
Information Center in Sustainable City



Arabia CSR Network organises session with Swedish Ambassador for CSR

In November ACSRN organised an exclusive by invitation only roundtable session with the visiting CSR Ambassador of Sweden, Diana Madunic. Ms Madunic began her diplomatic career at the Swedish MFA in 1999 and has served as Sweden's CSR Ambassador since April 2015. The event was conducted in cooperation with the Swedish Business Council and Embassy of Sweden, and was hosted by The Sustainability City on November 8th.

The overall aim of the roundtable was to provide participants with an insight into Sweden's approach to Corporate Social Responsibility as a global best practice. The event provided a platform for discussion on the latest innovation in CSR in the Arab region as well as Sweden's extensive experiences at promoting CSR in the industrial and commercial sectors. Sweden is a recognised global leader in CSR and sustainability, having designated an ambassador for CSR (the only example in the world) and mandating sustainability reporting among public sector enterprises since 2007. Sweden has always been very keen to share their experiences in CSR and help other countries to become sustainable. For example, Sweden contributes heavily to climate measures abroad, and is the largest donor per person to several climate-related funds, such as the Green Climate Fund, the adjustment fund and the global environmental facility. The government has committed to provide SEK 185 million each, to the funds for climate adaptation in the least developed and vulnerable countries.

Ms. Madunic's presentation touched on several critical points. She acknowledged the positive relationship shared by UAE and Sweden, and added that the Swedish Government is keen to strengthen CSR amongst the Swedish companies across the world and extend its cooperation with every country to further this objective. She discussed the CSR Policy of Sweden which aims to ensure that Swedish companies adopt a more sustainable business model by embedding environmental sustainability, decent working conditions, anti-corruption, gender equality, diversity and business ethics.

Opening the session ACSRN President & CEO Habiba Al Mar'ashi noted, 'We have had a long history of association with the Swedish Business Council and the Embassy of Sweden, whose support to this event is highly appreciated. We have had the privilege to work with Mr. Bengt Johansson, former CSR Ambassador of Sweden and Ms. Madunic's predecessor. It is wonderful to know that the government of Sweden is one of the strongest forces globally to push forward the agenda of sustainable development. We are honoured to be a collaborator and look forward to continuing to exchange knowledge and experience.'

A productive exchange took place among the Ambassador and the invited guests about the Swedish experience on CSR, local practices and examples. The session ended with a tour of The Sustainable City that highlights best practices in sustainable living. The 5 million square feet of sustainable residential development is a net zero energy city, primed to scale up sustainability in the built environment sector in the Middle East. It showcases the best possibilities in green living including being powered by 10 MWP from solar energy; the use of recycled water, the city is car free apart from the use of electric vehicles in restricted areas and the propagation of biodiversity across the city including at least 10,000 trees.



Members Update

DEWA organises annual conference on Quality, Health, Safety and Environment

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) recently organised the 9th Annual Conference for Best Practices in the fields of Quality, Health, Safety, and Environment. The conference is considered a leading platform for promoting best practices, identifying current challenges, consolidating local and international efforts, and reviewing the experiences of leading and innovative partner companies in smart, innovative, quality, health, safety and environmental solutions through day-to-day dialogues and workshops. The conference was attended by HE Ahmed Buti Al Muhairbi, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Energy, senior officials from the public and private sectors including from DEWA, as well as local and international specialists in quality, health, safety and environment. Speaking at the inaugural event HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA said, “To achieve the Dubai Plan 2021, which aims for Dubai to become a smart city with clean, healthy, and sustainable environmental elements, we at DEWA apply the highest standards and best global practices in the fields of quality, health, and safety. This comes as part of the integrated management systems policy, ensuring highest standards of availability, reliability, quality and safety to achieve happiness for our customers, partners, employees, and protect the environment and our natural resources.”



DEWA's achievements have brought it unique international accolades. In 2016, DEWA was awarded the Sword of Honour for Health and Safety for the 10th time. According to the British Safety Council DEWA is the only organisation worldwide to win two awards: Globe of Honour Awards for the environment and the Sword of Honour for health and safety, for five consecutive years, to be the first international organisation to win the two prestigious awards at the same time. DEWA is the first in the GCC to receive the international recognition. DEWA is also the first in the MENA region and among only 7 countries worldwide to win both awards for six consecutive years, from 2011 to the current year, according to HE Mr. Al Tayer.

Source: <https://www.dewa.gov.ae>

EGA programme to boost careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and mathematics for Emiratis

Emirates Global Aluminium, the largest non-oil industrial company in the United Arab Emirates launched a national programme in November to encourage high school students to consider further studies and careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The ‘Engineer the Future’ programme will target 8,000 students in 30 schools across the UAE with interactive learning sessions on aluminium and the fundamental science on which the aluminium industry is based. The programme will aid scientific and critical thinking as well as analytical and collaborative working skills among the students.



EGA launched the programme in support of ‘UAE Vision 2021’ that calls for UAE students to reach world-class attainment in science and mathematics and promotes UAE's transition to a knowledge-based economy based on innovation, research and development. EGA currently employs over 1,540 professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics-based roles, from laboratory scientists to financial analysts. Over 500 of this group are UAE Nationals and almost 200 are women, according to the company. Abdulla Kalban, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at EGA, said: “We all recognise that we need more scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians to build the UAE of tomorrow. That includes EGA, where we need these forward-thinkers to grow and one day lead our business. This programme is one way EGA can encourage more students to study these subjects and consider these important careers with us or with other companies that are engineering our national future.”

Earlier in the month, EGA hosted twenty-six PhD and Master's students from Masdar Institute. The students visited EGA's headquarters in Al Taweelah, and were given a tour of the carbon plant, the casthouse, and the power plant, where students asked technical questions and were addressed by senior members of EGA teams.

Source: <https://www.ega.ae>



General News

New Endowment Laws open up Waqf to individuals and institutions

The newly issued Law No.14 of 2017 for regulating endowments marks a great step in the direction of community development in the UAE. The legislation offers a modern, legal framework in support of the UAE's vision on humanitarian and charity contributions, and position Dubai as a global humanitarian hub. Up until the issuance of the new law, all endowment projects have been carried out through the Awqaf and Minors Affairs Foundation (AMAF), the regulatory authority on endowments. As per legislation, any individual, company or organisation can secure a licence from AMAF to set up their own endowment fund by fulfilling relevant criteria.

Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy, set up last year under the directives of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President & Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, will confer the Dubai Endowment Sign to licensed endowment institutions for a range of humanitarian, cultural, scientific and development projects, as per another new law; - Law No. 17 of 2017 Such institutions will be granted special privileges such as government procurements, setting up and selection of contracts.

Tayeb Al Rais, secretary general of AMAF said, "The new Endowment Law (Law No. 14 of 2017) that has come into force is a call to action and inspiration for individuals and institutions, paving the way for a new phase of development in the UAE society." "The innovative endowment sector launched by Sheikh Mohammed and strengthened through this new law offers an opportunity for private sector institutions of all sizes to deploy endowment initiatives that contribute to the development of our society." remarked Dr Hamad Al Hammadi, secretary general of MBRGCEC.

Feature Article

'They lied': Bolivia's untouchable Amazon lands at risk once more



Locals blame coca interests for the state's broken promise on protecting Tipnis national park, biodiversity hotspot and home to thousands of indigenous people

When Ovidio Teco's Amazon homeland was declared "untouchable" by the Bolivian government in 2011, his war had been won. The concerns of people like him had been listened to: their beautiful and ancient land would not be carved in two by a 190-mile highway. That year, a demonstration half a decade in the making saw thousands of indigenous people march for nearly two months to the Bolivian capital, La Paz, protesting over the route that would have cut through the heart of the park.

The marchers endured teargas and truncheons at the hands of the authorities, but they persevered, won an audience with President Evo Morales and forced the government's hand. The road was shelved and the Isiboro Sécure Indigenous Territory and National Park (Tipnis) was granted a new special status, rendering it off limits to such major and invasive building projects.

But six years later, the Bolivian government has backtracked. A bill rushed through congress, culminating in the stroke of a pen by Morales on Sunday 13 August, nullifies the park's status as untouchable, paving the way for the road to be built after all.

Teco is seated at the head of his kitchen table. His voice trembles as he gesticulates fervently. "They lied, nothing more. After the march we thought the park would not be touched. This situation is all lies." Teco is a small-time farmer of cacao, the base product of chocolate, in the Mojeño community of Gundonovia, a remote settlement of about 40 families in the north-east of the park. It sits metres from the silently flowing Isiboro river, the peace punctuated only by the puff of pink river dolphins surfacing to breathe. Alligators line the banks, motionless, mouths agape, as they take in the sun.

Spanning an area of 1.2m hectares, Tipnis is home to close to 14,000 inhabitants, mainly indigenous people of the Mojeño-Trinitario, Yuracaré and Tsimané groups. Like Teco, many fear building a



road through the park will destroy its biodiversity. A 2011 study by the Programme for Strategic Investigation in Bolivia forecast 64% deforestation of the park within 18 years if the road is built.

“It’s not the road itself. It’s what comes with it. Coca producers will go and settle down and get new land inside the park. And after that comes, they take the wood, plant coca leaves, etc. And where the road will run is the richest part,” says Pablo Solón, a former ambassador to the UN, who resigned from the Morales administration in 2011 over the Tipnis dispute.

The park’s heartland, where the planned road will run, is sacred to many indigenous groups and is where the animals take refuge during the rainy season, and where many indigenous people go to hunt them. “The day the government rips up the land, this is all going to disappear. Who is going to suffer? It will be us who live in Tipnis. The animals will die. And so will we,” says Teco.

The government claims that removing the lands’ untouchable status is necessary to provide basic services to the local communities and construct educational and healthcare facilities. It also repeatedly cites a 2012 consultation that indicated the move was backed by locals. “It was their decision. They want to improve their living conditions. They want a road,” says Susana Rivero Guzmán, a deputy in Bolivia’s ruling Movimiento al Socialismo (Mas) party, noting the consultation found 58 of 68 communities in Tipnis backed removing untouchability.

But locals claim the survey was rigged. They say that only carefully selected people in the various communities were consulted, and those who took part were granted perks. “They gave the people cellphones, they gave them cookers, they gave them televisions, they gave them grants, they gave them motors. So that in the end, they saw that they wanted the road. Everything was shady,” says Teco.

A joint assessment by the International Federation of Human Rights, the Bolivian Permanent Assembly of Human Rights and the Catholic church in 2016 concluded that the consultation had been “neither free nor informed and did not respect the principle of good faith”.

Some residents could stomach a road through the park, if it gave them greater access to the outside world, but the proposed route, connecting Villa Tunari and San Ignacio de Moxos runs through the centre of the park, far away from the communities, which are concentrated along its eastern flank. “If there were some benefits, I would support it. But there is not one benefit for us,” says Carmen Leni, a schoolteacher in Gundonovia, swatting mosquitoes from her legs with a tea towel. “If it allowed people to send and bring goods, it would be OK, but this will not be the result. The road will not come through here.” Adolfo Moye, a former community leader, agreed. “Absolutely – I would be in favour of a road that served the communities. These people are isolated. They need access to outside. But the planned road serves not a single person here.”



Locals believe the real purpose of the road is to benefit the cocaleros – coca growers – who have colonised the park’s southern “Polygon Seven” region, allowing them to push northward. Farmers of the coca leaf – consumed for centuries by Andean communities for its medicinal and religious properties, and also the basis of cocaine – are a key support base for the incumbent Mas government. President Morales was once a cocalero himself.

The conflict in large part boils down to the diametrically opposed viewpoints of different groups, according to Carwil Bjork-James, an anthropologist at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. “My general take is that the side-by-side communities of coca growers and Yuracaré, Mojeño and Tsiminé community residents have worldviews that are poles apart, at least when it comes to plans for land and territory,” he says.

“For the cocaleros everything has revolved around finding a viable cash crop and converting a little piece of forest into the plot where you can earn an income ... But for the residents deeper in the forest ... their religious vision of a sacred hill or holy land is about a place without property lines where they can get their necessities from the land and rivers.” Solón fears this could be a watershed moment. He says the move is a show of strength by the government, keen to lay down a marker that it will not be dictated to by indigenous communities. “From my point of view the Tipnis situation is much bigger than a road. It’s a kind of model of development that the government wants to put in place. It’s like when you hit the table and you say, ‘Look, we’re going to do it – yes or yes,’” he says.

For Teco it is part of a wider standoff between those who want to protect the environment and external interests that would seek to harm it. “The environment gives us life,” he says. “The day that they raise the block on this zone, it collapses. We already feel climate change. Worldwide, human beings are going to suffer. “We’re going to continue fighting to the end,” he adds. “So long as we have life, we will continue fighting.”

Credit: Myles McCormick in The Guardian



Case Study from the Archive - Emirates National Oil Company



Abstract

ENOC has been a well-known name in the Oil & Gas sector in the UAE, and evolved into a strong global player as well. ENOC has also made significant strides in CSR and sustainability, driven by the national vision of Green Economy, sustainability, sustainable energy and so on. ENOC has taken its role as an energy producer very seriously, looking for ways to become environmentally responsible in process, product and operations.

A management backed approach to CSR and sustainability has ensured that the organisation seeks out ways to address environmental impacts. Sustainability being embedded into the vision, mission and values does make the task smoother and more strategic. The four CSR pillars that ENOC have adopted are employees, community, environment, and economics. In each of these areas, ENOC has floated solid initiatives that have made it ultimately a winner of the Arabia CSR Awards. Some outstanding achievements are reflected in the green energy initiatives, for example, to construct the first green station of the Middle East, to offer charging stations for electric vehicles, and so on.

ENOC recommends more regulatory measures and stakeholder scrutiny for the Oil & Gas sector for it to become more committed to the sustainability imperative. At the same time ENOC also acknowledges the efforts taken by the sector to minimise its impacts through product innovation, such as low carbon fuels, cleaner fuel mixes and advanced biofuels. ENOC expects the government to push for more transparency, accountability and benchmarking from the sector and a bigger uptake of non-financial disclosures. ENOC would like to see more stakeholder engagement in sustainability pursuits. From these beliefs, ENOC has taken significant measures that have yielded tangible outcomes for the organisation. A dedicated Corporate Social Responsibility Guiding Principle has been very effectual in mobilising the entire organisation and business units to embrace best practices targeted towards environment, employees and the community.

With the sustainable development goals coming into the forefront of the global sustainability movement, businesses like ENOC have an important role to play in assisting their country in the adoption of these Global Goals. Sustainable consumption and production, one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, relies heavily on the responsibility of businesses to become responsible and sustainable in the long run. ENOC is well set on the path to sustainability and will continue to reap the fruits of their early efforts. The culture change that ENOC seeks to craft within the organisation will need time to grow and spread. The move to publish a sustainability report will help ENOC to assess and disclose its year on year progress in sustainability and will bolster its image to stakeholders that buy its products and services and those that work alongside it. The move to engage stakeholders in a structured manner and identify material sustainability issues reflects that ENOC has taken the right approach to go forward. It will propel the organisation to yet newer heights of success in ensuring stakeholders' voices are heard. A greater focus on social issues like human rights and labour rights and the drive to go beyond compliance will truly make ENOC a sustainability pioneer in the market.

Arabia CSR Best Practices: 2016

This abstract has been taken from the ACSRN publication titled 'Arabia CSR Best Practices: 2016'. For more details on - ENOC 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