

ارابيا سي اس آر نتورك
CSR
Arabia CSR Network®

CSR ARABIA

Arabia CSR Network

newsletter

December 2012
Issue 16



WORLD FORUM LILLE
RESPONSIBLE ECONOMY



Representing the Arab Region at the World Forum for Responsible Economy in Lille, France story on page 3



GRI TRAINING 23RD-25TH DECEMBER

Reflections on the Arabia CSR Awards from Dr. Ashraf Gamal - page 2

Arabia CSR Network's Training Calendar 2013 - page 5

DEWA accepts Awards from the British Safety Council - page 6

Corruption and GHG emissions - two of the most talked-about sustainability issues according to GRI - page 7



ارابيا سي اس آر نتورك
CSR
Arabia CSR Network®

Note by the CEO / President Arabia CSR Network

Habiba Al Mar'ashi



A very happy 41st National Day for UAE and greetings from the Arabia CSR Network!

In the mid of November, I was offered the excellent opportunity to represent the Arab region at the wonderful World Forum Lille, a conference that brought together thousands of business leaders and students to discuss strategies for responsible business. The experience was tremendously enriching as I participated in panels, lunch sessions and speeches with colleagues from Etisalat, Tristar Transport and the Egyptian Foodbank. I certainly hope to form and accompany a much bigger delegation to the Forum next year.



Friends, this year has been very good for the Arabia CSR Network. We have been able to gather much momentum with our activities and have been blessed with many useful partnerships along the way. 2013 promises to be much better as we enhance our training portfolio (see our training calendar in this issue) and also introduce our social assurance services. Please get in touch with us to learn how we can assist you to improve your sustainability implementation and impact. This month, we have on offer a very useful GRI certified training on sustainability reporting. For those of you who plan to publish a sustainability report at the end of 2013, this training is an excellent opportunity to start right on time. I will also be representing the Arabia CSR Network and the Emirates Environmental Group at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 18) in Doha, Qatar and the UN Global Compact meet in Cairo, Egypt. I certainly hope that both events will result in meaningful changes for the Arab region.

Suggestions for Arabia CSR Network's activities in 2013 are very welcome and we do appreciate your feedback. So please contact us via email, phone, or a meeting at our office in Dubai to let us know what else we could be doing to keep the CSR and sustainability momentum alive and kicking! Also stay in touch with us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to learn about our various activities and events.

Arabia CSR Awards

الجائزة
القرنية
للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية
للمؤسسات



ARABIA
CORPORATE
SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY
AWARDS

Reflections from Dr. Ashraf Gamal, Head of the Arabia CSR Awards Jury

Another round of the Arabia CSR Awards (ACSRA) has come; we are now at the end of the 5th cycle of the award. This year, we have received 61 applications from 11 different Arab countries. Events at many countries of the region have focused their attention on the role of business organization in societies and the importance they play in bridging the gap between the rich and the poor.

We were therefore glad to see that 9 companies have applied for the Corporate-NGO project category. We perceive partnerships between corporate organizations and NGOs to be a good way to serve the community and conduct effective CSR activities. During the jury deliberations and discussions, it became evident that



companies are getting more and more mature in the way in which they approach CSR. Companies now pay attention to a larger number of CSR related issues in ways that indicate that the fruits that we at Arabia CSR Awards were expecting are actually coming along nicely. This was particularly clear in companies that applied for the 2nd and 3rd time this year. The jury was also impressed by the advanced CSR practices of medium and small companies that were usually expected to be reluctant to embrace CSR at all.

Certain CSR areas were luckier than others. Most companies put more efforts to reach high standards on the environment and on labor rights, while few companies put equal emphasis on human rights and corporate governance. We also found that while some companies invest in projects to help communities support the environment, they forget to assess their own operations' impact



on the environment. Companies also need to have clear and quantifiable environment, social and governance goals in order to make sure that such goals can be achieved and assessed.

There is still some mixing up between human rights and labor rights. Although labor rights naturally fall within human rights, companies must also look beyond their own borders and evaluate the impact their operations, products, and services may have on human rights at large.

As the jury, we are delighted to see how companies have advanced so far. There is always more to be done, as for CSR, the sky is the limit. Companies have challenges, but looking at the region, it does not look like anything is impossible. From our side, we are constantly revising the survey, reviewing questions, so that companies' answers get us closer to reality and enable us to fairly assess and rank the contestants.

Jury members have spent considerable amount of time reading through answers, reports, company websites, and discussing with each other to reach for a final decision. It is quite fair to say that without the hard work of my colleagues and fellow judges, this mission would have never been completed successfully. Special thank you to Matthias Stausberg, Ralph Thurm, and Dr. Grace Ugut for their dedication and hard work, and for all the weekends they spent reading company reports and surveys.

We all, however, owe it to Habiba Al Marashi for her determination to start such a wonderful award and for her sincere devotion to improving the level of CSR in companies at the region. Habiba has also managed to put together a wonderful team at the ACSRA that did their job in a very professional manner and helped the jury throughout the process.

*Looking forward to the next round of the Arabia CSR Awards,
Dr. Ashraf Gamal*



World Forum Lille

Arabia CSR Network addresses thousands at World Forum on Responsible Business in Lille, France

The Arabia CSR Network represented the Arab region at the prestigious World Responsible Economy Forum organized in the city of Lille France. The Forum was attended by more than 5000 people comprising business leaders, sustainability professionals and students.

Speaking at the event, Ms. Habiba Al Marashi, President of the Arabia CSR Network, stated "In the Arab region, we are at a critical juncture where many countries have seen warning signs that business as usual cannot go on. Both the public and the private sector will have to conduct themselves responsibly, in terms of governance and transparency, labor and human rights, environmental preservation and social contribution if they want to survive and thrive."

The World Forum Lille, headed by former French Minister, Mr. Philippe Vasseur, hosted influential actors from across the globe to showcase their CSR and sustainability best practices for a responsible economy. The 2012 Forum addressed four key

issues: Sustainable Marketing, Corporate Models, Governance & Management and Sustainable Purchasing. Each of these issues was deliberated upon both from a theoretical and practical lens by a number of business leaders and leading thinkers.

Ms. Al Marashi participated at the Forum by heading a CSR Networking Lunch for the Arab region, followed by moderating a panel session titled 'Sustainably exporting a business overseas' and finally speaking at a CSR Network's Forum on the third day. Ms. Al Marashi's Arab delegation also included Mr. Ahmed bin Ali, Senior Vice President for Corporate Communications, Etisalat Group (UAE); Mr. Moez El Shohdi, CEO of the Egyptian Food Bank (Egypt) and Mr. Eugene Mayne, CEO of Tristar Transport (UAE). Each of these individuals actively participated at the Forum by speaking in a number of panels that addressed issues such as 'Rebalancing a company's value between economic development and social development' and 'Responsible entrepreneurship'.

Bin Ali said: "In real estate you say location, location, location. At Etisalat we say 'people, people, people'. In our markets we require a significant talent pool of technical staff as well as leaders with a long-term vision and the capacity to deliver, and they must eventually be trained and groomed from within the markets we operate. This is why over the last three decades the Etisalat Group has made great efforts and invested in training and education to ensure we have the most talented employees from local markets that are capable of competing with the best in the world and providing the best services to our customers."

Mr. Mayne of Tristar Transport presented several CSR projects of the company in the UAE, Qatar, Pakistan, Africa and Guam, among others. The company is a recipient of the 2011 Arabia CSR



Award under Best Newcomer Category. On another panel, Mr. El Shohdi of the Egyptian Food Bank spoke at length about how an organization that works towards social development can become a profitable business model and one that can be successfully replicated in many parts of the world.

Also participating at the Forum were a large group of international businesses such as Arc International, Uniapac Foundation, Toyota Moteur Europe, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Ethos Institute, Ashoka Europe, International Co-operative Alliance, Terre Policy Center, Global Reporting Initiative, Ethics Institute of South Africa and many more.

The objective of the World Forum was to advance responsible economy by highlighting sustainable business practices and examples that have created a positive impact in the economy, environment and in various aspects of society. Launched for the

first time in 2007, the World Forum has gathered nearly 18,000 participants in 5 years, shared more than 650 best practices, and organized over 125 conferences and workshops with nearly 360 participants from 61 nationalities.

About the World Forum Lille: The World Forum Lille is an international event organized by Réseau Alliances, a regional CSR network in the North of France; Réseau Alliances is working closely with the regional companies (200 members representing 30% of the economic weight of the region) in order to promote CSR. They organize an annual awards program, workshops, training, and conferences. Every year the World Forum Lille gathers 4000 people during 3 days to present successful examples and best practices of business responsibility of companies of all sizes, activities and from all continents. *For more information, please visit <http://www.worldforum-lille.org/en/>*

CSR Training & Workshops

GRI Sustainability Reporting Training – September ~~December~~ 23-25, 2012

GRI Sustainability Reporting Training – December 23-25, 2012 Sustainability Reporting is gradually becoming a big 'should have' for corporate organizations and also government and non-governmental entities. The biggest benefit of publishing a sustainability report is that it allows organizations to go through the process of understanding their sustainability impacts, measuring and reporting it, and eventually managing it better. The most common framework that organizations are using to develop their sustainability reports is the one developed by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI).

To enhance the capacity of organizations in the Middle East towards more effective and transparent communication of their sustainability performance, the Arabia CSR Network is conducting a GRI sustainability reporting training from 23rd to 25th December in Dubai, UAE.

This training is extremely useful for organizations involved in Environmental Health and Safety, Environmental Compliance, Construction, Oil & Gas, Petrochemicals, Hospitality, Transportation, Finance & Accounting, Human Resources, Insurance, Real Estate, Retail Sector, Consultancy Services; Service Sector organizations; Government departments; Non

Certified Training on Sustainability Reporting using the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) framework

Learn how your organization can measure, report and improve its sustainability performance. Become skilled at integrating sustainability into your organization's operations through the internationally recognized GRI framework.

Who is this training for?
Organizations involved in Environmental Health and Safety, Environmental Compliance, Construction, Oil & Gas, Petrochemicals, Hospitality, Transportation, Finance and Accounting, Human Resources, Consultancy Services; Service Sector organizations; Government departments; Non Government Organizations and more.

What will be covered in this training?
The training will cover the following aspects of sustainability reporting:
1. Prepare: Plan your GRI sustainability reporting
2. Connect: Identify, prioritize and dialogue with your company's stakeholders
3. Define: Focus your efforts by selecting issues for action and reporting
4. Monitor: Build your report by checking processes and monitoring activities
5. Report: Launch your report and prepare for the next cycle

Training Date and Venue:
23rd – 25th Dec, 2012 | Millennium Plaza Hotel, Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai, UAE

Fee per participant:
AED 6,000 FOR ALL 3 DAYS - This will include the GRI handbook, handouts, tea and lunch
AED 5,300 EARLY-BIRD DISCOUNT: per participant if you register before Sunday, 2nd Dec 2012
AED 5,300 GROUP DISCOUNT: per participant if you register up to three or more trainees from one organization

*Please note that this training will only be finalized on registration of at least 10 participants. Please confirm your participation at the earliest.

Some organizations that have benefited from Arabia CSR Network's GRI trainings include:
Aljazeera Capital (AE), United Arab Emirates International Bank (UAE), Aseer Etihad LLC (Dubai Customs du Reconnaitrance), United Electricity and Water Authority (UAE), Emirates NBD (Emirates Society of Oman), Farak Airway (Mazda) - Saudi Arabian Mining Company (McDermott UAE), Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Pallie Group Foundation), Petrochemical Industries Co. Kuwait, RAK Ceramics (Sagya Investment Company Ltd.), WGP Environment & Energy

The Arabia CSR Network is the first GRI certified training organization in the Arab Speaking Countries of the Middle East.

For more details please visit www.arabiacsrn.com/GRI and www.globalreporting.org
To register for the training, contact us at admin@arabiacsrn.com or call us at +971-4-3448622.

Government Organizations and others that have an impact on the environment and society.

Please note that this training will only be finalized on registration of at least 10 participants; therefore, kindly confirm your participation at the earliest. For more details please visit <http://www.arabiacsrn.com/home/gri> or contact us at admin@arabiacsrn.com / +971-4-3448622.



Training Calendar 2013

The Arabia CSR Network will be organizing a series of unique and useful training courses that have been designed to help private and public companies understand how they can better strategize and implement CSR in their respective organizations.



Members update

Ajman Free Zone Authority (AFZA)

The Operations and Customer Service Departments at Ajman Free Zone Authority (AFZA) organized a speculative meeting at AFZA's courtyard with a great number of investors as part of the "Distinguished Customer" initiative titled "Cup of Coffee".

Mahmoud Khalil Al Hashmi, the Director General of AFZA made a tour to all AFZA visiting investors' tables and learnt about the views and discussion taking place between them and AFZA's employees over the requirements and proposals for supporting AFZA's services. Ms Rafia Al Suwaidi, the Acting Director of Customer Relations Department at AFZA said, "AFZA communicates with thousands of its clients through plans and initiatives satisfying their needs and requirements."

The initiative contributes towards enhancing AFZA's engagement with its external stakeholders and understanding their desires and taking the appropriate measures to improve its processes.

Source: <http://www.afza.gov.ae>

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA)

HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, recently accepted the Sword of Honour in Safety and Globe of Honour in Environment from the British Safety Council during the Sword & Globe of Honour Winners' Presentation Luncheon 2012 at the Mansion House in the City of London, England. Al Tayer dedicated these two Awards to HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.



“This is the fifth Sword of Honour that DEWA has been awarded by the British Safety Council, and the first time we have achieved the Globe of Honour. I am delighted that our efforts and strategy have been recognized with this international accolade and benchmark of our commitment to Health, Safety and the Environment,” said Al Tayer on receiving the

awards. The Sword of Honour is awarded to member organisations for their exemplary management of health and safety. The Globe of Honour is awarded for excelling in environmental management worldwide.

HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and HE Tariq Hilal Lootah, Executive President of the Dubai School of Government (DSG) recently signed an executive education contract for the Advanced Leadership Development Programme, with Ahmad Abdullah Bin Byat, Member of the Board of Trustees for Dubai School of Government, Dr. Yousef Al Akraf, Executive Vice President of Business Support at DEWA, and several senior officials from both parties present. The contract aims to launch a strong employee-oriented training initiative to strengthen DEWA's human capital development through a series of workshops, seminars and specialised training programmes.

DSG will provide DEWA with on-ground support during visits to the UK for educational purposes by drawing on its international partnerships. DEWA will also undertake regular review of its success for continuous improvements, where needed. The contract will come in to effect from 17 December, 2012.

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority's (DEWA's) suggestion scheme TAWASOL has won the Best Suggestion Scheme Award in the Platinum Category at the 26th Ideas UK conference held on 7-8 November in Bristol, England. The TAWASOL scheme won the award after fierce competition with programs submitted by several high-profile organizations across the globe.

The Ideas UK conference is organized annually in the UK and aims to recognize best practices in the field of suggestion systems, enabling organizations to benefit from staff's suggestions. “The award-winning suggestion scheme TAWASOL is a part of our strategy aimed at encouraging and enhancing the talents of our staff in line with our goals to implement our staff's suggestions and increase their loyalty and job satisfaction,” said Dr. Yousef Al Akraf.

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

Dubai Aluminium (DUBAL)

International recognition has again been received for the spirit of innovation that drives the quest for continuous improvement at Dubai Aluminium (DUBAL). The recognition platform was the 2012 Ideas.UK competition which was held recently in Bristol, United Kingdom. Seven DUBAL suggestions were short-listed for the final round of adjudication and one DUBAL suggestion took top honours in the Health & Safety Award category.

Sultan Al Sabri (Vice President: Human Resources & Organisational Effectiveness) adds that a culture of innovation is encouraged through the DUBAL Suggestion Scheme, which celebrated its 30-year anniversary in 2011. “The DUBAL Suggestion Scheme is a great tool as it gives employees on the shop-floor a forum for recommending changes to the way we do things.”

DUBAL also recently honoured a group of 19 employees, each of whom joined the company in 1987, in appreciation of their dedicated 25 years' service to the company. This year's ceremony was the ninth of its kind, having been instituted in 2004 coincident with the 25th anniversary of DUBAL's commissioning in 1979. To date, a total of 435 employees have achieved their quarter century service milestone; while more than 150 employees have celebrated 30 years' service at DUBAL. Widely regarded as an employer of choice, DUBAL won the 2003 Dubai Human Resources Award; the 2006 Dubai Human Resources Award - GOLD; and the 2010 Dubai Human Development Award.

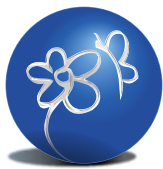
Source: <http://www.dubal.ae>



du

du recently announced the winner of ‘The Entrepreneur’ - an exciting new TV reality show presented by du, which welcomes a new genre of entrepreneurs in the UAE with impactful ideas and exceptional drive, be it their existing ventures which need recapitalisation or business plans which require start-up capital.

Loulou Khazen Baz was crowned Grand Winner of the inaugural season du's ‘The Entrepreneur’. Khazen Baz' winning title and much-coveted prize includes a cash prize of AED1 million, a



guaranteed office space for a period of one year, a dream business meeting to set her idea on track, media exposure, the chance to grow her company value, and money-can't-buy recognition, adding up to another AED1 million in prize value. The Entrepreneur, is a unique initiative by du to assist aspiring entrepreneurs to kick start their dream ventures by pitching their business concepts and/or products.

Source: <http://www.du.ae>

Emirates NBD and McDonald's UAE



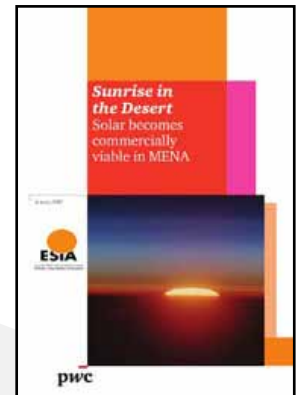
Emirates NBD and McDonald's UAE have recently announced that they will serve as sponsors for the 11th edition of the Clean UP UAE Campaign that is being organized by the Emirates Environmental Group. With a target of over 27000 participants, Clean UP UAE looks to families, schools, companies and government agencies to join hands together in this National Environmental Campaign dedicated to the preservation and conservation of our glorious UAE. Participants are asked to clean selected cleanup sites across all 7 emirates as a symbolic gesture of affection towards the environment. The goal is to create a culture of recycling among the community of the UAE.

Serving as the Main Sponsor for the Emirate of Dubai, Emirates NBD Mr. Ibrahim Sowaidan declared that "Sharing the obligation of protecting and preserving our environment is an expression of our corporate social responsibility and a realization of our principle of environmental stewardship." Coming on board again as Co-sponsors of Clean UP UAE in Dubai, McDonalds UAE Managing Director and Partner Mr. Rafic Fakhri stated "We are pleased to sponsor this year's clean-up campaign. Many of our staff members will be participating [during the event] as part of our ongoing commitment to keep our environment waste free. We hope activities like these will encourage others to take part in simple, yet effective initiatives that protects our society."

Source: <http://www.ameinfo.com>

PwC UAE

PwC and the Emirates Solar Industry Association (ESIA) revealed the results of a jointly-developed national solar power survey. The results reveal a number of important insights into the UAE solar industry. Notably, the majority of the participants view government as the key driver for the growth of solar power in the UAE. On the flip side, the absence of a feed-in tariff incentive scheme, which is viewed as the most attractive policy option, is seen as the industry's greatest challenge. Another challenge that was noted by the participants is the difficulty in obtaining bank financing for solar projects.



Hannes Reinisch, Senior Manager at PwC said: "We all know there is plenty of sunshine in the UAE and that there are plenty of parties interested in developing this resource, in line with the government's green growth agenda. Our survey highlights some of the perceived challenges in making this happen - financing, experience, regulatory certainty - challenges that the public and private sector can now focus on and resolve together."

Source: <http://www.ameinfo.com>

General News

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

Corruption and greenhouse gas emissions - two of the most talked-about sustainability issues

GRI's reporting guidance for both issues is being updated for the next generation of its Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, G4. The decision to update the coverage of anti-corruption measures and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions was driven by public input. Both were highlighted in a public Call for New Sustainability Reporting Topics held in 2011.

The proposed G4 revisions intend to support and align with the GHG Protocol, jointly released by the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and the ISO 14064 standard. Instead of reinventing the wheel, GRI's disclosure items have been made more consistent with other frameworks, and aim to aid comparability by allowing more detailed reporting.



Help shape the future of sector-specific reporting

As announced in the October Newsletter, GRI has launched a research project into material sustainability topics for sectors. In May 2013, GRI aims to publish a list of internationally-recognized material topics for business/industry activity groups, to be used as a reference in the sustainability reporting field. To prepare this list in a fair and thorough way, GRI is inviting all interested parties to provide feedback, and supporting documentation, on the most relevant sustainability topics for their sector or industry.

The deadline to provide input is 14 December 2012. For more information and to download all the necessary documents for the project, view the Material Topics Research pages on the GRI website.

The GRI Annual Report 2011/12



GRI published its Annual Report 2011/12 on 5 November. For GRI the report is a progression, combining two previously separate GRI reports: its sustainability report and its annual activity report, the Year in Review.

Using the G3.1 Guidelines and NGO Sector Supplement, the Report discloses GRI's sustainability performance to Application Level A. It also highlights the efforts of the global network to which GRI

belongs: stories of the international activity that was covered previously in the Year in Review.

Like GRI's last sustainability report, the Annual Report has benefited from the input of an External Feedback Committee (EFC). While the EFC's involvement does not replace external assurance, it does provide a way for smaller organizations to check their reporting against the expectations and needs of stakeholders and report users.

The report can be downloaded from <https://www.globalreporting.org/resourcelibrary/GRI-Annual-Report-2011-2012.pdf>

After the public spoke: A look back at the second G4 Public Comment Period

As part of the development process for the next generation of GRI Sustainability Reporting Guidelines - G4 - two Public Comment Periods (PCPs) were held between August 2011 and

September 2012. The first PCP, conducted through an online survey, gathered feedback on the direction GRI should take in developing G4. There were 1848 submissions in the first PCP. Based on the main findings, decisions were made for the next steps in the G4 development process - Working Groups were formed and the G4 Exposure Draft was shaped.

The second PCP, which ran from June to September 2012, gathered feedback on the Exposure Draft, which features significant proposed changes for the following areas: Application Levels, Boundary, Disclosure on Management Approach (DMA), Governance and Remuneration and Supply Chain. There were a total of 650 submissions of feedback on the G4 Exposure Draft during the second PCP. More information on the results of the second G4 Public Comment Period will be made available in the coming months

<https://www.globalreporting.org/information/news-and-press-center/Pages/Support-for-your-reporting-journey.aspx>

Source: www.globalreporting.org

UN Global Compact (UNGC)

President of Lebanon Calls for Increased Action on Corporate Sustainability

H.E. Michel Suleiman, President of Lebanon, today made a strong call to scale up sustainability efforts in companies and management education institutions in the country and throughout the Middle East. His remarks were presented in line with the 2nd PRME MENA Regional Forum.

Titled "Doing Business Responsibly - When Corporations become Citizens", the two-day forum featured several panel discussions focused on the role of corporate responsibility in the MENA region and the implications for management education.

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is a United Nations Global Compact sponsored initiative with the mission to inspire and champion responsible management education, research and thought leadership globally.

New Projects Posted on "Water Action Hub"

63 projects have been posted on the CEO Water Mandate's "Water Action Hub" since it was launched in August 2012 - surpassing internal expectations and reinforcing the need for an international platform to showcase water stewardship initiatives and "match-make" organizations on collective-action projects within specific river basins.

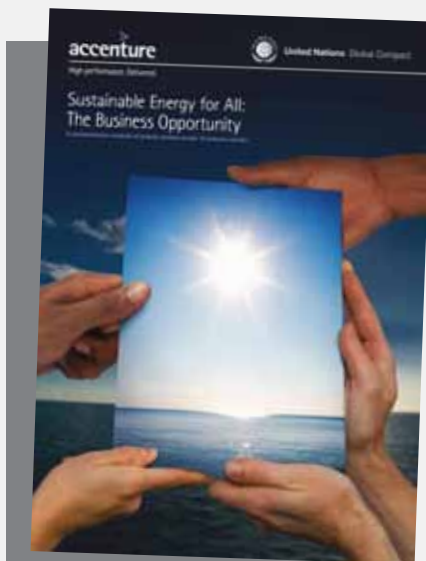
The projects span virtually all continents and are being led by or involve a range of stakeholders -- including corporations,



civil society organizations, and public authorities. The projects focus on issues as diverse as improving water governance within a specific watershed; restoring ecosystems; improving access to water and sanitation within a community; and raising awareness on the importance of water conservation.

Learn more about the CEO Water Mandate here: <http://ceowatermandate.org/>

The UN Global Compact and Accenture Identify Business Opportunities of Sustainable Energy



The UN Global Compact and Accenture recently released a series of new reports, Sustainable Energy for All: The Business Opportunity. Outlining business action across 19 industry sectors, the reports highlight how businesses can create value by supporting the UN Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative, which aims to expand energy access worldwide, improve energy efficiency and increase the share of renewables.

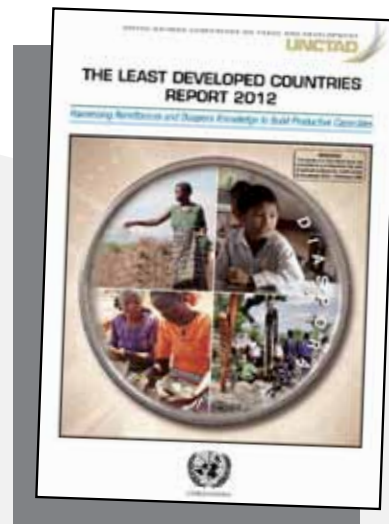
Based on research and interviews with more than 70 companies, the reports recommend several industry priority actions designed to advance the goals of Sustainable Energy for All. Fifty percent of the recommended actions within the reports focus on energy efficiency, 38 percent on renewable energy use and 12 percent on access to energy.

Download Sustainable Energy for All: The Business Opportunity here:

http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/Environment/SEFA.pdf

Source: <http://www.unglobalcompact.org>

UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)



Remittances to poorest countries could play a greater role in broadening and empowering their economies

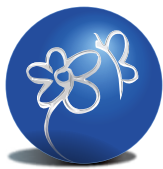
Nationals of the world's poorest countries who work abroad sent home some \$27 billion in 2011. The governments of those countries should strive to employ this vast resource – which largely goes in private transfers directly to families – to improve the breadth and abilities of their economies, a new UNCTAD report recommends.

The Least Developed Countries Report 2012 says that the world's 48 least developed countries (LDCs) should take steps such as improving domestic banking and financial services, so that a greater proportion of such money is available for investment, small business development, and job creation for increasingly urbanized populations who cannot depend for their survival on farming. It notes that remittances continued to increase even during the global financial crisis – an important factor of late, since LDCs as a whole performed less well in 2011 than in 2010, signalling challenges ahead. Remittances are forecast to continue to grow over the medium term.

The Report adds that migration from LDCs has taken on a South–South dimension in recent decades: 80 per cent of LDC emigrants move to other developing countries. The destination of LDC emigrants varies across regions, but most go to South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

The full report can be downloaded from here: http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ldc2012_en.pdf

Source: www.unctad.org



ارابيا سي اس آر نتورك

CSR

Arabia CSR Network®

Best practices from the archive



An overview of Bahrain Women Association

Bahrain Women Association-for Human Development (BWA) is a non-profit organization that seeks to Empower Leaders for the Human Development Era in the Kingdom of Bahrain and around the world. BWA is a small-sized NGO that is entirely run and managed by the support of a group of women dedicated to furthering human development in the Arab world. It has introduced a unique set of programs that address various needs of society. It has also extended its mandate to introduce an environmental awareness program for the citizens of Bahrain.

BWA was awarded by the Arabia CSR Awards 2011 as the best NGO for the reason that it has been able to fight difficult odds to accomplish achievements in basic dimensions of human development and social responsibility. BWA believes that human development is the path towards societal advancement and prosperity. Furthermore, investment in human development is the only way that a society can continue to be creative and innovate. It was on this belief that the BWA started its operation in 2001 to contribute to human development efforts. Today, the non-profit organization serves as a nucleus for various projects and programs of qualitative nature from which different sectors of the society are able to benefit. BWA operates with a vision to empower leaders for the human development era.

Each of the programs of BWA has a unique approach towards social responsibility. For e.g. the 'Developmental Tributaries' program pays substantial attention to the aspects through which grassroots women can raise and become a vital element in the process of human development. This is done through providing assistance to women in their quest to discover their potential to support themselves and provide them with the skills necessary to

lead a life that they deem worthy. Therefore, through this program, BWA empowers women to make choices for their benefit and that of their respective families and in the society in which they reside.

BWA's commitment to human development has given the association the opportunity to present its advocacy and campaigning in a number of international conferences and forums. These have included the NGO's with consultative status at the United Nations (CoNGO) board meeting in New York City, the UNEP organized Global Ministerial Forum XII in Nairobi, the Consortium of Arab Policy Research Institutes (CAPRI) workshop, in Beirut, UN DPI's conference on "sustainable societies, responsible citizens in Germany and many more.

Environmental Citizenship Program and its role in raising the awareness is another approach of BWA core focus on Human Development. In the year 2002, BWA launched a pioneering Environmental Citizenship Program that sought to increase awareness of sustainable living amongst Bahrainis. This program – focused on the principles of the Earth Charter – has since devoted tremendous energies to communicate environmental principles to various segments of the society, believing that each person is an important partner and contributor to the process of sustainable development. Bahrain Women Association – for Human Development was established with the sole purpose to promote human development and support sustainable development. With this objective BWA emphasize the role of each individual to make the difference in Bahrain, the Arab region and on an international level.

As a leader in human development, it is very encouraging to know that BWA is entirely run by a group of women who work on a voluntary basis to actively campaign for internationally recognized human development initiatives. They have had to face challenges such as lack of resources and funding. Nonetheless, this non-profit group has continued to struggle and develop new strategies and approaches to help build strong partnership with related government entities and the private sectors to achieve its goals for humanity.

All in all, BWA has to be commended for voluntary efforts and campaigning in the field of human development. This organization is extremely useful in the CSR landscape to ensure and defend the cultural educational, social and environmental quality.



Arabia CSR Best Practices: 2011

This abstract has been taken from the ACSRN publication titled 'Arabia CSR Practices: 2011'. For more details on Bahrain Women Association and other companies that have been recognized 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 how you can be a member, and how your organization will benefit from it, call us at +971-4-3448622 or write to us at admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com

For more information on the Arabia CSR Network visit www.arabiaccsrnetwork.com