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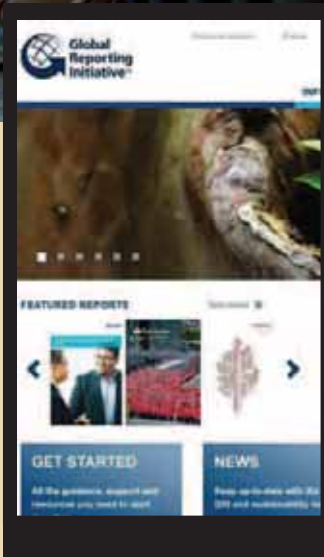
CSR ARABIA

Arabia CSR
Network newsletter

January 2012
Issue 5

GRI CERTIFIED TRAINING SESSION

by Arabia CSR Network - page 3



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Note by the CEO / President Arabia CSR Network

Habiba Al Mar' ashi



Greetings and New Year blessings from the Arabia CSR Network!

2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the famous Earth summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the 25th anniversary of the eminent Bruntland Commission. Both these anniversaries should serve to remind and reignite our commitment to sustainable development.

2012 also marks the 8th anniversary of the Arabia CSR Network. During these years we have tried to bring the agenda of sustainability at the forefront. And although there will always be more pressing issues that are given more priority by governments and businesses, we will continue to highlight the fact that sustainability is important for everyone interested in long-term sustainable growth.

This year, we plan to strengthen our portfolio of services, thus making the organization a key player for sustainability and CSR in the region. I assure you that we will be offering more training and capacity building services to private and public organizations, conducting more research for CSR improvement, showcasing more regional case studies of sustainability excellence and expanding our outreach to more countries in 2012. During the month of December 2011, in addition to consolidating our plans and objectives for 2012, we were also able to organize our second GRI certified training session for CSR and other professionals from the Middle East, North Africa and Levant region. More details on this in page 3. I advise you all to have a look at the Arabia CSR Network's training calendar for 2012 to make sure you benefit from our workshops.

With every issue of CSR Arabia, we strive for continuous improvement in our solitary aim to educate private companies and other organizations about how to improve their sustainability performance. Please feel free to connect with us on admin@arabiacsrn.com. Please continue to send us your comments or suggestions. They are always welcomed.

Arabia CSR Network research update

In association with Arabia CSR Network, four volunteers from Dubai Women's College conducted a short survey to estimate the level of awareness and knowledge among students regarding CSR practices. The survey, responded by 50 students, focused on key elements such as what should be the focus of CSR in the UAE and the benefits of CSR practices.

Results showed that 60 percent of the respondents, especially first and second year students did not know what corporate social responsibility was. This illustrates the significant role academic institutions could play to raise awareness of students about CSR and other environmental related topics. Moreover, the majority of students did not hear about Arabia CSR Network. This insight invites ACSRN to reach out to more universities through visits and educational programs, catered to the future labor force, to inform them about the importance of CSR practices in the business world.

When asked about what should be the focus of businesses' CSR practices in the UAE, 50 percent of students answered the environment, confirming the importance of businesses to incorporate environmentally friendly practices, followed by recycling, labor right, and human rights.





According to students, corporate social responsibility provides a competitive edge and many other business benefits. Building a reputation as a responsible business is perceived as the greatest benefit. Companies often favor suppliers who demonstrate responsible policies, as this can have a positive impact when recruiting employees and how they are perceived by customers. Being socially responsible is also seen by many students as having economic benefits and as a shield from any threat to the company's reputation.

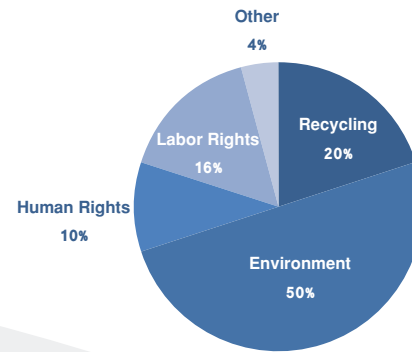


Figure 1:
 What do you think should be the topmost focus of CSR in the UAE?

Although the tool used in this study was very basic and focused on a few specific questions, the results help provide a benchmark against which changes in public knowledge, attitudes and behavior towards the environment can be monitored over time. The Arabia CSR Network would like to thank the Dubai Women's College, the four students that conducted this survey (Maryam Ibrahim Mohd Ahmad Al Balooshi, Marwa Mubarak Darwish Mubarak Salim, Amina Rashed Saif Rashed Bakhit and Onood Mohd Sharif Mohd Abdulla Al Marzooqi) and their faculty members (Senan Gibson, Karl Howard and Sarah Coldwell) for their proactive interest in CSR and sustainability.

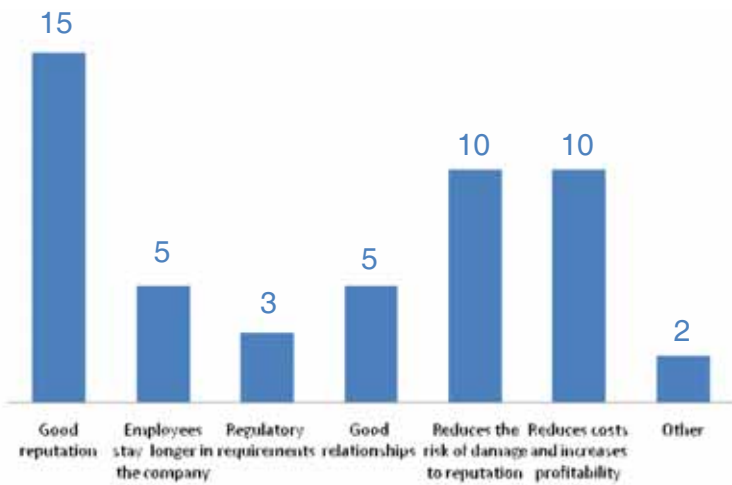


Figure 2:
 How do you think a company benefits from CSR?

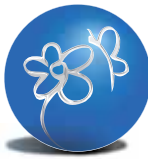
Arabia CSR Network training update

GRI training session

The Arabia CSR Network conducted its 2nd training session at the Tamani Hotel Marina in Dubai from the 25th to 27th of December with 10 participants from across the Middle East, North Africa and Levant region. The previous training was conducted in September 2011.

The GRI certified training is not limited to publishing a sustainability report; it also focuses on facilitating the process in which companies are actively measuring and managing their sustainability impact and performance so that they are strongly integrated in each activity and department of the organization.





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Lena Elsheikh Omer Mahgoub, Communications and Corporate Responsibility Manager at Sayga Investment Company Ltd, Sudan said, “I found the training very rewarding – the content and presentation was very rich. Moreover the vast experiences and knowledge that each of the participants brought to the table was very valuable and beneficial”. Mr. Hashim Hassan Hashim, Manager of Corporate Engineering & HSE Dept at Petrochemical Industries Co., Kuwait was of the opinion that “by far, this training is the best way to bridge companies to corporate sustainability based on GRI.”

The training was conducted by the Arabia CSR Network and its in-house training team led by Mr. Youshey Zakiuddin. During the three-day course, the trainers focused on GRI’s process of writing a sustainability report, which includes investigating the wider sustainability context that a company operates in, reaching out to important stakeholders, prioritizing sustainability related issues to report on, monitoring and communicating your sustainability performance. The trainees were also taken to the Pacific Controls headquarters in Dubai which is the first USGBC LEED certified platinum-rated green building in the Middle East and the 16th in the world. The training participants were also visited by the CSR manager of Dubai Customs who explained the sustainability related strategies taken by one of the oldest government departments in the UAE.

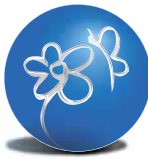


Over the years, GRI has emerged as the leading reporting framework designed specifically for companies that wish to report on the sustainability strategies and initiatives. Complementing the traditional business practice of developing financial reports, GRI addresses non-financial aspects of economic, environmental, and social performance of organizations. By providing

training on how to utilize GRI reporting guidelines – which serve as the most widely used sustainability reporting framework in the world – the Arabia CSR Network is playing a very valuable role in raising the quality and efficacy of CSR, sustainability, transparency and business ethics in the Arab world.

The Arabia CSR Network plans to organized a similar GRI Certified training session at the end of January 2012.

For more information on GRI certified training sessions in the Middle East, please call the Arabia CSR Network at +971-4-3448622, e-mail us at admin@arabiacrnetwork.com, or visit the website on www.arabiacrnetwork.com/GRI



Arabia CSR Network members' update

Dubal

Dubai Aluminium (DUBAL) the entirely state-owned enterprise that operates one of the largest single-site primary aluminium smelters in the world, expressed its corporate commitment to the social and economic development of Dubai



through its support to the 2011 Omega Dubai Ladies Masters Golf Tournament, held from 14 to 17 December. DUBAL has invested time, financial resources and expertise in community-based initiatives that support the broader goals of the Dubai government for more than 30 years. These efforts are targeted largely at establishing Dubai as a world-class leisure, sporting and business hub major. This tournament, which has been sponsored since its inauguration six years ago, provides a high-profile platform for achieving this objective.

In addition Dubal expressed further commitment to the environment and its people through a three day exhibition participated by EEG. The exhibition encompassed various organizations and companies from different industries, which provided a great opportunity to disseminate awareness on environmental issues, as well as shed light on best world practices.

DEWA (Dubai Electricity and Water Authority)



As part of the UAE's 40th anniversary celebrations, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) sponsored a display of a range of religious, social, and cultural events from the UAE. These included sports championships, including sponsoring the UAE women national team for volleyball, the 2nd December

Basketball Championship and sponsoring events organized by the Al-Siddiq Center for Learning Glorious Qur'an & Islamic Sciences under the theme of Love of Country is second to Faith. Fostering the concept of existence, which is part of the theme of Spirit Of The Union, DEWA has sponsored the celebrations of Dubai Educational Zone, attended by Sheikh Majid bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Culture & Arts Authority. These celebrations encompassed various cultural, folklore and public events and parades of students, as well as heritage dances from different countries of the world.

Moreover, DEWA inaugurated its Health and Safety Week, this month for the eighth year in a row. This event focused on DEWA's employees and key stakeholders such as contractors and consultants. DEWA dedicated special attention to the management of health and safety due to its role in protecting lives, properties and environment while setting the rules and raising awareness about preventive measures. DEWA monitors developments in all matters related to occupational health and safety and is guided by best practices for the development of technical instructions to ensure the safety of personnel, premises and the environment, as well as the development of rules, whether in training, education and awareness.

Du The Big Project + BGreen awards 2011



As the exclusive telecom partner of the 2011 Big Project + BGreen awards, honoring traditional and sustainable construction, Du demonstrated once more its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility. Despite being a relatively young company, du released its first Sustainable Development report in October 2011, detailing its extensive efforts towards being more responsible. As a member of the United Nations Global Compact, du is a promoter of active corporate citizenship and regularly organizes and participates in initiatives that benefit, improve, and further the people, culture, heritage and environment of the UAE.

Du's Emiratisation efforts receives recognitions from leading UAE establishments Du's human resources team has received recognition from two UAE institutions, The National Human Resources Development and Employment Authority and Dubai Women's College. The accolades praised



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the telecommunication company's efforts towards the UAE leadership's vision of Emiratisation. Dubai Women's College selected du as 'Employer of the Year' in the semi-government organizations category, in light of the telecom's programmes aimed at providing training and careers to UAE Nationals. Du currently has an Emiratisation level of 28%, with 36% of hired UAE Nationals in top management positions. The telecom has an established Emiratisation scheme, Masar, and regularly participates in career fairs across the UAE to capture the attention of young Emiratis.

Du tops S&P/Hawkamah Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) Index 2011 as MENA's most compliant company Du has been ranked first in the S&P/Hawkamah Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) Index 2011. The ranking comes as a result of the telecommunications company's sustained efforts to enhancing corporate governance standards within the company and community, which have boosted du up from last year's ranking to achieve the position as a leader and implementer of best practice. Information disclosure has been a key focal point for du in the past year.

The telecommunications company upgraded its website to better disclose its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, including Environment, Health and Safety-related activities. Part of this process was revamping the company's CSR Policy, and improving the corporate governance and investment relations websites.

Du has been involved in several corporate governance initiatives in the UAE, Middle East and the USA, promoting best practice through a number of workshops, sponsorships and many more initiatives. Various policies introduced by du have boosted the efficiency and performance of the telecommunication company's board. These include Directors' Access to Independent Professional Advice Policy, Board of Directors Evaluation and Communications with Shareholders and Disclosure Policy.

Dubai Properties

Dubai Properties Group Partners with ASTER Medical Centre and DM Healthcare to Provide Free Medical Checks at Al Khail Gate In line with Dubai Properties' 'Responsible Living Campaign', this initiative was organized in association with ASTER Medical Centre and DM healthcare, a leading healthcare conglomerate in the Middle East and India A team of medical experts provided residents of Al Khail Gate with a comprehensive health-check that included blood pressure, blood sugar, and general dental screenings. This initiative was



highly successful and well received by Al Khail Gate residents with 500 residents registering.

Dubai Properties Group First Real Estate Developer to Educate Employees on RERA's 'Code of Corporate Governance' Dubai Properties Group (DPG), a member of Dubai Holding, announced today further training of its employees on the 'Code of Corporate Governance' in conjunction with The Real Estate Regulatory Agency (RERA).

DPG is the first real estate company to train its staff on 'Corporate Governance' and the 'Hawkamah Code'. The course highlighted the changing corporate governance landscape and practices in relation to the real estate sector, in addition to focusing on the strategic issues.



Arabia CSR Network Members Du, Ajman Free Zone, Al Safi Danone and McDonalds UAE support Emirates Environmental Group's Clean up UAE 2011

Du, Ajman Free Zone, Al Safi Danone and McDonalds UAE supported efforts to encourage environmental stewardship by working together with Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) for the 10th Clean up UAE initiative. Their participation reflects commitment towards a cleaner, greener and more sustainable UAE.



Stakeholder News

GRI launches new website

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), which produces the world's most commonly used sustainability reporting framework, launched its new website on 14th December 2011 for the benefit of companies that wish to prepare/enhance their sustainability reports. The website, at www.globalreporting.org, is a good resource for sustainability reporting information and provides a new library that holds all of GRI's publications in one easy-to-access place, with many publications available in several languages. The website also features a reporting starter kit, for organizations new to sustainability reporting. With enhanced links to social media, the new website enables people around the world to engage with GRI directly. The website is structured in three parts, catering to those with little knowledge of sustainability reporting, those who would like to start reporting, and experienced reporters. The three hubs are Information – helping people find out more about sustainability reporting and GRI; Reporting – providing resources for organizations that want to report; and Network – for those who want to engage with GRI and contribute to projects.

GRI releases new resources for reporters

GRI has recently launched an updated version of the GRI - ISO 26000 linkage document. The linkage document helps companies that report using the GRI Guidelines, understand how GRI reporting indicators are related to ISO 26000's social responsibility (SR) guidance. ISO 26000 provides recommendations on Social Responsibility. The standard provides organizations with best practices and helps them adapt the guidelines in their operations and across their supplier network. All types of organizations can apply ISO 26000. This standard offers guidance on socially responsible behavior and possible actions; it does not contain requirements and, therefore, in contrast to ISO management system standards, is not certifiable.

Local CSR News

UAE donor organization continue to help countries in crisis

Several donor organizations from around the UAE continued their efforts to support those countries that have faced natural disasters and humanitarian crises through financial and human resources. In Pakistan, the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Humanitarian Foundation has provided relief items to those affected by the floods with an amount of AED 1.8 million. In Turkey, the Foundation sent humanitarian assistance from Ankara to the victims of the earthquake which struck Turkey's southeastern city of Van as announced on 25th November.

In the Horn of Africa, the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Humanitarian Foundation is currently building water wells and 25 basins in different areas in Hargeisa the capital and Burao towns in Somalia as announced on 10th December. In addition,

the Emirates World Humanitarian Mobile Hospital has so far treated 20,000 patients residing in camps in the Horn of Africa as announced on 19th November 2011. The medical teams have also trained the African medical team. The Sharjah Charity Foundation has also collaborated with Al Rayyan Charity to provide the daily bread for five thousand Somali families with a cost of USD 16,000.

The UAE's Office for the Coordination of Foreign Aid is also working towards contributing towards the humanitarian relief efforts in the Northern Mindano of Phillipines, where a tropical storm has results in widespread disaster in the region. Details on contributions of UAE donor organizations to these efforts will be included in the next issue of this newsletter.

Global CSR News

Climate talks in Durban

The 17th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Durban, South Africa from 28th November to 9th December 2011. The conclusion of this much-watched meeting, which was attended by more than 15,000 delegates from almost 200 countries, resulted in a high-profile deal called the "Durban Platform for Enhanced Action." This deal was brokered through a last-minute compromise that will for the first time commit all nations to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions from 2020.

UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon was upbeat about the conclusion of the meeting, stating: "The Durban Platform represents a significant and forward agreement that defines how the international community will address climate change in the coming years." However, a number of NGOs and civil society organizations focusing on the issue of climate change have expressed disappointment because according to scientific evidence the "Durban Platform for Enhanced Action" may not be enough to avert dangerous and irreversible levels of global warming and keep global temperatures from rising more than 2°C.

Upcoming Events

CSR Asia Forum on Asian Sustainability

The CSR Asia Forum on Asian Sustainability is a one-day conference that will be held on 18th January 2012. This conference, which will be held in Tokyo, will focus on key issues about sustainability in Asia, with a special emphasis on emerging markets. Focusing on issues associated with power outages, growing supply chain risks and challenges associated with doing business in Asian emerging markets, this Forum presents an ideal opportunity to obtain the latest information on CSR and sustainability in Asia. For more information or further enquiries, please contact japanoffice@csr-asia.com.



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Best practices from the archive

An overview of Oman LNG



الشركة العمانية للغاز الطبيعي المسال ش.م.م

Oman LNG LLC.

Oman LNG aims to produce, market, and deliver liquefied natural gas (LNG) safely, reliably and profitably to its customers. It began operations with strong ties to the Government of Oman. This relationship has given OLANG a strong foundation for aspiring to be a good corporate citizen. It holds firm Business Principles that are founded on corporate responsibility and participation in sustainable development.

Unlike many business models that inherently contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions, OLANG's primary product (Liquid Natural Gas), is considered the most environment-friendly among the conventional fossil fuel sources. Recognizing the risks involved in the process of extracting, processing and transporting LNG, it has focused on its workers health and safety, and that of its nearby communities. It has also established a Social Investment Program Fund that finances carefully selected projects to help the people of Oman, both on national and local levels.

OLNG aims to balance between what we see is the need of the society and the government's own plans. It also considers the expectations of our society and looks into projects that have



lasting impact on the development of people and the areas they live in. The sustainability of these impacts is another important factor that the organization always considers. For example, human resource development and the creation of jobs through its programs is an essential factor in OLANG operations.

OLNG has been a role model in corporate citizenship for companies and industries in Oman, the Middle East region and the world. It could not have started better than offering a cleaner, low climate impact fuel source. Its success has created a huge positive impact on the Omani economy by stimulating economic growth and long-term investments, as well as developing the nation's human capital. Above all, it has been a pioneer in what was previously uncharted territory, corporate sustainability. Through its commitment in SIP it has showed its earnest determination to help build the nation. Its consistency and reliability in implementing meaningful and effective projects, demonstrate what good could be achieved when more companies aim for sustainability.

This abstract has been taken from the ACSRN publication titled 'Arabia CSR Practices: 2008-2010'. For more details on Oman LNG LLC. and other companies that have been recognized for their innovative and effective CSR strategies write to us at admin@arabiacsrn.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@arabiacsrn.com
For more information on the Arabia CSR Network visit www.arabiacsrn.com