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newsletter

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Issue 15



Arabia CSR Network recognizes sustainability stalwarts at Forum and Ceremony in Dubai Page 2



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Note by the CEO / President Arabia CSR Network

Habiba Al Mar'ashi



As-Salamu Alaykum and belated Eid Mubarak from the Arabia CSR Network!

Last week - with the kind patronage of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman and CEO Emirates Group, Chairman Dubai Airports – the Arabia CSR Network successfully organized one of the biggest and most important CSR related conference in the Arab world. The Arabia CSR Forum & Awards Ceremony touched upon a number of critical topics related to the region's sustainability issues and also honoured the winning organizations of the 5th cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards. Congratulations once again to all the winners!

The first Carbon Neutral CSR Forum & Awards Ceremony in the MENA Region, the event invited hundreds of CEOs, senior managers, CSR officials and government representatives from organizations across the Middle East, North Africa and Levant region. To all those who were present at the Forum & Awards Ceremony, I thank you for your participation and hope you benefited from the galaxy of sustainability leaders and experts that

spoke at the Forum. I also hope that the Forum was able to inspire you towards more sustainability thinking and effective action.

The event also marked the launch of the Arabia CSR Best Practices 2011 publication, a compilation of case studies of some of the main CSR players in the MENA region. I would highly recommend that you order a copy to learn more about how the best companies are working towards sustainability.

I encourage you all to attend the events organized by the Arabia CSR Network. Please get in touch with us on admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com for further details. You can also find us online on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for more frequent updates, CSR news and resources.

Upcoming CSR Events

الجائزة
العربية
للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية
للمؤسسات



ARABIA
CORPORATE
SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY
AWARDS

Arabia CSR Forum and Awards Ceremony 2012

The Arabia CSR Awards Forum & Ceremony 2012 was held in Dubai, UAE to discuss critical issues of sustainability in the region and honour the winning organizations of the fifth Awards cycle.

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman and CEO, Emirates Group, Chairman, Dubai Airports, the Arabia CSR Network honoured 20 companies from across the Middle East, North Africa and Levant region during the Arabia CSR Forum & Awards Ceremony in Dubai.

The event, rightly branded as the Sustainability Oscars of the Middle East and North Africa region, was held under the title 'Embracing Sustainability in Times of Instability'. It was also



supported by the UN Global Compact, the world's largest voluntary corporate citizenship initiative. Ms. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, President of the Arabia CSR Network stated, "This year, the Arabia CSR Award brought to the platform over 75 companies operating from 11 different MENA countries that have been shortlisted for their exemplary sustainability vision, strategies and actions. The applications to the Arabia CSR Awards were subject to a rigorous assessment system carried out by an international panel of CSR and sustainability experts. The awards were then conferred for best performance across six categories: Government, Large Business, Medium Business, Small Business, New Business and Corporate-NGO Collaboration."



The Public Sector Category winner was Kuwait National Petroleum Company (Kuwait), the first runners up were Dubai Customs (UAE) and Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (UAE) and the second runner up was Abu Dhabi Police (UAE). The winner in the Large Category was UAE-based Al Futtaim Carillion, followed by Henkel FZCO (UAE) on first runner up position and The Specialty Hospital (Jordan) on the second runner up position. The winner in the Medium Category was a tie between Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (Bahrain) and DLA Piper Middle East LLP (UAE), the first runner up was again a tie between Canon Middle East (UAE) and Royal Industrial Trading Company (Palestine) and the second runner up was WSP Middle East (UAE).

In the Small Category the winner was Bank Sarasin-Alpen (ME) Limited (UAE), followed by Blossom Nursery (UAE) in first runner up position and Tiger Profiles & Insulation LLC (UAE) in second runner up position. There was also an Award for the Best New Business, i.e. organizations under 3 years old, which was conferred upon ABB LLC Oman (Oman). This year a new category was created that focused on effective corporate-NGO collaboration. In this category the winning position was taken by both Boeing International (UAE) and BLC Bank SAL (Lebanon). The first runner up position was again a tie between Etisalat Egypt (Egypt) and Dubai Customs (UAE). They were followed by Arab African International Bank (Egypt) on the second runner up position.

At the Awards Ceremony, Ms. Al Marashi stated, "In this year - which was the fifth Arabia CSR Awards cycle - there were a total of 58 completed applications from organizations of 17 different sectors in 11 countries from the Middle East, Levant and North Africa region. The sectors include Telecom, Financial services and banks, Oil & Gas, Healthcare and many more. This wide coverage of participation is indicative of the fact that many industries and many countries consider CSR and sustainability as critical for business and economic development. Organizations from countries such as Palestine and Egypt also participated in the Arabia CSR Awards in 2012."

Ms. Al Marashi added, "Participation in the Arabia CSR Awards is not a destination, it is rather a journey towards reflection, assessment and improvement for a more effective and

sustained impact, especially in areas of corporate responsibility and sustainability. This is why we encourage participating organizations – even if they were winners or not – to apply every year to see how they are doing against their own previous performance and against the organizations around them."

In the past five Awards cycles, the Arabia CSR Network has received almost 400 applications from hundreds of organizations across the Arab region. This demonstrates the value that the Arabia CSR Awards provides to businesses in the region; after all it is not just the award or the accolade, but also the process of self-evaluation and assessment that helps companies understand how they can improve their performance to become more sustainable and have a positive impact on society and the environment.

Since the Arabia CSR Network promotes a low-carbon future, the entire Forum & Awards Ceremony was made carbon neutral with the support of myclimate, a leading Switzerland based organization that is spearheading climate action and carbon management efforts across the globe. To shed more light on the critical issue of utilizing sustainability strategies to contribute to business continuity, the Arabia CSR Network invited a number of international CSR experts and thought-leaders. These included:

- **Herman Mulder**, *Chairman of the Board, GRI*
- **Bjørn Kj. Haugland**, *Executive VP, CTO and CSO, DNV*
- **Bengt Johansson**, *Swedish CSR Ambassador*
- **Osman Sultan**, *CEO, du*
- **Dr. Mark Boutros**, *Global Lead Corporate Responsibility, Kreab Gavin Anderson Worldwide*
- **Moez El Shohdi**, *Chief Executive Officer, Egyptian Food Bank*
- **Anwar Ben Salamah**, *Deputy Chairman & Deputy Managing Director for Planning, Petrochemical Industries Company, Kuwait*
- **René Estermann**, *CEO, myclimate*
- **Kalyan Krishnan Subramanian**, *Senior Manager, Global Citizenship & Diversity, KPMG*
- **Joseph Martin**, *Director, Climate Change and Sustainability Services, Middle East and North Africa, Ernst & Young*



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The esteemed group of international sustainability experts discussed two critical issues that affect CSR implementation across the world: i) how organizations can create shared value through strategic CSR and ii) how companies can adopt and benefit from CSR as a long-term approach. Benefiting from these discussions were hundreds of CSR professionals and senior management officials that were present at the Forum to learn more towards good governance, social development and environmental protection.

This year, the Arabia CSR Forum & Awards Ceremony was supported by the generous sponsorship of organizations such as du (Platinum Sponsor), Petrochemical Industries Company in Kuwait (Gold Sponsor), Tristar Transport (Support Sponsor) and Tetra Pak (Support Sponsor). The Arabia CSR Awards continues to receive the technical support of the Asian Institute of Management and joined this year by DNV. The media and PR partners included Weber Shandwick, Gulf News and 7 Days.

"Dear Habiba, thank you so much for such a fantastic event. We look forward to continue the good collaboration between Arabia CSR Network and DNV" Bjørn Kj. Haugland, Executive VP, CTO and CSO, DNV

"Thanks to the entire CSR Arabia team for organizing a wonderful event filled with inspiration for each of us to do better!" Zahra Hamirani, CEO at Blossom Education, Founder / Director at the Blossom Nurseries, UAE

"Excellent quality of presentations and speakers" Sandrine Le Biavant Division Manager - Consulting, Farnek Avireal

"Very inspirational speakers, venue and convent" Herman Mulder, Chairman of the Board, GRI

"It was very useful to be at the Forum. The speakers were knowledgeable and hence there was a lot to take away from the Forum." Vishal Joshi, Assistant Manager QHSE, Ducab

"We again find ourselves writing to you (Ms. Habiba Al Marashi) as always, to express our thanks and appreciation on the efforts exerted to make the 5th cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards a resounding success. You never fail to astonish us, and we continue to feel the challenge to do better ourselves in every possible aspect." Rosy Salameh Assistant CEO, Tiger Profiles & Insulation LLC

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PROUD WINNERS

In the order of their respective categories

GOVERNMENT SECTOR CATEGORY

Winner: Kuwait National Petroleum Company

1st Runner Up - Tie: Dubai Customs
Dubai Electricity and Water Authority

2nd Runner Up: Abu Dhabi Police

LARGE CATEGORY

Winner: Al Futtaim Carillion

1st Runner Up: Henkel FZCO

2nd Runner Up: The Specialty Hospital

MEDIUM CATEGORY

Winner - Tie: Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company
DLA Piper Middle East LLP

1st Runner Up - Tie: Canon Middle East FZ-LLC
Royal Industrial Trading Company

2nd Runner Up: WSP Middle East

SMALL CATEGORY

Winner: Bank Sarasin-Alpen (ME) Limited

1st Runner Up: Blossom Nursery

2nd Runner Up: Tiger Profiles & Insulation LLC

NEW BUSINESS CATEGORY

Winner: ABB LLC Oman

CORPORATE - NGO COLLABORATION CATEGORY

Winner - Tie: Boeing International
BLC Bank SAL

1st Runner Up Tie: Dubai Customs
Etisalat Egypt

2nd Runner Up: Arab African International Bank

WILL YOU BE THE NEXT CSR CHAMPION?

Look out for the launch of the 6th Cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards in February 2013



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Arabia CSR Network co-organizes CSR conference in Abu Dhabi

Arabia CSR Network partners with Embassy of Sweden, Swedish Trade Council, Swedish Business Council and Abu Dhabi Chamber for CSR conference titled 'Meeting Future Challenges of Corporate Social Responsibility' in Abu Dhabi, UAE

The Embassy of Sweden, the Swedish Trade Council, the Swedish Business Council, the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and the Arabia CSR Network organized a seminar on Corporate Social Responsibility on Tuesday October 23 at the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The seminar, titled 'Meeting Future Challenges of Corporate Social Responsibility' invited a number of corporate leaders, government officials and CSR managers to discuss challenges on implementing CSR and sustainability initiatives in the UAE. It also shed light on a number of good practices by private and public organizations across the UAE.

At the seminar, Ms. Habiba Al Marashi, President of the Arabia CSR Network stated, "When you read case studies from companies that have benefited from implementing effective CSR strategies, you hardly read about the challenges they faced in their journey. And for most of us today who are in the business of corporate responsibility and sustainability, we know that executing CSR efficiently and effectively is more of an ideal situation than what reality allows us."

Ms. Al Marashi went on to list the key challenges to CSR and sustainability in the region. These include, among others, buy-in from senior leadership, fear of the unknown, and the lack of benchmarking and comparative credibility of CSR initiatives taken by hundreds of organizations in the MENA region.

Also present at the seminar was Sweden's new Ambassador for CSR, Mr. Bengt Johansson. He spoke about lessons learned in Sweden and what the government and the business community have done to make Sweden a global forerunner in CSR.

The seminar was divided into two panels, each of which focused on one of the two main topics: i) Advancing Transparency through Good Governance and Anti-Corruption

and ii) Human Capital Development through Innovative Employee Engagement.

In each panel, there were speakers from both Swedish companies and Emirati companies who shared their CSR experiences. Some of these speakers included Anna Nordiner from Volvo, Nick Nadal from Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance, Gary Foote from ABB, Stuart Mee from Al Futtaim Carillion and others.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is mainly driven and performed by the business community. During this event Emirati and Swedish companies were given an opportunity to share expertise and best practices on CSR what they have done, how they did it and what the results were.

Arabia CSR Network Best Practices 2011

Now available for sale

10 in-depth case studies highlighting CSR & Sustainability Champions from the Middle East & North Africa region.

At a special price of **AED 250**
Grab your copy now!

The case studies featured in this one-of-a-kind publication have been developed from detailed information collected by the Arabia CSR Network from the winners of the Arabia CSR Awards 2011.

Learn more about why Al Futtaim Carillion is considered as a sustainability leader in the construction sector, read about how Tristar Transport has benefited from investing in road safety education, know more about how Vodafone Qatar contributes to socio-economic development in Qatar, and much more. Each of the case studies will enhance your understanding of CSR in the MENA region.

So don't miss this opportunity. Purchase the Arabia CSR Best Practices 2011 at a token cost of AED 250. And see how CSR champions in the Arab world are setting the trend for greater sustainability.

For more details, please contact us at admin@arabiacsnetwork.com



Training & Workshops

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 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.arabiacsrnetwork.com/home/gri> or contact us at admin@arabiacsrnetwork.com / +971-4-3448622.

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, Shaikh 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:
Alpar Capital (ME) Limited | Arab African International Bank | Asmaka Enterprises LLC | Dubai Customs (a Telecommunications) | Dubai Electricity and Water Authority | Emirates NBD | Environment Society of Oman | Frank Animal | Medison | Saudi Arabian Mining Company | McDonalds UAE | Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry | Pafal Group Foundation | Petrochemical Industries Co. Kuwait | RAK Ceramics | Sayga Investment Company Ltd | WSP 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.arabiacsrnetwork.com/GRI and www.gri.com/training. To register for this training, contact us at admin@arabiacsrnetwork.com or call us at +971-4-3448622.

Members Update

ABB UAE

A large number of customers from major industries in Bahrain took recently part in the seminar to learn more about ABB's service solutions. The main focus was on ABB Life Expectancy Analysis Program (LEAP) for stator windings of high voltage rotating machines. The customer benefits of the concept include reduction of plant downtime due to maintenance process and increase in productivity.

During the seminar it was also demonstrated how to go green by upgrading classic drives: timely replacement of drives can lead into significant energy savings and reduction in CO2 emissions. ABB is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact.

Source: <http://www.mena.abb.com>

Ajman Free Zone Authority (AFZA)

Ajman Free Zone Authority (AFZA) yesterday held an open meeting with its leadership and employees as part of TAWASUL monthly initiative on which AFZA is keen to activate means of communication among AFZA's leadership and employees and learning about work progress.

The initiative is one of the meetings access that gathers AFZA's employees regularly under intimacy and family atmosphere organized by Human Resources Department in the form of collective breakfast.

The initiative aims at enhancing positive and direct communication between employees and leadership, strengthening employees' business loyalty, securing work progress in a proper way, consolidating relationship between employees and leadership and learning about work progress results. At the event, the Director General of AFZA extended his appreciation and respect to the employees who have been promoted by virtue of their efforts encouraging the rest to catch up with them and follow their model.

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



Coca-Cola Foundation

The Coca-Cola Foundation in partnership with INJAZ Al-Arab recently announced the second phase of the Ripples of Happiness (ROH) program. The ROH Program is a youth empowerment initiative that trains university students on identifying opportunities in their cities as well as inspiring them to implement projects that will have a positive impact within their communities. Throughout Ripples of Happiness, students are provided the opportunity to learn a wide range of fundamental corporate social responsibility concepts and important principles for work readiness. With training and mentoring from a team consisting of volunteers from Coca-Cola employees in the Middle East and volunteers from the INJAZ Al-Arab network, the students will be engaging in sustainability focused activities aimed at making a positive impact within their communities. In addition, they will be developing and executing a community development project during the program.

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

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA)



Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park will commence power generation in the third quarter of 2013 with a capacity of 13MW, Saeed Mohammad Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of Dubai Supreme Energy Council, told reporters on the sidelines of the World Energy Forum held in Dubai in October 2012. The Solar Park will have a 1,000MW capacity by 2030, and, upon completion, will be one of the biggest solar parks in the region. Al Tayer said the solar park plan was part of a vision “to make Dubai a role model to the world in energy security and efficiency”. DEWA is also looking at hiring companies to retrofit the existing and old buildings in Dubai with new technologies that will help them to become part of the smart grid that is under development in Dubai. “We are looking at companies that could install new technologies and retrofit the old buildings with those so that they could become part of the smart grid,” said Al Tayer. DEWA has also identified that distributed rooftop solar power sources can make a practical contribution to Dubai’s power needs in the order of 20 per cent or around 2500MW by 2030.

Source: <http://gulfnews.com>; <http://www.khaleejtimes.com>

Dubai Aluminium (DUBAL)

Dubal promoted corporate energy-efficiency at World Energy Forum 2012 by hosting a round-table discussion on the third day of the conference itself, focusing on specific energy-efficiency achievements, innovative technologies, successful energy-saving initiatives and on-going investigations into renewable energy sources.

Dubal was also a lead sponsor of WEF 2012. This year, Dubal once again scored “zero” for heat-related illnesses in summer. Since 2011, Dubal’s “Beat the Heat and Be Safe” programme has included a safety component that encourages safer behaviour so as to help employees cope with the weather-related changes in the work environment during summer. A total of seven heat stress cases were recorded at DUBAL in 2012 and zero heat rash cases were recorded in 2012, compared to three cases in 2011. From a safety perspective, a 17 per cent decline in total injuries was recorded over the summer of 2012 (34 injuries) compared to the same period last year (41 injuries).

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

du

In its support of the World Energy Forum – hosted by Dubai’s Supreme Council of Energy (SCE) from 22 – 24 October, 2012 – du affirmed its commitment to promoting sustainability practices in the UAE. “We are proud to support the World Energy Forum, as we thoroughly believe in its purpose to achieve tangible progress towards cleaner, safer and more sustainable energy, and provide universal access to modern energy services,” said Ahmad Bin Byat, Chairman, du.

Underscoring its commitment to upholding the highest levels of health, safety and environment (HSE) practices, du’s Corporate Services department has been granted recertification of International Organization for Standardisation (ISO) 14001 and British Standards Institution (BSI) OHSAS 18001. This follows a successful audit done by DQS a standard industry practice repeated every three years.

A company that attains ISO 14001 certification provides assurance to its employees, customers and corporate partners, as well as to the general public and regulatory agencies, that it pursues a systematic approach to environmental responsibility. BS OHSAS 18001 certification demonstrates a company’s commitment to the highest standards of occupational health and safety through formal application of risk management, operational controls, emergency preparedness and response, legislative compliance and training/awareness programs.

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



Emirates NBD

Emirates NBD, a leading bank in the region, announced the launch of "Fight Against Fraud," a public service campaign in coordination with Dubai Police and Al Ameen Service, to raise awareness of financial fraud. The initiative, which underlines Emirates NBD's role as a responsible bank, aims to generate greater understanding of banking scams and the threats faced by customers and the resultant risk to the country's economy. One of the main focus points in the "Fight Against Fraud" campaign is to educate customers about the importance of not revealing their bank account details to anyone. The campaign also advises customers not to accept help from strangers at ATMs, as this could expose customers to fraud attempts.

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

McDonald's UAE

McDonald's UAE is pleased to announce it has raised 200,000 AED from its 2012 Ramadan book campaign in partnership with Beit Al Khair, which will be used to educate UAE orphans. Now in its fourth year, the campaign involved the creation of four children's books which were sold throughout McDonald's restaurants across the UAE during the month of Ramadan. This year, McDonald's UAE sold over 40,000 of the specially created books covering Ramadan themes such as the importance of family and helping others. The proceeds were presented to Beit Al Khair Society in a special ceremony which was attended by Mr Rafic Fakih, Managing Director & Partner of McDonald's UAE, and Mr Saeed Al Mazruiy, Deputy General Manager of Beit Al Khair Society.

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

Imdaad LLC

Imdaad, the leading provider of integrated facilities management solutions in the GCC, provided power generators to address the temporary power requirements of the Dubai Swimming World Cup 2012, which was held in October at the Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Sports Complex in Dubai. Imdaad also recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence (DCCE) for a strategic collaboration on greenhouse gas emission monitoring, reporting and verification in the emirate, making Imdaad the first



FM company to sign such a MoU with DCCE. The MoU is in line with the environmental aspects of Imdaad's 2012-2017 strategic plan and complements the company's support to Dubai's vision for a green economy. It allows Imdaad to leverage DCCE's expertise on carbon to examine the emission reduction process across all operational areas and develop a Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Source: www.imdaad.ae

General News

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

Record feedback on sustainability reporting guidelines: thousands of feedback submissions to make GRI Guidelines best ever

A record number of 3095 formal feedback submissions were made by sustainability experts, organizations and professionals on the next generation of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)'s Sustainability Reporting Guidelines during two 90 day Public Comment Periods, reflecting the growing interest worldwide in sustainability reporting.

GRI produces a comprehensive sustainability reporting framework that is widely used around the world. GRI is now working on the next generation of its Sustainability Reporting Guidelines – G4. As part of the development process, GRI held two Public Comment Periods (PCPs). The first, held from August to November 2011, aimed to gather opinions on sustainability reporting, through an online survey. The second PCP, open from June to September 2012, aimed to gather the public's feedback on the G4 Exposure Draft, to ensure the Guidelines are relevant and useful for all organizations worldwide.

The Deputy Chief Executive of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), who is leading the G4 development process, said: "We have received a record amount of feedback on the G4 Exposure Draft – this really shows how far sustainability reporting has come since GRI released its first Guidelines in 2000. By providing input to the G4 development process, professionals and organizations worldwide are helping to ensure that the Guidelines meet their needs, as we move towards making sustainability reporting



standard practice.” The G4 development is focused on seven main areas: The G4 Exposure Draft featured proposed updates to Boundary, Application Levels, Governance and Remuneration, Supply Chain, Disclosures on Management Approach; and the new guidance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Anti-Corruption. It is still available for public comment until 12 November. For more information and to provide feedback: <https://www.globalreporting.org/reporting/latest-guidelines/g4-developments/Pages/default.aspx>

Register now for the must-attend leadership event of 2013: GRI's Global Conference on Sustainability and Reporting

Sustainable growth, social justice, and a healthy planet: How do we get there? Plotting this journey – together – will be the underlying focus of the must-attend leadership event of 2013: GRI's Global Conference on Sustainability and Reporting. The 2013 Conference theme is Information – Integration – Innovation: three concepts that may hold the key to a achieving a sustainable global economy. Online registration for the Conference is open. You can take advantage of early-bird registration rates until 31 January 2013, and there are special rates for non-OECD member countries, Organizational Stakeholders, and students. 1200 delegates from 77 countries attended the last Conference in 2010. Diverse industries were also represented, including logistics, telecommunications, media, food and beverage, mining and metals, oil and gas, construction and real estate, and IT. The Conference will be held at the RAI Convention Centre in Amsterdam from 22 – 24 May 2013. Plenary sessions will feature inspiring and knowledgeable speakers discussing key global and regional issues. If you have any questions about the Conference, or want more information about the agenda visit the Conference webpage.

Source: www.globalreporting.org

UN Global Compact (UNGC)

Corporate Sustainability Movement Urged to Become Transformative Force

While corporate sustainability is now a global movement, urgent action is needed to make it a transformative force for change. This was the message delivered by UN Global Compact Executive Director Georg Kell during the Sustainia Action Forum, a meeting of international leaders hosted by the Sustainia initiative to discuss action strategies for implementing the world's top sustainable solutions. Speaking to a high-level group of business, Government and civil society representatives ahead of the inaugural Sustainia Award ceremony, Mr. Kell enlisted support for enhancing the private sector's role in realizing a more equitable, prosperous and sustainable future. “In the face of historic challenges, I fear that leadership for the long-term collective good is in a deep freeze,” said

Kell. While expressing concern about the fractured political state and lack of incentive structures that reward good performance, he added that “business increasingly is willing to step up and push forward...Business has shown that it is possible to move ahead”.

UN Global Compact Commemorates the First International Day of the Girl Child

On the occasion of the first International Day of the Girl Child, the UNGC recognized the important role of business in respecting and supporting the rights of women and children. Today, Governments, NGOs and business leaders around the world are joining together to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenge girls face around the world. To mark this historic day, the UN Global Compact calls on all companies to review the Children's Rights and Business Principles and the Women's Empowerment Principles and consider what more they can do to respect and support women's rights and children's rights, including girls.

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

UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Global economy at ‘critical juncture’, UNCTAD economist tells UN delegates in New York

The Director of UNCTAD's Division on Globalization and Development Strategies has warned the delegates attending the General Assembly that “misguided” steps are limiting recovery from the global slowdown. He urged measures to boost income equality so that consumer demand is stimulated. Speaking to a full conference room at United Nations Headquarters, Mr. Heiner Flassbeck drew a dark picture of the world economy. Elaborating on this year's Trade and Development Report, which focuses on income inequality, Flassbeck said that the only path to revitalizing sustained growth was for governments to take measures in favour of equality, or fairness, by assuring the participation of all social groups in productivity gains that have come with economic and technological advancement.

More than any other factor, Flassbeck said, the abandonment of the fundamental rule of the post-World War II social compact - that labour would participate equitably in the growth of output - was at the root of the world's current economic difficulties. Flassbeck said that it was vital that countries work together to formulate policies on reducing inequality, and that they should coordinate the implementation of such measures. The United Nations, he asserted, was the only place where this could happen.

Source: www.unctad.org



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Best practices from the archive



An overview of Al Futtaim Carillion (AFC)

Al Futtaim Carillion (AFC) is a joint venture between Dubai's Al-Futtaim Group – one of the leading business groups in the UAE – and Carillion - a UK based company that offers integrated solutions for buildings and infrastructure. The company has a long history of implementing a number of successful civil and infrastructure projects in the Middle East, for e.g. the Dubai Aluminium Smelter, Shaikh Zayed Grand Mosque and more.

Many of AFC's early works were landmark projects in the development of the UAE and today, the modern day company continues to apply its substantial experience, knowledge and capabilities on major projects, thus continuing to help create the new vision of UAE.

Considering the company's industry, scope and size, it is expected to play a substantial role in sustainability, which it does with significant innovation and enthusiasm. AFC is an active CSR leader in areas of the workplace, marketplace, environment and community, which made it the winner of the Arabia CSR Awards 2011 and 2012 in the large private sector category.

AFC's corporate mission and vision is founded on a set of critical values that cross-cut each of AFC's projects, may they be for the commercial or public sector. These values include Openness; Collaboration; Mutual Dependency; Professional Delivery; Sustainable Profitable Growth; and Innovation.

It is these six values that also act as enablers for AFC's recently launched Sustainability Strategy 2020. The Sustainability Strategy focuses around achieving a set of positive outcomes, all of which have targets for the short and long term: i) Driving down carbon ii) Protecting the environment iii) Supporting sustainable communities and iv) Providing better prospects for its people.

In order to further drive sustainability forwards in a region that is globally recognized for its fast-paced and larger-than-life infrastructure projects, AFC believes that the construction sector should share good practices between businesses and compare performance especially in areas such as energy

& water use and waste production to allow critical benchmarks to be established.

Moreover, AFC ensures that it never loses sight of the local trends and developments that can have an impact on its construction business, for e.g. the Estidama requirement on new projects in Abu Dhabi, increasing global fuel costs, depleting water resources, the demand to support local communities through employment for example Omanisation and Emiratisation etc.

One of AFC's most unique initiatives to positively engage its staff members and simultaneously achieve the organization's sustainability objectives is its annual office-wide 'Sustainability Week'. In 2002, a small team of employees at Carillion UK organized a series of sustainability activities over a one-week period to help build team spirit and demonstrate the company's commitment to sustainability. Today, the 'Sustainability Week' is organized by Carillion's offices all over the world.

What is extremely commendable is that AFC's simple approach – with some assistance from Carillion UK - has helped them develop a very holistic sustainability strategy that covers a lot of ground in terms of issues material to the construction sector. AFC has reached out to internal and external stakeholders, set ambitious yet achievable targets and established mechanisms to track progress and communicate them, all the while improving processes for more effective implementation with every passing year.



Arabia CSR Best Practices: 2011

This abstract has been taken from the ACSRN publication titled 'Arabia CSR Practices: 2011'. For more details on Al Futtaim Carillion 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