



## **Awards Clinic Rallies Applicants in Preparation for the 8<sup>th</sup> Cycle of Arabia CSR Awards**

**Dubai, 7 April 2015:** Past, current and potential applicants of the Arabia CSR Awards attended the Awards Clinic, a workshop organized by the Arabia CSR Network. The Awards Clinic is designed to provide the applicants with a complete outline of the application procedure, along with useful hints on submitting a successful application. The Awards Clinic was conducted by a member of the ACSRA Jury Panel and previous Awards winners. The Awards Secretariat was also present to provide further support and provide comprehensive answers to any questions or concerns.

“Every year, we place great concern on organizing the Awards Clinic in order to give all applicants a fair chance of competing for the Awards regardless of their experience with the Awards questionnaire or how many times they have applied in the past,” stated Mrs. Habiba AlMarashi, President and CEO of the Arabia CSR Network. “This will ensure applicants are competing only on the basis of their sustainability practices in addition to explaining the ever-revolving application questionnaire, categories and requirements that we constantly review to adapt to the changing sustainability context. This year for example we have increased the categories from 6 to 9 focusing on impactful and emerging sectors such as Social Enterprise, Financial Services and Energy. The Awards boasts the most rigorous and comprehensive application criteria which integrates the inherent principles and frameworks of the Global Compact, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and EFQM Excellence Model. Organisations must invest their time and effort in filling the application adhering to the required standards whilst simultaneously capturing the essence of their sustainability achievements, this is not an easy task.” added Mrs. AlMarashi.

Over 50 participants from 30 private and public organisations and multiple sectors attended the Awards Clinic, another testament that the Awards is a journey that adds value to any type of organisation regardless of its nature. The Arabia CSR Awards has received over 60 applications since its launch in mid-February, at record breaking rate surpassing previous Cycle trends and still continues to receive interest from a rapidly growing number of participants. Registration for all categories is still open and the submission deadline is **June 30th 2015**.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Arabia CSR Awards ceremony will take place under the Auspices of the League of Arab States for the second consecutive year and in collaboration with UNEP on **28<sup>th</sup> of October, 2015** in Dubai. The Awards Forum will be held in the morning of the same day under the title “Beyond Responsibility: Towards Transformational Sustainability” and will be attended by the elite of CSR and Sustainability thinkers with strong local, regional and global presence with strong support from the United Nations Environment Programme, the Awards Strategic Collaborator. The Arabia CSR Awards Forum is the most highly anticipated CSR and Sustainability platform in the Arab world and has always presented forward thinking debates and solutions to the most contextual sustainable development issues affecting the region’s inclusive and sustainable prosperity.

This year the Arabia CSR Awards is generously sponsored by Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) and the National Petrochemical Industrial Co. (Natpet) and generous Venue Sponsorship from Villa Rotana Hotel. Sponsorship for the prestigious Arabia CSR Forum and Awards is open with an improved, wider array of benefits and sponsorship categories that offer association with the Arab World's most credible CSR and Sustainability platform. Please contact the Arabia CSR Network for further details and the chance to become a part of the Arab Sustainability Journey.

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**About the Arabia CSR Network:** The Arabia CSR Network is a professional multi stakeholder organization established in the UAE in 2004. It is devoted to advancing the principles and practices of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Arab region. It facilitates networking, learning and sharing experiences and knowledge in matters of CSR. The Arabia CSR Network was the first GRI certified training partner for the Arabic speaking Middle East countries. The Arabia CSR Network promotes, encourages and recognizes responsible business practices through a bunch of services and offerings, including trainings, research and best practice, advisory services, third party assurance and a Pan-Arab acclaimed award initiative known as the Arabia CSR Awards. For more information, please visit [www.arabiacrnetwork.com](http://www.arabiacrnetwork.com). For further enquiries please email us at [admin@arabiacrnetwork.com](mailto:admin@arabiacrnetwork.com).

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