



الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الإجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

Arabia CSR Network

newsletter

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GRI Standards equip trainees to emulate sustainability reporting best practices

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Note from the President & CEO Arabia CSR Network

As we start the last quarter of 2018, we approach the successful completion of another cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards. The past eleven years have opened our eyes to the emerging trends of corporate responsibility and sustainability within the Arab Region. Pressures and drivers of responsible behaviour have differed from sector to sector (Oil n Gas, financial services, hospitality etc.) and across countries; following national mandates (visions, strategies, plans and goals).

It has been quite apparent that governments of Gulf States in general and UAE in particular have set the stage for the public sector to adopt international standards of practice in quality, occupational health, safety environment, corporate governance and human capital. This is a unique aspect; within a mainly tax free environment and with a non-regulatory approach to sustainability, both public and private sector enterprises have readily accepted and actively supported national ambitions of green economy, smart growth and sustainable development. Leaders and stalwarts from the region have successfully assumed global leadership roles, and have become international advocates and ambassadors of sustainability.

The Arabia CSR Forum, to be held on the 2nd & 3rd of October 2018, will aim to shed light on very critical conclusions, learnings and recommendations that have been forwarded by the champions and proponents of corporate responsibility and sustainability from our region. Additionally, we will have the opportunity to hear from global experts, think tanks and practice leaders about the nexus of sustainability, technology and the 2030 development agenda.

In August we organised another training on GRI Standards, and will shortly roll out the same in Arabic on the 18th - 20th September 2018. The panel discussion on circular economy, which took place on the 29th of August 2018, presented a great opportunity to learn more about the input value of outputs. The next session will be held in the last month of the year. Do join us in the awarding ceremony, forum and trainings, to learn, share, exchange and spread the word about the role of corporate responsibility in promoting sustainable development.

Register Now for the Arabia CSR Network Upcoming Events



GRI Standards (Arabic)
18th - 20th SEP 2018

2-3 October 2018
Rada Al Murooj Hotel, Dubai

Forum Day 1

- Shaping our prospects with sustainable values
- Utilising the SDGs to Navigate Uncertain Times
- Renewable Energy - Fueling Sustainability

Forum Day 2

- Innovation and Investment: Where do we go from here?
- Sustainable Development Through Industry 4.0
- What are investors looking for when it comes to sustainability?

To register please visit the link below
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ACSRN News and Events

GRI Standards equip trainees to emulate sustainability reporting best practices

In the month of August Arabia CSR Network organised the fourth certified training on the GRI Standards, among the most advanced reporting structures developed by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). A group of six participants undertook the three day course to attain the certification from the GRI. Certified Training Partner ACSRN delivered the high content module, contributing local cases and examples of best practice.

The course highlighted the key principles, methodologies and tools that reporters are to adopt for their reports to be considered in accordance with the standards. The module was divided into sections on the GRI, sustainability reporting, components of the 36 GRI Standards, and the reporting process. The trainers explained the concepts and requirements lucidly, backed up by extensive discussion, group exercises and lectures.

According to experts, the value of the sustainability reporting process is that it ensures organisations to consider their impacts on these sustainability issues, and enables them to be transparent about the risks and opportunities they face. Stakeholders also play a crucial role in identifying these risks and opportunities for organisations, particularly those that are non-financial. This increased transparency leads to better decision making, which helps build and maintain trust in businesses and governments.



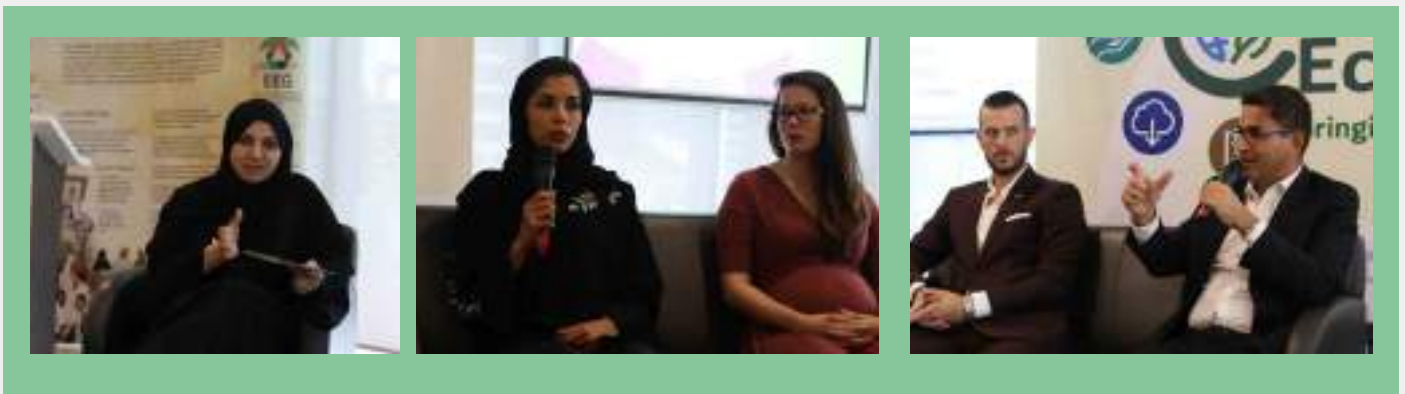
It has been almost two years since the GRI Standards replaced the G4 Guidelines and one of the biggest changes in the transition was the introduction of a modular structure. This structure allows the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB) to regularly bring individual standards up to date, based on the urgency and demand from the field.

The first updated standards, **GRI 303: Water & Effluents 2018** and **GRI 403: Occupational Health and Safety 2018*** are now available! They will officially be launched with a communications campaign in the coming months.

The official launch of the **GRI 303: Water and Effluents** took place at the **World Water Week in Stockholm**, on the **28th August**. The rationale behind updating this standard was to respond to the global water crisis and the common agenda for sustainable development. For over a year, GRI worked closely with a project group of leading experts in water stewardship, as well as practitioners from water-intensive industries. The resulting standard corresponds to current demands and trends, and has a basis in the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 6: 'Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all'.

GRI kicked off a social media campaign about the standard on the 28th August, on social media channels (*Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook*). GRI has also published a video explaining the key features of the new standard, and will organize two webinars on the 19 September where participants can ask questions directly.

The updated standard is available for download on the *GRI website*. The transition time is until the end of 2020, but companies will benefit from earlier transition, which is encouraged by GRI. For any technical questions, you can contact standards@globalreporting.org.



4th Panel Discussions

On the 29th of August, the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), in cooperation with the Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN), the Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC), Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC), and in association with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organised its fourth panel discussion of 2018. Hosted by the Modul University, this discussion focused on “**Circular Economy: Bringing Waste Full Circle**”, an initiative to move from a linear economic model to one that promotes the sustainable use and disposal of products.

Over 60 attendees from different sectors of the industry were present at the discussion which explored how circular economy can help address resource constraints and regenerate economic opportunities for a pollution free world, achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals. The panel comprised of speakers who enlightened the attendees with best practices implemented at their organisations and the long term benefits of these initiatives. The experts included speaker from Emirates Global Aluminium, AESG Consulting, ETUIX and German Imaging Technologies. They each highlighted the numerous challenges faced in implementing methods towards achieving a more circular economy and innovative ways in which one could attain sustainability.

The Chairperson Mrs. Al Mar’ashi, moderated the discussion where they also addressed crucial questions, such as the perception of consumers and how to influence them in the short and long term to attain sustainable levels of consumption. How far companies in the region have come, what does the future for the notion of circular economy look like and what incentives the government can provide to encourage corporations and individuals to become part of the solution to this problem? The discussion helped highlight the fact that there are many ways, unique to each organisation, which could help reduce waste and thereby meet the sustainable development goals by facilitating better consumption and production patterns.



Members News

DEWA initiates Solar Carport Project at select government buildings

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) commissioned the 2MWp Solar Carport Project, at its headquarters and at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) building. DEWA launched the project last year as part of the Shams Dubai initiative, to increase reliance on clean energy, support the Smart Dubai initiative and achieve its vision of becoming a sustainable innovative world-class utility. This project covers a total of 885 parking spaces in the two locations, using 6,700 locally manufactured solar modules, spanning an area of 13,200 square metres with a total production capacity of 2,000 kW. This is equivalent to a reduction of about 1,500 tons of carbon emissions annually. [Source: www.dewa.gov.ae](http://www.dewa.gov.ae)



New environment friendly coolant products introduced in the UAE

EPPCO Lubricants has recently introduced Caltex Lubricants' new Havoline coolant product range to the automotive market. The Havoline Easy Cool 33 and the Havoline Radiator Coolant are designed to provide year round protection for vehicle engines. The products contain inhibitors which provide protection from overheating, rust and corrosion – which can be typical outcomes for many vehicles during hot summer months. **In addition, both products are organic, environmentally friendly, and offer extended protection for buyers' engines at an affordable retail price.** An extensive range of ENOC and Caltex lubricants, greases, coolants and specialty product offerings are available to the market via EPPCO Lubricants, as the company provides product offerings locally for its brands packaged in bulk, drums and small pack cartons. EPPCO Lubricants range of automotive and industrial lubricants can now be purchased online via www.souq.com. [Source: https://www.enoc.com](https://www.enoc.com)

wasl health campaign with Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences

As part of the strategic partnership between wasl Asset Management Group, one of the largest real estate development and management companies in Dubai, and Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU), wasl has organised a health campaign for its employees that includes dental screening, bone density check-ups and medical consultations done in collaboration with MBRU, Dubai Dental Clinic, and Dubai Bone & Joint Center. The services offered have received a high level of demand from wasl employees. The strategic partnership between the two parties started earlier this year with wasl's provision of necessary equipment — computer and physiology labs— to the university in celebration and support of the values of the 'Year of Zayed 2018' initiative in the UAE. This partnership is part of the continuous social responsibility programme adopted by wasl to seek cooperation and partnership opportunities with educational health and charitable institutions in Dubai to provide assistance and support to those in need. [Source: www.wasl.ae](http://www.wasl.ae)

EGA discloses performance in first sustainability report

Emirates Global Aluminium, the largest industrial company in the United Arab Emirates outside oil and gas, launched its 2017 sustainability report detailing the organisation's values, commitments, aspirations and achievements in environmental, social and economic performance. EGA aspires to be measured amongst the world's leading metals and mining companies in meeting its environmental and social responsibilities. EGA's sustainability report charts the company's performance in areas including emissions, safety, technological innovation, community engagement, waste and effluent management, and social responsibility. The disclosures made in the report are the outcome of a materiality analysis to identify sustainability topics that warrant the greatest levels of transparency and accountability, as well as EGA's values and commitments. The report focuses on 2017 performance but also incorporates data for 2014, 2015 and 2016 to illustrate trends since the formation of EGA through the merger of Dubai Aluminium and Emirates Aluminium in 2014. [Source: https://www.ega.ae](https://www.ega.ae)



Free home grown Dates for residents of The Sustainable City

Even as supermarkets in the UAE stock up on fresh dates from the current harvest season, residents of one community in Dubai are savouring the summer fruit without having to buy it. In fact, they are receiving basketful of dates for free. The Sustainable City, located on Al Qudra Road, has 1,250 date palms. With the date harvest in full swing, its developer Diamond Developers is distributing free dates to residents for the second year. However, this time around it is also handing out recipes of date-based desserts and other delicacies. According to a representative, a bumper harvest of over 60 tonnes of dates are expected to be produced. Already freshly plucked dates have been distributed to more than 300 families in the community. Dates have also been stocked in the fridge adjoining the mosque in the City. It is the community's food bank – free for everyone to pick and eat. [Source: https://www.thesustainablecity.ae](https://www.thesustainablecity.ae)



Feature, Blogs, White papers, Articles...

How Islam can represent a model for environmental stewardship

The world, not just the UN, is waking up to the power of faith-based organisations (FBOs). How can Islam, and other faiths, contribute to solutions to sustainability and mitigate climate change risks?

Odeh Al-Jayyousi, Professor and head of innovation at Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain, scholar in sustainable innovation, argues that Islamic worldview represents a unique model for a transition to sustainable development by focusing on justice, degrowth and harmony between human and nature. He commented that Islam views the environmental challenges as an indicator for a moral and ethical crisis. Looking at the creation of human, Earth, and cosmos as signs of the Creator (Kitab Manthoor) is a key in Islamic values. Prof. Al-Jayyousi elaborated that Islamic worldview defines a good life (Hayat Tayebah) living lightly on Earth (Zohd) and caring for both people and nature. Islamic discourse offers a sense of hope and optimism about the possibility of attaining harmony between human and nature.

Earth will find a balance if humans rethink their lifestyles and mindsets as stated in the Quran:

Corruption has appeared in both land and sea
Because of what people's own hands have brought
So that they may taste something of what they have done
So that hopefully they will turn back
Qur'an 30: 41

Professor Al-Jayyousi calls to revive the holistic view of Islam which is founded on the notion of harmony and "natural state" (fitra) and in respecting balance (mizan) and proportion (mikdar) in the systems of the universe. These notions provide an ethical dimension and a mandate for all humans to respect nature and all forms of life. Hence, the overcoming environmental crisis and mitigating the impact of climate change, from an Islamic perspective is underpinned by defining the role of humans as trustees and stewards (khalifah). This balance has been disturbed because to human choices which result in overconsumption, overexploitation and overuse of resources. Islamic values call to save integrity and to protect the diversity of all forms of life. Professor Al-Jayyousi commented that the ecological crisis is linked to human ethics and values. Human actions are responsible for the global ecological crisis. "Reflecting on the main environmental problems, such as the destruction of natural habitats, loss of biodiversity, climate change, and erosion of soil, we see that all are triggered by human greed and ignorance. Human responsibility is to save and protect livelihood and ecosystem services to ensure a sustainable civilization learning from and reflecting on the fate of past civilizations", said Professor Al-Jayyousi. He cited a verse from the Holy Book, Quran, "Every living thing is in a state of worship".

He commented that when one hurts a bird or a plant, he/she is silencing a community of worshippers. To celebrate the symphony of life, all humans need to celebrate and protect biological and cultural diversity.

Islamic worldview calls to make a transition to a sustainable society and economy by adopting responsible development and respecting sustainability principles. This change requires a shift in norms and practices. Religion can become a powerful part of the solution if humans embody a holistic spiritual view towards mankind, earth and cosmos. In 2015 in Istanbul, the Muslim world in its Islamic declaration for climate change set the framework for an ethical code of conduct to build a low-emission climate resilient future. Al-Jayyousi aspires to see a new Islamic discourse that emphasizes and links faith, reason and empathy to ensure an ecological insight (Baseera). He calls to rethink educational systems that neglected the beauty and majesty of nature and the cosmos. "The extinction of species around us which are simply communities like us (Ummam Amthalokom) may extend to humankind unless we change our worldviews and development models", warns Prof. Al-Jayyousi. He calls to revive the concept of Green Endowment Fund (Waqf) to support a transition to sustainable economy by promoting innovation (ijtihad) inspired by nature and culture.

He proposed a conceptual model with three domains to address climate change and sustainability:

- Green activism (Jihad)
- Green innovation (Ijtihad)
- Green lifestyle (Zohd).

He refers to this as a Green JIZ model, which represents an Islamic response to climate change embodying the concept of de-growth. "Conflict and poor governance are putting the Middle East and North Africa at jeopardy" points out Prof. Al-Jayyousi. He calls for a sustainable region that is founded on human and environmental justice. An optimist, Prof. Al-Jayyousi is inspired by prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) saying "If it is the Last day of life and you have a small plant, make sure you plant it".

About the Author:

Professor Odeh Al-Jayyousi is the head of Innovation and Technology Management at Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain. He published a book on "Islam and sustainable development", UK, (2012) and a book on Integral Innovation, 2017, UK. He is a member of UN GEO6- Scientific Advisory Panel.



Case Study from the Archive - Etihad ESCO



Abstract

Over the span of five years, Etihad ESCO has grown to become a market leader within the realm of energy efficiency. In the aim of making Dubai a global benchmark for sustainable cities, Etihad ESCO is mandated with several challenging but aspirational targets. Established to address a regional gap in the energy value chain, Etihad ESCO enables an innovative business model to generate complex value that ensures multiple system benefits. The disruptive business model for DEWA's supply chain allows Etihad ESCO to tap in an array of socio-environmental outcomes by enabling smooth system transitions in the energy supply space with the aim of balancing demand and supply at the local level.

For their retrofit branch, Etihad ESCO is mandated to generate 1.7 TWh energy savings, 5.6 BIG water savings, and 1M tons of CO2 emissions reduction by 2030. Furthermore, contribute to achieve energy demand reduction targets set by Dubai Supreme Council of Energy in the Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy 2030, which are 20% by 2020 and 30% by 2030. The energy reduction targets are currently the responsibility of TAQATI, the Demand Side Management Strategy of Dubai's Project Management Office, which was established in 2016 as a branch of Etihad ESCO. Moreover, in early 2017, Etihad ESCO launched their third branch named Etihad Solar. In the aim of fostering the renewable energy market in Dubai, UAE and the region. Etihad Solar has already rolled out several mega projects for installing rooftop PV systems across Dubai, including the Hatta solar project which spans over 640 villas.

Conclusion

Being the only "Super ESCO" in the Arab world as of 2017, Etihad ESCO offers a distinct advantage by providing clients with the best solutions from the ESCO market through a comprehensive tendering process. Etihad ESCO is a comprehensive energy efficiency provider, continuously encouraging the ESCO market to develop and enhance innovative products and solutions. Leveraging project implementation financing mechanisms, Etihad ESCO also removed the finance barrier for the market.

In the span of a few years, Etihad ESCO has facilitated accreditation for over 21 companies with many more in the pipe line. An impressive achievement among many other, such as the fact that Etihad ESCO has cumulatively succeeded in developing and implementing projects that resulted in 177 GWh of electricity, 278 MIG of water savings and reduced 80,000 MT of CO2 emissions. The success story encompasses over 2,500 buildings and 10 MW of developed solar projects.

With the ambitious energy reduction targets of the Emirate of Dubai, the next five years remain crucial for Etihad ESCO as they continue to grow their operations beyond the borders of the Emirate. At the moment the main challenge is the unavailability of qualified ESCO's to implement and maintain energy efficiency solutions, which is why Etihad ESCO has dedicated a large deal of resources and time in building the capacity of the ESCO market locally and regionally.