

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية  
الإجتماعية للمؤسسات  
Arabia CSR Network®

# Arabia CSR Network

newsletter

January 2019  
Volume 8 Issue 89



ACSRN HAS DELIVERED  
46 SESSIONS ON GRI REPORTING



**5th Panel Discussion**  
**(EEG & Arabia CSR Network)**  
**30 January 2019**



**Case Study from the Archive**  
**Al Futtaim Carillion**

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## Note from the President & CEO Arabia CSR Network

The World Bank will be issuing dollar-denominated sustainable notes for the first time. These notes will be able to provide awareness to potential investors about environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) performance of UN Global Compact signatories through the Global Sustainability Signatories Index 7.5% VC ER. The exclusive underwriter of this note which is index-linked for 7 years is UBS. The index is composed of up to 100 companies who demonstrate strong ESG performance, according to Sustainalytics ratings.

In partnering with World Bank in this transaction, UBS is aligning its ESG strategy with the Sustainable Developmental Goals. These are exciting times as international organisations and think tanks are reframing their visions and goals in order to project a future that is economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. While there may be roadblocks and hurdles along the way, there is no better time than now to act.

The end of the year should not mean that all progress should come to a standstill. Rather, we need to gather momentum and meet the next year with renewed vigor to reach our milestones and breach the walls of negativity. For all the readers of Arabia CSR Network Newsletter, here's wishing you a happy new year and may the next one be filled with vibrant and sustainable future!

## ACSRN News

### GRI Standards

ACSRN, a certified training partner of Global Reporting Initiative, ran a three-day Arabic training course on the GRI Standards from December 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. It focused on the latest iteration of the GRI sustainability reporting standard with an aim to help organisations better understand and communicate their non-financial performance and their sustainability related impacts.

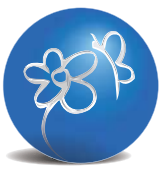
A session on the support services, resources and tools offered by GRI to reporting organisations was also delivered to the participants. The training concluded with a highly effective exercise wherein participants reviewed and evaluated two GRI Standards compliant reports issued from the region. This practical activity ensured that the participants had fully grasped the content of the training module and were able to successfully apply the knowledge they had gained.

The GRI Sustainability Reporting training is a very efficient mode of gaining comprehensive knowledge about sustainability and reporting. It helps to clear up misconceptions about what Sustainability means and how sustainable practices benefit an organisation. Delegates can intensify their understanding about how best to use sustainability reporting for strategic purposes. Given that transparency and reporting are almost the minimum requirement for a sustainable business, GRI provides a well-structured process to mainstream it into business activities.



ACSRN is the first certified training partner of GRI in the region, and since 2011 has been bringing various GRI training modules to interested participants in the Arab region. Many reports have been launched by organisations who had taken part in these trainings and gained both knowledge and technical know-how related to sustainability reporting based on the GRI structure. Successful participants received a formal certificate from GRI for undertaking the training. Speaking about the training Mrs. Al Mar'ashi said, “The GRI Standards offer a modular and structured format for sustainability reports, aiding organisations to produce high impact, comparable reports that can help stakeholders make informed decisions about the organizations. We are delighted to be a certified training partner of GRI, which is renowned worldwide for driving sustainability reporting across the globe. To date ACSRN has delivered 46 sessions on GRI reporting, that have spawned a large number of reports and built the capacity of hundreds of individuals.”





## **CSR Fundamentals**

Arabia CSR Network held a three day training on CSR Fundamentals in Arabic from December 16<sup>th</sup> till 18<sup>th</sup>. CSR and Sustainability have emerged as a strategic priority for organisations leading them to find ways to realize the full potential that CSR offers as a strategic management tool. The Arabia CSR Network organises these training to help the participants understand how CSR can contribute strategically to an organization's comprehensive performance and learn more about opportunities and benefits that CSR presents by scoping out what corporate responsibility means for their entities. The course has been designed to offer pedagogical content and real world examples using a combination of lecture, discussion and exercise.

The training would be very useful for a wide range of participants that are looking to build their understanding of CSR and Sustainability, and use this to enhance their own and organizational knowledge about how best to develop an effective CSR and Sustainability practice. The training will be suitable for CSR or any other team member tasked with Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) responsibilities, as well as consultants, freelancers and researchers.



## **Member News**

### **DEWA organises 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Practices Conference on OHSE**

Continuing in its strategy of promoting the basic principles of quality, health and safety, Dubai Electric and Water Authority (DEWA) recently organized its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Best Practices Conference. The aim of this conference is to raise awareness in the key areas mentioned above. The MD and CCEO of DEWA presided over the proceedings. Other dignitaries who attended included HE Ahmed Buti Al Muhairbi, Secretary General of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy; DEWA's Executive Vice Presidents and Vice Presidents, officials from the public and private sectors, and a number of experts and specialists in quality, health, safety, and the environment. The MD reiterated DEWA's resolve to spreading awareness about the importance of ongoing education and training so that one is aware of the latest breakthroughs in the world of sustainable development. He said that these goals aligned perfectly with the Dubai Plan 2021 and would help make Dubai a leading modern sustainable leader. Towards that end, DEWA is committed to providing the highest standards of quality, health, safety, and environment in all its internal and external operations as part of DEWA's responsibility to its employees, and society as a whole. He said that the authority was focused on meeting the expectations of its employees, partners, and customers as part of an integrated management and operations strategy that ensures the highest levels of availability, reliability, efficiency and quality.



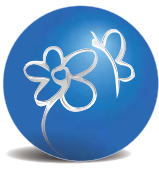
Source: <https://www.dewa.gov.ae>

### **ENOC launches first compact fuel station in Dubai**

ENOC's Group CEO remarked that the time had come to start catering to residents living in residential communities at the launch of a pilot compact fuel station. He said that at the rate the population of UAE was growing and keeping in mind the increase in the number of registered vehicles in the city, it had become essential to address the issue of traffic congestion and long lines at fuel pumps. Even more so, now that Expo 2020 was almost here. The concept of a compact fuel station is a mobile unit that is able to relocate to a new location owing to the demand within a month as it is not bound by the brick and mortar infrastructural hindrances of a conventional fuel station. A typical compact fuel station will hold a capacity of 30,000 litres and would be able to fuel 400 cars per day. The first of its kind has been placed at Arabian Ranches. The fuel station will not leave a carbon footprint as it is charged by the solar pv panels. Furthermore, all the best and latest EHS practices have been followed in its design.



Source: <https://www.enoc.com>



### **Mubadala and Dubal Holding to sign 25-year deal with Emirates Global Aluminium worth more than AED 1 billion to develop new power block and water desalination plant**

Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA), Mubadala and Dubal Holding are close to signing an agreement to develop a state-of-the-art power block and a water desalination plant at EGA's smelter at Jebel Ali in Dubai. The new facilities would be able to improve the efficiency of power for EGA's aluminium smelting. This would in turn reduce environmental emissions and natural gas consumption.



The project which is joint venture will be able to install a total cycle power facility at EGA's Jebel Ali site capable of generating over 600 megawatts of electricity. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chairman of Dubal Holding and Vice Chairman of EGA remarked that the project was in line with the government's plan to enhance sustainable development in the UAE. He further added that it was done through ambitious initiatives and sustainable development projects that were highly efficient according to the IPP model. Also speaking on the occasion, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of EGA said that the deal would enable EGA to further improve energy efficiency, save natural resources and reduce the costs and environmental emissions associated with aluminum production.

Source: <https://www.ega.ae>

## General News



### **Their own goals-migration driving sustainable development**

These are exciting times for migrant workers as almost 190 countries are set to adopt the groundbreaking UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. One of the many features of the Compact is the recognition of the contributions of migrants to the development of their host and origin countries. Migrant workers fill gaps in the labour market in host countries. Currently there are more than 800 million people in the world who have at least one family member sending them remittances without which they would not be able to afford such basic needs as education for their children, healthcare and decent housing – all focus areas of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These same remittances are also used by the sender's family back home as seed capital or to gain access to loans which can allow them to start their own businesses. Although the amount of money sent back in remittances annually totals almost half a trillion dollars, by the time it reaches the family members, only very little is left. Most of the money gets deducted in various channels. A case in point being the fees charged for sending remittances back, which alone eat up on average 7% of the total remittance.

The Global Compact aims to address this issue by making countries sign the agreement which binds them to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of limiting the cost of remittances globally to an average of 3% by 2030. Although progress has been slow so far, nevertheless there is still hope. If successful, this would radically improve the lives of the migrant workers.

Source: <https://www.un.org>



## Trainings & Events for 2019

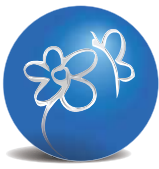
TRAINING PLANNER FOR THE YEAR 2019			
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> January</b> GRI Standards Training (English)	<b>13<sup>th</sup> February</b> CSR Impact Assessment Workshop  <b>25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> February</b> CSR Fundamentals Training	<b>18<sup>th</sup> March</b> Stakeholder Engagement Workshop  <b>26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> March</b> GRI Training (English)	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> April</b> CSR Advanced Training (English)
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
<b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b> Ramadan	<b>18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> June</b> CSR Strategy and Leadership Training (English)  <b>25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> June</b> GRI Standards Training (English)	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> July</b> CSR Fundamentals (Arabic)	<b>27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> August</b> GRI Standards Training (English)
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> September</b> GRI Standards Training (Arabic)	<b>24<sup>th</sup> October</b> Materiality Mapping Workshop	<b>5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> November</b> GRI Standard  <b>19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> November</b> CSR Advanced Training (Arabic)	<b>17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> GRI standard Arabic  <b>23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> CSR Strategy & Leadership Training (Arabic)



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**OCTOBER 10, 2019, BERLIN**







## Feature, Blogs, White papers, Articles...

## *What's your beef? How Carbon labels can steer us towards environmentally friendly food choices*



When deciding what to eat for dinner most people will think of a favorite place or cuisine. Would their choice of food change if they were provided a straightforward way to compare the environmental impacts of different foods?

Not many people are able to recognise the environmental impact of their food choices. Recent research published in Nature Climate Change has shown that even customers do consider greenhouse gas emissions associated with their food, they tend to underestimate it. The research proposes a potential solution. By adding a “carbon label” to food choices, the researchers were able to nudge consumers in the right direction, much in the same manner that as nutrition information helps to highlight healthier options.

Food production is highly industrialised coupled with environmental impacts that most people do not consider. In those parts of the world where beef is produced conversion of land for beef. This leads to deforestation. Other side effects include usage of natural gas for the creation of fertilizers and heavy usage of fossil fuels for refrigeration and transportation. On a global scale, 19-20% of greenhouse gas emissions are due to food production. Red meat is the largest contributor in this. Cattle which are specifically raised for beef and dairy products are major sources of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

This shows that meat is not efficient. More fertilizer is used to produce less meat. The study shows that it took 38 kilograms of plant-based protein to produce 1kg of beef. This comes to an efficiency of just 3%. For comparison, pork has 9% efficiency and poultry has 13%. Thus, if more people switched to non-meat meals, greenhouse gas emissions would go down significantly.

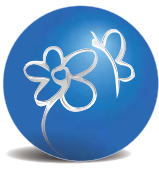
The study makes the point that food might seem familiar but is a complex phenomenon. Most of what we eat, we are not aware of what goes behind from its creation to distribution. Similarly there is clear linkage of food with climate change and greenhouse gas emission. The study proposes labels in understandable units much like electricity. If people are presented with proper information that makes them aware of how much they will be contributing to the emission of greenhouse gases by consuming meat products, they would be less likely to make the same choice.

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<https://theconversation.com/profiles/adrian-r-camilleri-200583>



## Case Study from the Arabia CSR Best Practices 2017 - Al Futtaim Carillion

### Abstract

Al Futtaim Carillion has been a winner of the Arabia CSR Awards not only in the 2017 cycle, but also in a number of previous cycles – a testimony to the fact that they are seasoned corporate citizens in the construction sector.

AFC's key strength lies in its focused sustainability strategy which directly feeds in to the global Carillion 2020 strategy. This covers six positive outcomes that are also the company's material issues focusing on low carbon economies, environmental protection, sustainable communities and more.

AFC also supports a number of global commitments such as the UK Modern Slavery Act and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights which guides the company to ensure the protection of rights for all employees, clients, suppliers, and third parties. AFC's policies and practices below serve as a very good model for large organizations to practice sustainability by way of being inspired and guided by the global office, but at the same time being true to local issues and regional concerns.

### Conclusion

Al Futtaim Carillion, as mentioned above, is certainly no stranger or novice when it comes to sustainability. With significant guidance and inspiration from the Carillion Head Office in the UK, AFC has proved itself as a leading sustainability-focused construction company in the UAE and the Middle East region.

The guiding light for its sustainability initiatives is its 2020 sustainability strategy which focuses on globally critical issues such as low-carbon economies, resource and waste management, sustainable and people focused communities. So far the company is on track for a number of ambitious quantitative targets that it has set against these issues, such as reducing diesel purchase by 65%, reducing waste generated by 25% and reducing water consumption by 45%.

These environmental targets are complemented by a number of community-focused goals and initiatives. For example, AFC's commitment to social wellbeing is evident in their strict compliance with the UK Modern Slavery Act. As mentioned above, the company actively raises awareness of issues related to slavery and human trafficking by providing free guidance and training to all its employees and suppliers.

Engagement with suppliers for procurement of goods and services also helps AFC enhance its sustainability impact. The organization is an advocate of sustainable procurement and encourages its suppliers to focus on minimizing environmental impact and creating social value through its good and services. For example, all products sourced by AFC have to be ethically sourced, especially timber.

AFC's sustainability approach may lack in glitz and glamour, but for an organization that operates in an industry and region that has always been under scrutiny, the company's policies and performance are extremely comprehensive and ambitious. Its 2020 strategy is clear and focused and can serve as a very good model not only for other companies in the construction sector, but for other industries as well.

