

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الإجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

Arabia CSR Network

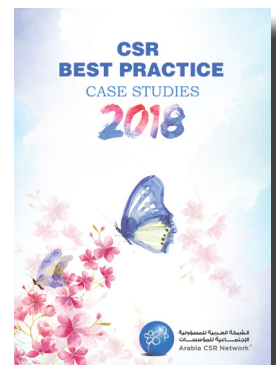
newsletter

June 2019
Volume 8 Issue 94



INDO-UAE
BUSINESS &
SOCIAL FORUM

The Best Practices publication highlights the case study methodology framework adopted by Arabia CSR Network to analyse the efforts and impacts of organisations in the Arab region that are driven by sustainable values and principles. The publication is a valuable resource that highlights the innovative and homegrown CSR practices in the Arab region that are founded on global and local frameworks, standards and benchmarks. It is a priceless commodity to guide other organisations in developing their own CSR and sustainability strategies, visions, plans and programmes and to replicate the best practices, which will scale up the positive outcomes of CSR and sustainability across our Region. To read about this month's featured organisation, go to [page 7](#)



KEY DATES

30th June
2019, 17:00
UAE time

**Deadline to
submit the Awards
application**

1st July – 15th
August 2019

**Review of
applications by
ACSRA Jury Panel**

End of 1st
week of
September
2019

**Announcement
of short-listed
Organisations**

2nd October
2019

**Arabia CSR
Awards Gala
Event**

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Building Partnerships for
a Sustainable Future ©

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Note from the President & CEO Arabia CSR Network

Arabia CSR Network offers heartiest greetings and felicitations to all its readers on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. May all your prayers and wishes come true.

According to the findings of the latest report published by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) which was presented at the 7th session of the plenary body from the 29th of April till 4th of May, the declining rate of nature is unprecedented. The speed at which species are going extinct could have grave ramifications not just for the planet but for humans as well with the erosion of our livelihoods, food security, economies, quality of life and health in danger. The report is

a first in the sense that it is the most comprehensive and detailed look into the health of the planet and ecosystem. Building on from the groundbreaking Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in 2005, the report has introduced innovative techniques to assess the evidence on the ground. The report has been compiled by 145 experts in their fields, hailing from 50 nationalities. In addition to this, 310 authors have also contributed to the report by gauging the level of change the environment and ecosystem has undergone over five decades.

This is a first time that a report has addressed the concerns and issues of indigenous people and local communities. This has been made possible through the exhaustive and thorough review of more than 15,000 sources both from the government and scientific community. The resulting picture that emerges is a grim one with serious consequences for everyone on the planet. The rapid decline of the diversity within species and also within ecosystems is posing a serious challenge on a sustainable future for the planet and its inhabitants. The report points to the more than 1 million species of plants and animals that are on the brink of extinction within the coming decades. The fact is that since 1900, on average, native species in most areas have declined by at least 20% with 33% of reef-forming corals, more than one third of marine mammals and more than 40% amphibians are under threat. Furthermore, although the report fails to give a confirmed prognosis of the fate of insects, it does highlight tentatively that more than 10% of insect species are under threat. Regarding vertebrate species, it points out that since the 16th century, more than 600 species have completely disappeared.

However, the report does end on a promising note, saying it is still not too late to make amends and save our planet for future generations. Calling it 'transformative change' the report offers a glimmer of hope to restore and use our beloved Earth in a more humane and sustainable manner. To find out more about the report, please read the feature article for this month. Perhaps it is Allah's way of reminding us that we still have time to atone for our past negligences and make up for our mistakes that the report has come in the month of Ramadan. It is the month of peace, forgiveness and blessings. So let us make a resolution in this holy and blessed month, collectively and individually that we will do whatever is in our power to heal and protect our planet and its ecosystem. It takes one step to start a journey so let us build partnerships for a sustainable future. The coming month promises to be eventful as the countdown to register application for the 12th Arabia CSR Awards reaches its conclusion. We also have trainings coming up in the next couple of months. The most immediate one are the CSR Strategy and Leadership Training from the 18th - 20th of June followed by the GRI Standards Training from the 23rd to the 25th of the same month. Do join us in trainings and apply for the Arabia CSR Awards to learn, share, exchange and spread the word about the role of corporate responsibility in promoting sustainable development.

Upcoming Trainings



CSR STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP COURSE
18-20 June 2019, Dubai

ABOUT THE TRAINING

CSR requires Champions to chart the course, lead the teams and leave the way. The incumbent owners on a given day have been within sustainability conditions, many companies have been in their sustainability journey for lack of leadership vision and vision making the last 15 years and the emerging trends in the understanding of the business ecosystem within CSR and Corporate Sustainability.

TAKING YOUR SKILLS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

- Equip you with new strategies for outperforming leaders that you will integrate into your corporate plan.
- Assess the emerging social and ecological environment and opportunity in the bottom line metrics.
- Develop measures to improve sustainability strategy.
- Nurture relationships with internal and external stakeholders.
- Navigate the effects of the economic, social, environmental and the emerging trends in the bottom line metrics.

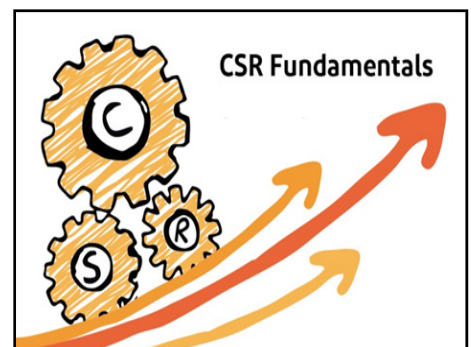
18th - 20th June 2019

CSR Strategy and Leadership Training



23rd - 25th June 2019

GRI Standards Training (English)



23rd - 25th July 2019

CSR Fundamentals Training

To register please email us at admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com, trainings@arabiaccsrnetwork.com



ACSRN News & Events

Indo-UAE Business & Social Forum

The Indo-UAE Business & Social Forum was held on the occasion of the 11th edition of the Asian Business & Social Forum (ABSF) on the 1st of May at the JW Marriot Marquis Hotel, Dubai. Arabia CSR Network President & CEO and Chairman of Emirates Environmental Group, Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi was honored at the event by being awarded the 'Women Empowerment Award & World's Greatest CSR Award'. The event featured several prominent business leaders and diplomatic personalities from Asia and the Arab region.

The awarding ceremony was followed by a panel discussion in which Mrs. Al Mar'ashi also participated. In lieu of her vast experience in the field, she was called upon to bring to light her insight on the need for a common thread of pro-environmental activities in order to bring educational institutions, private companies, government organisations and community together. She also elaborated on the simple changes that we could make on an individual level to address and arrest the march of environmental deterioration. She said that one of the main reasons that we had failed to get a grip on the challenges and issues was because countries had not completely seen the inter-connectedness of the issues and had been going about tackling these issues on national level, within their own silos. She further added that inspite of being the dominant species on Planet Earth, human beings were not the only one and that there was a need for us to acknowledge our co-habitants and respect their spaces and their ecosystems.

Speaking about the UAE, Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi praised the visionary leadership of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and said that the government of UAE was aware of the challenges posed by global warming, climate change and the rapid pace of development. This was why the UAE government had placed protection of environment and sustainable development as one of its key policy topics. Inspite of facing serious environmental challenges due to its population growth, high demand for water and energy, increasing levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the rapid pace of urban development, UAE continued to be a leader in sustainability.

Mrs. Mar'ashi enumerated the number of steps undertaken by the government for the purpose of protecting and managing the environment and the wildlife in the country. Some of these laws include banning private ownership of dangerous animals and sea dumping, implementing policies and legislations, making efforts towards sustainability and more.





Member News

DEWA joins Leading Utilities of the World Network

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) was made a member of the 'Leading Utilities of the World' (LUOW) network at the recently concluded World Water Summit 2019, held in London, UK. The honour was bestowed in recognition of the DEWA's continued excellence in its sector. The recognition came through the recommendation of LUOW's Advisory Board which consisted of representatives from the top-performing water utilities globally. The Board members were especially impressed with DEWA's success in 2018's Smart Water Company of the year award as well as other international accolades.

Speaking on the occasion, the MD & CEO of DEWA confirmed his organisation's vision to become a leading sustainable and innovative corporation. He highlighted the three pillars to ensure sustainability of water production that the Dubai government followed. He said that the integrated innovative model protected the environment and emphasised Dubai's endeavor to anticipate and shape the future. DEWA has been a pioneer in the use of research and development to employ the latest global technologies which have led to increased reduction in water transmission losses.



To find out more, visit: <https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/about-dewa/news-and-media/press-and-news/latest-news/2019/05/dewa-joins-leading-utilities-of-the-world-network>

Second batch of trainees from the Employment Facilitation Training Service (EFTS) programme for differently abled individuals complete their rotation with BMMI

Carrying on from its pioneering tradition of partnering with the Bahrain Society for Children with Behavioural and Communication Difficulties (BSCBCD) in launching the Employment Facilitation Training Service Programme (EFTS), BMMI produced its second batch of trainees in 2018 who joined the organisation's Bahrain Logistics Services (BLS).

Speaking on the occasion, the Director of Alia for Early Intervention, which leads the EFTS programme applauded BMMI and said that it has set the bar high for partnership as they continued to engage in and support community initiatives. From BMMI's side, the Head of Corporate Communications and Marketing said that the topic of inclusivity and diversity was very crucial for the organisation and that it was constantly and proactively seeking out further opportunities to champion these causes. He added that through the trainings the trainees had gained multiple transferrable job skills over the past four months which would help them in their lives.

To find out more, please visit: <https://www.bmmigroup.com/press-release/second-batch-of-trainees-from-the-employment-facilitation-training-service-efts-programme-for-differently-abled-individuals-complete-their-rotation-with-bmmi/>





Local and Regional News

Hotels in Dubai will have to comply with 19 new sustainability requirements within the next 18 months, Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism) has announced.

In a bid to promote Dubai as one of the leading destinations in sustainable tourism and to improve energy conservation and efficiency as well as encourage environmentally sustainable practices across the local tourism industry, the government has rolled out regulations under the Dubai Sustainable Tourism (DST) initiative covering a wide range of areas. Some of these include performance metrics, employee training initiatives, sustainable management approaches, guest education, energy, food and water management plans, corporate social responsibility programmes for local communities, presence of sustainability committees within hotel establishments among others.

In order to regulate compliance on these areas, Dubai Tourism has given hotels a grace period of 18 months to bring their operations up to par before being auditioned based on the set out KPIs. The initiative is seen as a continuation and up-gradation of pre-existing performance indicators the hotels were expected to comply with such as the Carbon Calculator tool which became mandatory from January 2017.

Officials from Dubai Tourism have been conducting training sessions in order to raise awareness among the industry relating to the new sustainability requirements. So far, they have trained 45% of the industry with the rest expected to be covered in the second quarter.

To find out more, please visit: <https://gulfbusiness.com/hotels-dubai-given-18-months-meet-new-sustainability-requirements/>



International News

The USD 65.8 billion food delivery industry – China's environmental nightmare

As its middle class continues to expand, China has become the largest consumer of food ordered online. In 2018 the volume of food ordered online for takeaway in China reached USD 65.8 billion. This was an increase of 112% from the previous year. To make matters worse, as the economy and buying power of the consumer increases, the number is expected to double in the coming three years.

This development has posed a serious challenge to China's waste management problems. According to a recent report by iiMedia Research, the total waste accumulated during a day by the three biggest food ordering apps; Meituan Waimai, Baidu Waimai and Ele.me consists of 20 million chopsticks, 65 million food containers and 20 million plastic bags. With a combined network of 256 million users who order food online from these three apps, it has become impossible for the waste treatment and recycling practices to keep pace or to influence the behavior of consumers. However, with expectation of more food delivery users to increase in coming years, it is time to take some big decisions if this menace is to be contained.



Environmental organisations such as Chongqing Green Volunteer League have taken up the gauntlet by filing a lawsuit against the 'Big Three' in 2017 for failing to facilitate user's preferences when choosing the number of chopsticks per meal. However, the decision on the lawsuit is still pending. In the meantime, the three apps have come up with initiatives to address the issue but experts are skeptical as to whether they will be enough.

To find out more, visit: <https://www.elevatelimited.com/insights/the-65-8-billion-food-delivery-industry-chinas-environmental-nightmare/>



Human society under urgent threat from loss of Earth's natural life



Author: Jonathan Watts, Global environment editor

The fate of human society and the world is in serious threat as the natural life support systems of Earth throttle towards extinction at a rate and scale far greater than previously anticipated. These ominous tidings resulted from the findings of the Global Assessment Report which is the most detailed and comprehensive document ever produced on the state of life on the planet. The report which was compiled by United Nation's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), presents a dark and disturbing picture.

According to reports based on more than 1,500 academic papers, the health of the planet is failing unless urgent remedial actions are taken. The aim of the report is to spur into action the policymakers in charge of generating public discussion on biodiversity. This includes wildlife, livestock, food crops and ecosystem.

The findings of the report state the biomass of mammals has dropped by 82% with their natural ecosystems being reduced due to human incursions. The same or worse is the case with amphibians, reef-forming corals, marine species and insects. In economic terms, 'pollinator loss' which is the loss or extinction of bees and other insects used in pollination, currently puts crops worth USD 577 billion at risk.

The biggest cause of the current situation is the rapidly expanding human footprint that has been crowding out all other species on the planet. With three quarters of all land covered by crops or urban landscapes and the rest altered by dam reservoirs, shipping mines, fish farms and other man-made interventions, more than 500,000 species stand at the door of extinction. The study lists a limited range of cash crops and livestock replacing forests and nature-rich ecosystems and putting the whole planet at risk of disease, drought and climate breakdown.

Even oceans are no longer a sanctuary for life with only 3% of marine areas safe from human intervention. Fishing on an industrial scale has left more than one third of fish population over-used. Although the report has acknowledged the conservation attempts currently underway such as building protected areas but they are not enough. The report has called for 'Transformative changes' that goes beyond borders, nationalities and politics. There is a need for more incentives in developing green infrastructure, tougher accountability for nature deterioration in international trade and more cooperation across all sectors towards enforcing stronger environmental laws and regulations.

To find out more, visit: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/06/human-society-under-urgent-threat-loss-earth-natural-life-un-report>



Case Study from the Archives - General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) 1ST RUNNERS UP - ARABIA CSR AWARDS 2018 - PUBLIC SECTOR

Abstract

General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) is a public organisation that was established through an order by the Late H.H. Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum in 1971. In the beginning it was composed of two departments dealing with central immigration and ports and borders. A year later, the two departments were merged with the Ministry of Interior to regulate naturalisation and passports. Henceforth, the organisation became the authority in charge of the implementation of naturalisation, residency, passports, entry and residency permits in Dubai. Overtime, the organisation grew to include other departments which deal with specific areas such as Department of Naturalisation and Passports which in turn deals with family registration cards and passports issued to citizens of United Arab Emirates, as well as other transactions. The Department of Entry Permits issues residency, visit and work permits to workers and domestic helpers, the Department of Monitoring and Investigation plays a major role in monitoring applications for adjustment of status, reports about absconders and violators of Residency and Naturalisation law, payment of fees, and other procedures etc.

Conclusion:

Sustainability in GDRFA is an organised process rooted in the manner in which it runs its business. The administration has a comprehensive approach to sustainability that is clearly manifested in its commitment to the country's economy, safety, stability and greater social well-being. It is working to implement a strategy in line with economic, environmental and social considerations within its strategic objectives. It is working as a government entity to align the strategy with Dubai 2021 vision to make Dubai the happiest city in the world. All the activities of the GDRFA reflect its commitment to the ten UN Global Compact principles in the fields of human rights, work, environment and anti-corruption, and to support the objectives of sustainable development. The organisation is keen to promote the concept of social responsibility and the integration of the requirements of social responsibilities in the strategic plan and the operational plans of the different departments. It is truly a role model for leading government sustainability institutions.

GDRFA is a progressive, forward-looking organisation that is open to the latest ideas from everywhere, either in technological advances or the soft skills of dealing with human beings. It is due to the open-minded liberal thinking of Dubai's leadership that has contributed to this hallmark attribute of the GDRFA. In terms of technology, GDRFA is head and shoulders above its contemporaries and has always been quick to adopt the latest technologies relevant to its work, goals and objectives. GDRFA tops the list of government organisations in terms of women employees in the workforce. Nearly a third of the workforce at GDRFA is female. Of the 4,154 member workforce, 1,112 are women. A dedicated unit, the "Hawa'a committee", works to provide women the best ambience in which to achieve high performance at work as well as a balance between their jobs and their family commitments. A fair number of GDRFA



staff is differently-abled; the organisation ensures the workplace is geared to their needs. GDRFA is aware of its duties to the local community it exists within. The organisation regularly participates in activities to spread cultural awareness and to provide a service that has been missing such as providing potable water. At the same time, GDRFA is aware of its national duty of providing jobs to Emiratis. In the case of GDRFA, almost 95% of its employees are Emirati nationals.

This abstract has been taken from the ACSRN publication titled 'Arabia CSR Best Practices: 2018'. For more details on Dubai Customs & other companies that have been recognised for their innovative and effective CSR strategies, write to us at admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com and get your copy now!

