

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية  
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات  
Arabia CSR Network®

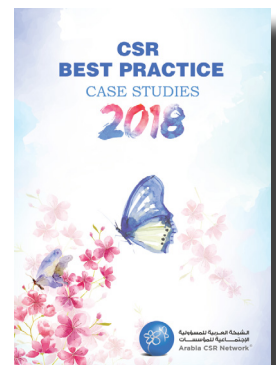
# Arabia CSR Network

newsletter

July 2019  
Volume 8 Issue 95



*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 8](#)*



## KEY DATES

1<sup>st</sup> July – 15<sup>th</sup>  
August 2019

Review of  
applications by  
ACSRA Jury Panel

27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>  
August 2019

GRI Standards  
Training (English)

End of 1<sup>st</sup>  
week of  
September  
2019

Announcement  
of short-listed  
Organisations

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

We live in a world of extreme polarities. This was clearly demonstrated in the unprecedented phenomenon of the 'polar vortex' which gripped most of North America in 2018, plunging vast areas into extreme cold as low as -29 C. At the same time, the situation at the poles was the exact opposite as temperatures higher than those in recent memory were witnessed.

This also brought into notice a phenomenon that could be a gamechanger in the climate change argument; permafrost. As the rapidly melting Arctic thaws, permafrost, which refers to the permanently frozen land and soil underneath is shedding out its long held secrets. And they are not good for humans and life in general on the planet. Permafrost is projected to hold 1,500 billion tonnes of carbon, which when released into the atmosphere through the thawing process, could accelerate the speed of global warming. The amount of carbon contained within the permafrost is currently three times the amount stored in the soil in forests and double the amount already present in the atmosphere. How soon the permafrost thaws is still controllable, depending on how severe we treat the situation and what the world does to mitigate it.

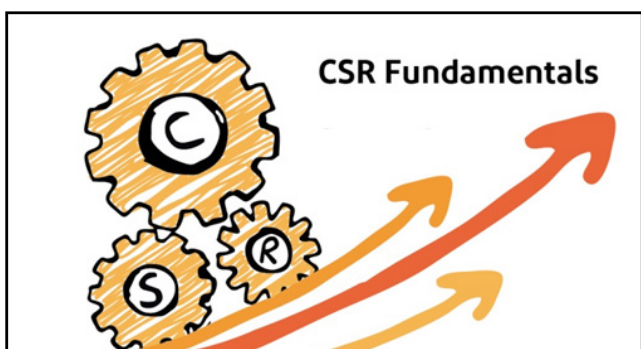
Experts have predicted that extrapolating on current rate, 30%-70% of the permafrost will have thawed by 2100. Experts further warn that even if 10% of the carbon defrosts, that amounts to almost 130-150 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> being released into the atmosphere. All that this points to is a need for the world to recalibrate our calculations if global temperatures are to be kept within the pre-agreed limits. The release of the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019 should act as a wake-up call for the world leaders to assess our progress and to take stock of where we stand and the urgency of the matter.

We can still arrest the speed of the thawing if we act collectively and fast. The month of June witnessed a flurry of activities at the Arabia CSR Network as the final days before the application process for the 12th cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards closed on the 30th of June. We held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Panel Discussion for the year on the topic of 'Climate Change: Time for Action?' on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June.

The 49<sup>th</sup> GRI Standards training was held from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of June at the Millennium Plaza Hotel, Dubai. On the 25<sup>th</sup> we held a consultative meeting with the Strategic Department of the Sharjah Municipality, which is one of this year's Award participants. The meeting was regarding ACSRN activities, certified trainings conducted and details regarding the application process. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of June, we held a teleconference with GRI to discuss the partnership of Arabia CSR Network and GRI on spreading the message of sustainability in the region.

The month of June ended with the closing of the application portal for the 12<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards. Good luck to all the applicants and see you all at the Awards Gala on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October.

## Upcoming Trainings



**23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**CSR Fundamentals Training**



**27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

**GRI Standards Training (English)**

To register please email us at [admin@arabiacsrnnetwork.com](mailto:admin@arabiacsrnnetwork.com), [trainings@arabiacsrnnetwork.com](mailto:trainings@arabiacsrnnetwork.com)



## ACSRN News & Events

### ***Embassy of Sweden***

Arabia CSR Network and Swedish Business Council have enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial partnership over the years since they became signatories to a MoU signed in 2012, which aims for the adoption and promotion of sustainable best practices and the spirit of Corporate Social Responsibility in the Arab region. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, Arabia CSR Network President & CEO was invited by the Ambassador of Sweden to attend the farewell dinner for the outgoing Deputy Head of Mission.

### ***Tristar 7<sup>th</sup> Sustainability Report Launched***

Tristar Group launched its 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive Sustainability Report with a commitment to further support the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and abide by the UN Global Compact 10 principles on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June as part of their World Environment Day celebrations. Mrs Habiba Al Marashi President & CEO of Arabia CSR Network attended the event and Tristar Group CEO Eugene Mayne handed her the first copy of the report entitled 'Empowering the Next Generation for Sustainable Development'. Tristar is promoting SDG No.3 on Good Health and Well-being and No.4 on Quality Education with its road safety awareness campaigns in the GCC and with its support to the education sector in South Sudan and Kenya, respectively. Tristar Group is a fully integrated Liquid Logistics solutions provider catering to the needs of the petroleum and chemical industries.

### ***3<sup>rd</sup> Panel Discussion: "Climate Change: Time for Action?"***

ACSRN in collaboration with EEG organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> of its 2019 series of Panel Discussions, titled "Climate Change: Time for Action?" on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June hosted by the Modul University Dubai. The event was conducted in association with the Emirates Green Building Council, Clean Energy Business Council and Swiss Business Council. Welcoming over 60 attendees, the panel discussion reflected on the importance of sustainable living and promoting a healthy environment.

The critical topic was covered in full scope, bringing together a diverse panel of 4 speakers representing the Energy, Management and academia. The expert panelists included Mr. Eugene Mayne (Founder and Chief Executive of the Tristar Group and Board of Director of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Network UAE), Mr Ali Al Jassim (CEO of Etihad ESCO) and Dr. Suhail AlGhfeli (Assistant Professor in Environmental Engineering at Zayed University) and Mrs. Brigitte Dierckx (Sustainability Manager at Engie) represented their entities and shared their expertise and knowledge.



The meaningful panel discussion explored how different organisations in the UAE are leading the talk in the fight against climate change through their various policies and projects. The discussion explored questions such as the corporate and individual impact of climate change and how these can be reduced, as well as how organizations can adapt to the changes already caused by climate change. The presentations were followed by a lively interactive session where the experts and audience members shared information, discussed queries, pondered on the challenges and the plethora of opportunities that presented themselves and uncovered the truths and complexities of our future. According to the feedback received from the attendees, 95% found the arrangements excellent whereas 65% found the topic to be excellent. An overwhelming 89% found that adequate time was allotted to each speaker. However, on the issue of time per topic there was a difference of opinion with 47% thinking it was adequate and 41% feeling that it was too short, this goes to prove that this topic has gained a lot of traction amongst the different sectors of the society.

### ***GRI Standards Training***

The GRI Sustainability Reporting training imparts knowledge about reporting by removing misconceptions regarding sustainability and explaining the benefits of sustainable practices for organisations. Through the training, delegates get to learn how to intensify their understanding about the best way to use sustainability reporting for strategic purposes. Given that transparency and reporting are almost the minimum requirement for a sustainable business, GRI Standards provides a well-structured process to mainstream it into business activities.





Many reports have been launched by organisations that have taken part in these trainings and gained both knowledge and technical know-how related to sustainability reporting based on the GRI structure. Arabia CSR Network is the 1<sup>st</sup> certified training partner of Global Reporting Initiative in the Arab region and the only organisation that gives this training in Arabic. From the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, ACSRN ran a three-day English training course on the GRI Standards. This was the 49<sup>th</sup> training that was carried out by ACSRN with 403 professionals having finished it successfully till date.

The training also included a session on the support services, resources and tools offered by GRI to reporting organisations. The participants were able to put their newly acquired knowledge to the test at the end of the training through a highly effective exercise in which they were asked to review and evaluate two GRI Standards compliant reports issued from entities in the region.

According to the feedback, 70% of the participants found the content relevant, comprehensive and 43% found the topic difficult to understand. 80% of the participants approved of the style of teaching of the trainer and 100% found the training arrangements to their liking.

### ***Meeting with Sharjah Municipality***

An introductory session was held at the offices of the Strategic Department of the Sharjah Municipality on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, 2019. During the meeting, President and CEO of Arabia CSR Network Mrs. Habiba informed the members of Sharjah Municipality about the activities of the ACSRN and what it stood for. She also updated them with a brief description of the Arabia CSR Awards and the various stages of development that it had gone through over the last 11 years since being introduced.

Mrs. Habiba apprised members of Sharjah Municipality about the benefits of applying for the Award. She explained the application process and reiterated the positive aspects that the organisation stood to gain from national, regional and international exposure by participating in the 12<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards. Other possible mechanisms of cooperation were also discussed in the meeting.



### ***GRI Teleconference Meeting***

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of June, a teleconference meeting was held between Arabia CSR Network President & CEO and the GRI organisation to discuss the areas of collaboration and the way forward. During the meeting, Arabia CSR Network President & CEO detailed the efforts made by ACSRN to promote GRI Standards in the region through extensive coverage given to it at all Network events and platforms.

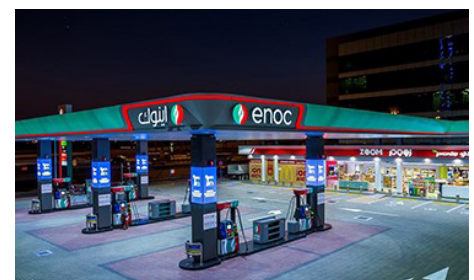
She further brought to the notice of GRI the unethical practices of some entities that were hampering the progress of sustainability reporting. From their end, GRI re-affirmed its acknowledgement of the support Arabia CSR Network has been giving as a certified training partner and how it has helped in increasing the visibility of the organisation. The meeting ended with a commitment to further the partnership and to spread the awareness of the globally reputed GRI Standards in the region.

## **Members News**

### ***ENOC announces ambitious plans to strengthen its retail and service station network by 2020***

Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) has stuck another feather in its cap by announcing an ambitious plan of strengthening its retail and service station network by 2020 to meet the requirements of Expo 2020 Dubai. The organisation is planning on living up to its commitment to sustainability by expanding its retail network from the existing 129 service stations to 191 before the start of the Expo 2020 to be held in Dubai.

Since 2017, ENOC has been committed to powering its service stations through solar panels. Currently, more than 14 service stations in Dubai are using solar energy, generating an estimate of 651 MWh of electricity across its retail stations since 2017. This is the same amount of electricity as used by 80 homes in a year.





The new service station which is proposed to be built at the Expo 2020 site will be based on a design concept inspired by the Ghaf tree, which symbolises the Year of Tolerance observed by the UAE this year. It is planned for the service station to be a mix of contemporary and sustainable design, featuring a unique architecture design that uses the latest technologies such as carbon-fibre. Additionally, wind turbines will also be installed to generate about 30 to 40 Kw (Kilowatt) of energy in order to run the station.

This was re-affirmed by the CEO of ENOC when he said that the organisation was committed and well prepared to support UAE's expansion vision by building a robust fuel retail infrastructure needed in the run up to EXPO 2020, which was expected to attract over 20 million visitors, and beyond.

He also added that in addition to meeting the needs of this world-class event, ENOC was also focused on expanding its footprint across the UAE.

To find out more, please visit: <https://www.enoc.com/en/media-centre/news-releases/press-release-detail/id/154/enoc-announces-ambitious-plans-to-strengthen-its-retail-and-service-station-network-by-2020>

### ***Chalhoub Group-Solar Panel Launch event***

Chalhoub Group, a corporate member of Arabia CSR Network, held the Solar Panel Launch event to celebrate the completion of the installation of over 6,200 solar panels at both its head office and the main warehouse in Jebel Ali Free Zone in the UAE on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, 2019.

ACSRN President & CEO attended the event which also focused on the group's future plans. The event included a panel discussion featuring Mr. Patrick Chalhoub- the CEO of Chalhoub group and the Head of Sustainable Engagement and the implementation partner. The aim of the discussion was to share the company's sustainable engagement strategy, the future plans and celebrate Chalhoub Group's solar panel project.

To find out more, please visit: <https://www.utilities-me.com/news/13062-chalhoub-group-installs-solar-panels-in-dubai>



### ***ABB to help deliver clean energy in Dubai***

ABB is committed to delivering on its promise to deliver clean energy as part of its support for the Emirate's clean energy strategy, which aims to produce 75% of its energy requirements from clean sources by the year 2050. This was re-affirmed recently when the company supplied 5,000 grid-connected single phase solar inverters to house owners in Dubai in order to reduce their electricity bills.

The move was made in support of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA)'s project of installing photovoltaic (PV) solar panels in UAE nationals' homes in Dubai and connecting them to the grid. The result of this move would be to transform households from electricity consumers to producers of clean energy.

The other sponsors in this installation are DEWA and the Etihad Energy Service Company (Etihad ESCO) which is overseeing the implementation of the project. ABB said that it has been leading the way in developing solar technology and is committed to supporting government initiatives that connect renewables to the grid.

ABB further added that the organisation had already completed prestigious projects in the UAE and across the globe, helping infrastructure providers and utilities bring sustainable and reliable power to people.

More than 400 inverters had already been delivered and the installation would be complete by summer 2019.

To find out more, please visit: <http://www.technicalreviewmiddleeast.com/power-a-water/renewables/abb-to-help-deliver-clean-energy-in-dubai>





## Local and Regional News

### ***UAE Ministry of Education, IRENA to explore integrating renewables into the educational system***

The UAE Ministry of Education and the International Renewable Energy Agency, IRENA, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together on integrating renewable energy and sustainable development into the national education system on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June. The MoU was signed between the Minister of Education and Director-General of IRENA, at the 17<sup>th</sup> IRENA Council in Abu Dhabi.

The essence of the agreement is to identify areas of cooperation between the Agency and the Ministry of Education in order to introduce training initiatives around low-carbon forms of energy into federal education. By doing this, it is hoped to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in the UAE and around the world, namely SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy for all, and SDG 13 on climate action. The MoU reflects the interest of both organisations to do their bid in promoting the cause of sustainable development, making it part of the educational system, and devising best educational practices in this area to achieve the UAE Agenda and its future objectives with regard to sustainable development.



To find out more, please visit: <http://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395302770395>

## International News



### ***Campaign for Our Only Future***

The world stands at a crossroads where climate change is proving to be a pivotal moment that has the potential to change the course of humanity. There is an unprecedented amount of interconnectedness in today's environmental health which is both a blessing and a curse. If collective action is not taken immediately, it might be too late to arrest the advance of global warming before it is too late. The good news is that experts still believe that humanity possesses the tools and expertise to mitigate the situation. This has been corroborated by the findings of the recently published report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which says that reducing the temperature of the world by a mere half degree can bring it back from the brink.

However, in order to do that, we need to move fast. That is why the UN is calling for all leaders of the world to unite and make a stand and commitment to limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The UN is inviting business leaders who will make this commitment to attend the UN Climate Action Summit to be held in New York on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September and be recognized for their decision.

To find out more, please visit: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/take-action/events/climate-action-summit-2019/business-ambition>

### ***Call for input on draft Waste Standard***

The GRI is seeking inputs from the international community, irrespective of sector, type of business, region or scope on the Waste Standards. This is to identify the most comprehensive and updated set of disclosures on Waste. Feedback from the public can be made until the 15th of July after which it will be closed for scrutiny and evaluation.

To find out more, please visit: [https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/work-program-and-standards-review/review-of-gri-waste-disclosures?dm\\_i=4J5,6CO9V,UV4CDU,P46R2,1](https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/work-program-and-standards-review/review-of-gri-waste-disclosures?dm_i=4J5,6CO9V,UV4CDU,P46R2,1)



## A simple online system that could end plastic pollution



There was a time when if you asked anybody how the Manila Bay beach looked like, you would get a blank look. Mention 'toilet bowl' and recognition would immediately dawn upon the faces of the locals.

That was because the beach had been for so long buried under mountains of trash that had over populated its coast that people no longer remembered how beautiful it really is. All that changed in January 2019 as more than 5,000 volunteers set about cleaning up the beach.

In the process they were able to remove 45 tonnes of garbage. The pristine clean sand of Manila Bay that emerged was a sight that reduced many locals to tears of happiness.

Although many people termed the transformation as the beginning of a new revolution, the real revolution had started thousands of miles away. In December 2018, a US based organisation collected three tonnes of garbage from Manila Bay as a pilot project. It used local fishermen as volunteers and paid them through cryptocurrency.

This was a radical move, especially in an area and population that had no experience with even traditional banking systems. The success of it cleared the hurdle in incentivising local volunteers who had traditionally not been

motivated enough or compensated according to the fruits of their labour.

The success of this move could spell opening up of a new front against the battle against ocean pollution. The signs are encouraging that payment through digital currency might be a viable solution. In September 2018, a Canadian company paid people for bringing in plastic and recyclables through digital currency also. Choosing the Philippines as the location for this move is also strategic.

The country is not only infamous for being one of the largest contributors to ocean plastic, it has repeatedly shown a knack for adopting new technologies more readily than other countries. Right now, all the eyes of the world are fixated in Philippines to see if online payments are the missing piece of the puzzle to ending plastic pollution.

To find out more, please visit: <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20190613-a-simple-online-system-that-could-end-plastic-pollution>

*Author*

*By Justin Calderon*

*Writer at BBC*



## Case Study from the Archives - Emirates Transport

WINNER - ARABIA CSR AWARDS 2018 - LARGE BUSINESS CATEGORY

### Abstract

Emirates Transport's vision is "Integrated transport and sustainable growth". This very concise statement holds a very strong commitment and serious financial and administrative efforts to back it. Subscribing to its updated Strategic Plan 2018-2022, Emirates Transport (ET) is a community partner, government partner and environmental champion. The company excels at strategic planning, setting benchmarks and measuring performance. Adopting a collaborative approach it has ventured into a number of strategic partnerships with government organisations that pursue the UAE 2021 Vision. The organisation transports people with care and consciousness. Supporting vulnerable groups such as people of determination, children and the elderly, Emirates Transport is a trusted business partner and community member.

ET applies focus on systems, quality, innovation and excellence to pursue its sustainable growth. It places strong focus on its environmental performance and continuously works on delivering innovative eco-friendly solutions to its customers relying on latest technologies and the support of its partners and suppliers. The organisation is highly transparent and disclosure is central to its approach in issuing its 6th consecutive Sustainability Report according to the GRI G4 Guidelines. Emirates Transport is a national player and key contributor to the local and regional economy and to the happiness of its people and customers. ET is committed to a comprehensive set of corporate values that reflects its business ethos and strategic direction. These include Transparency and Governance, Safety and Security, Innovation and Foresight, Care and Comfort, Aspiration and Excellence, Competence and Happiness.

### Conclusion



Emirates Transport has shown an exemplary commitment to sustainability and lived up to its role as one of the UAE's largest economic players. With an unwavering passion and will to create positive change, the organisation has employed sound strategic planning, risk management, robust policies, innovation and collaboration to create value for the nation and the planet.

Emirates Transport has a strong focus on environmental sustainability and is a major contributor to the Emirates Green Development Strategy which aims to achieve a more sustainable economic development. The organisation's greatest success might very well be the ability to integrate investment objectives with social and environment commitments while aligning with national strategies in every step.

This ambitious drive is supported by empowered employees,

whose capacity has been built to deliver on the organisation's commitments. Over its long journey, the organisation has evolved into an institution with a solid structure and appetite for sustainable business growth and value creation for future generations.

*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](mailto:admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com) and get your copy now!*

