

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الإجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

Arabia CSR Network

newsletter

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Under the Patronage of
H. E. Engr. Sheikh Salem bin Sultan bin Saqr Al-Qasimi
Chairman, Department of Civil Aviation, Ras Al-Khaimah, UAE

الجائزة
العربية
للمسؤولية
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ARABIA
CORPORATE
SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY
AWARDS

'The Green Oscars of the Middle East'



Register to attend the Arabia CSR Awards Gala event and

- Be a part of the 12th cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards
- Get to meet the leading CSR and Sustainability practitioners in the Arab Region
- Gain Networking and Collaboration Opportunities with like-minded organisations
- Witness the showcasing of pioneering sustainability achievements from winning entities
- Hear from the experiences of previous winners and be INSPIRED

The Arabia CSR Awards 12th Cycle

To register for the Awards please visit <http://awards.arabiaccsrnetwork.com/register/>

Or contact the Arabia CSR Network on admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com and
awards@arabiaccsrnetwork.com

T: 971.4.344.8622+ & 971.4.344.8120+

GRI STANDARDS 5th-7th Nov 2019

GRI Standards for Sustainability Reporting



Around the world, thousands of organisations report annually to disclose their performance in environmental, social and governance areas. The most commonly used framework for sustainability reporting has been the GRI guidelines.

Participants will be issued a certificate from GRI Headquarters in Netherlands.

From Global Reporting Initiative comes, a new set of standards for Sustainability Reporting!

The GRI Standards include all the main concepts and disclosures from the G4 Guidelines, but feature a new modular structure and revised format with clear reporting requirements. The Standards were developed and released by the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB), which is GRI's dedicated standard-setting body.

Arabia CSR Network, a Certified Training Partner of GRI, since 2011 is conducting a 3 Day Training Course on the new GRI Standards. The accredited course content will be delivered through lectures, discussions, exercises and case studies. It will include the following segments:

- Introduction and background
- Overview of the GRI Standards
- GRI Standards in detail
- Start your reporting process using the GRI Standards
- Additional resources

The training is of immense value to organisations currently using the GRI guidelines to report non-financial performance or those that are preparing their sustainability reports. It is particularly beneficial to report writing teams, sustainability professionals, consultants, researchers and so on.

- 51 » GRI Trainings conducted till date
- 400+ » Professionals Trained from the Arab Region
- 150+ » Sustainability Reports Issued

Cost of the training:

US\$ 2,275 Including the 10% GRI Certification fee + 5% VAT

US\$ 2,000 Early bird discount *20 days before the training

Group discount available: if you register more than three participants from the same organisation



Date: 5th – 7th November 2019

For more details or to register please contact admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com, trainings@arabiaccsrnetwork.com or call us on +971 4 344 8120 / +971 4 344 8622



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Note from the President & CEO Arabia CSR Network

We are heading towards a world that is getting warmer by the day. According to a preliminary analysis of global temperature, the month of July was the 'warmest' on record. This sombre statement was made on the basis of assessment carried out by the researchers at the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). While it is common for the month of July to be the hottest, however this year there have been exceptionally hot heatwaves all over Europe, US and even the Arctic.

According to scientists this is irrefutable evidence that we are headed towards an era of unprecedented global warming. The data collected by C3S has been verified and corroborated by similar findings from both ground based stations as well as satellites. According to the findings, every month in 2019 has ranked amongst the four warmest on record since the data started being collected in 1850. Although researchers have not directly linked the new rise in temperatures to climate change, there can be no denying the fact that the continued increase in emissions of carbon dioxide through man-made activities is changing irrevocably and leading humanity towards an uncertain future.

Record highs have been set in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany as the mercury continues to soar above 40C in many locations. What is most alarming has been the dramatic surge of temperatures in the colder regions of the world such as Alaska where the previous temperature records were smashed.

There have even been incidents of wildfires in the Arctic including parts of Siberia, Alaska, Greenland and Canada caused by thermal anomalies such as volcanoes and gas flares, which has resulted in millions of hectares getting burnt. According to Greenpeace Russia, 3.3m hectares of land - an area bigger than the size of Belgium is burning.

Another concerning development has been the indifference shown by the government of Brazil in dealing with the raging fires that continue to devastate large tracts of the Amazonian rainforest. According to a recent report published by the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) in Brazil, the incidence of forest fires this year has increased by 85% over the same time period last year. There is a growing consensus amongst the scientific community that the current fires raging in the Amazon rainforest are rapidly pushing it to a point of no return. After a certain level of deforestation, the remaining area will begin to feed on itself which will turn the Amazon basin into a dry savannah which is known as 'cerrado'.

The burning fires are consuming the peat which is releasing the carbon dioxide that had been trapped over thousands of years, back into the atmosphere. There is some good news in the form of the global pressure exerted by world leaders, which has finally convinced the Brazilian government to send in the military to control the fires that have been ravaging this important global resource, known as the 'lungs of the world'.

On the 26th of August the G7 Leaders further agreed on a \$20 million aid package to help Brazil and its neighbours fight the fires along with an agreement in concept with the countries of the Amazon basin for a long-term programme of forest protection and reforestation of cleared lands. This is welcome news, but there is so much more that needs to be done.

At Arabia CSR Network, the month of August was a very busy one. After the Eid ul Adha holidays, the Webinar with the Judges was held on the 15th of August in which the final scores were tabulated and the shortlisted entities were confirmed. There is just one month left till the unveiling of the 2019 champions of CSR and sustainability. Be there to support your champions and to be inspired by their example. Registrations for the Awards Gala Event are open, we hope to see you on the 2nd of October!

On the 26th of August, Arabia CSR Network in collaboration with Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) held the 4th Panel Discussion on the topic of "Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability".



ACSRN News & Events

Arabia CSR Awards 2019-Webinar with Judges

On the 15th of August, a webinar was conducted with the panel of judges that had scored the submissions. The webinar was done to tally the final scores and to shortlist the winning entities. During the webinar, judges gave their feedback on the submissions and justified the scores allocated by them to the submissions and how they felt they could be improved upon. The webinar also provided an opportunity to identify areas of improvement for the Network and how it could be streamlined for the next cycle. The process is done every year to remove any discrepancies and to bring the scoring process of the Awards to a close professionally.

4th Panel Discussion on Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability

On the 26th of August, Arabia CSR Network in cooperation with Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), the Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC), the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC), and the Swiss Business Council (SBC) organised its 4th panel discussion of 2019. The event was hosted by Modul University. The topic of discussion was “**Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability**”, as the panel looked into the opportunities and possibilities on smart and autonomous systems aiding in the fight against environmental damage and climate change to help achieve holistic sustainability. The event was attended by more than 60 attendees from different sectors of the industry and from different Emirates. The panel discussion explored the role played by artificial intelligence in reducing costs, lowering emissions and improving efficiencies of our current practices. The panel comprised of speakers who enlightened the attendees with their expertise, knowledge, research and best practices. The experts included speakers from organisation such as Accenture, Interactive Robots and Media Lab, Navo, Smart Automation Energy and Globally connected Companies.





Member News

DEWA issues Sustainability Report for 2018

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) issued its 6th consecutive sustainability report since 2013. The report for 2018 is another proud achievement for the organisation as it continues to shine and set an example for its peer government entities in terms of institutional excellence. The report focuses on the non-financial reporting standards of the organisation according to the world-class GRI Standards.

DEWA has been a member of GRI Gold Community and is also a member of the Standards Pioneers Programme, which consists of the first 100 organisations in the world that adopted the new standards after 2016.

The Sustainability Report 2018 gives a summary of the material issues in the economic, environmental and social areas relevant to the organisation and gives an update on the strategies adopted by DEWA to fulfill its long-term commitments towards sustainability, enabling the organisation to communicate its sustainability roadmap with its stakeholders, thereby further enhancing the communication process.



To find out more, please visit: <https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/customer/sustainability/conservenow/sustainability-reports>

Chalhoub group launches “together we shine” campaign

The Chalhoub Group which is synonymous in the region for being one of the leading partner for luxury products across the Middle East, has collaborated with Dubai Care's and Friends of Cancer Patients (FOCP) to promote two initiatives that are focused on supporting the education of children and providing financial support to people battling cancer. The initiatives aims to support those who lack access to education and those who are fighting the deadly disease by helping them financially through their CSR retail campaign titled 'Together we Shine'.

The company is promoting the campaigns through the sale of its 'Light' and 'Hope' candles which are available in Chalhoub Group's stores across the UAE. The contributions made as a result of the sales of these candles will go into the funding for an educational programme that focuses on providing e-learning solutions in aid of emergency affected, displaced and low-income youth in Jordan. Similarly, the contributions made from 'Hope' candle will fund the treatment of cancer patients in the UAE.

The Head of Sustainable Engagement at Chalhoub Group said that the group believes that it has a responsibility to give back to the community. She added that participating in 'Together we shine' campaign is a way of bringing hope and light to the life of people and children in need.



To find out more, please visit: <http://www.chalhoubgroup.com/#/media>



Local and Regional News

RTA delivers 74 green economy initiatives

The Roads and Transport Authority has rolled out 74 initiatives since 2018 that encompass prominent projects in the field of environmental sustainability, power efficiency and green economy. The initiatives are part of RTA's strategy of promoting the optimal use resources and energy.

The aim of these initiatives is to align user behaviour in order to support the UAE Green Growth Strategy which was launched in 2012 under the theme, 'Green Economy for Sustainable Development.' The drivers of the strategy were green economy, government policies, green urban planning, tackling the effects of climatic change, rational use of natural resources, and green technology.

These initiatives are in line with the organisation's strategy for optimal use of resources and energy as the organisation attaches top priority to a green economy and sustainable environment, which is encapsulated in its 5th Strategic Goal (Safety and Environmental Sustainability). In this regard, RTA has contributed to saving 100 million litres of water, 33 million KW of electricity, 19 million litres of fuel besides reducing carbon footprint by 70 thousand tons of CO₂.

The organisation has also contributed towards reducing the carbon footprint in Dubai by increasing the number of public transport users. Using public transportation, instead of private vehicles, had saved 642,000 tons of CO₂ emissions in 2018.

To find out more, please visit: <http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302777431>





International News

The UN Global Compact announces 15 national SDG Pioneers

On the 21st of August, the United Nations Global Compact announced the winners of the country-level search for SDG Pioneers. The list includes the names of young business leaders who are doing an exceptional job to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their spheres of influence within their countries.

The final list of winners comprised of 15 young professionals who were judged by a panel of experts from the Government, business and civil society. The winners were selected on the basis of their level of commitment towards including the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact into their companies' core strategies and into their practices, on their individual efforts to advance the SDGs, as well as their engagement with the UN Global Compact and its Local Networks



Speaking on the occasion, the CEO and Executive Director of the UN Global Compact said that “By recognizing and encouraging young business leaders who are driving transformative solutions in their respective sectors, we have the opportunity to drive truly systemic change and shift the world onto a more sustainable path.”

The final ten winners will be announced during the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September.

To find out more, please visit: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/news/4465-08-20-2019>

Private Sector Engagement at the 2019 UN Environment Assembly

The UN Environment Assembly established in 2012 at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) is the world's highest-level decision-making body on environment. The Assembly convenes all 193 UN member States to tackle and provide calls to action on humanity's most pressing and critical global environmental challenges. The premiere event was the Sustainable Innovation Expo which was held from the 11th to the 15th of May and brought together world leaders to chart a common path in order to move beyond our take-make-dispose model of consumption and production, and live within the limits of our planet. The speakers at the event included Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya; who is also the President of the UN Environment Assembly, Minister of Environment of Estonia; Acting Director-General, UN Office at Nairobi, and UN-Habitat Executive Director; Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme; - Director of the Governance Affairs Office, UN Environment Programme. Affairs Office, UN Environment Programme.



The purpose of the Expo is to:

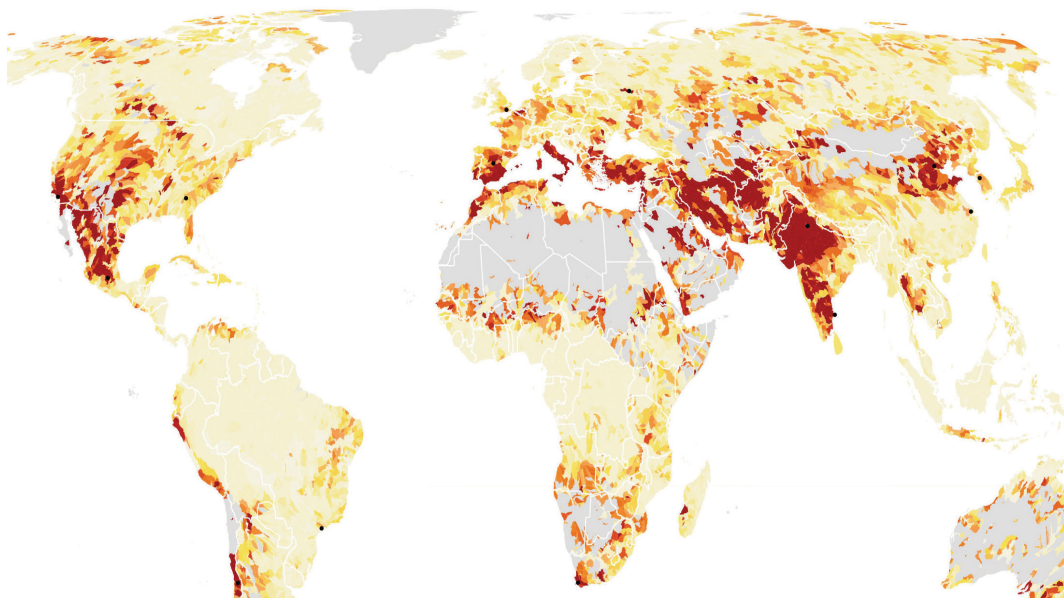
- (i) Showcase the latest technology developments from the private and public sectors to tackle environmental challenges
 - (ii) Engage key stakeholders on solutions in line with the theme of the UN Environment Assembly through interactive panel discussions and roundtables
 - (iii) Provide a networking space for innovators and financiers to establish partnerships
- The session ended with the next steps to implement the 23 resolutions adopted at the conclusion of the 4th session of the UN Environment Assembly and to find the innovative solutions that will ensure the sustainable consumption and production processes of the future. The next UN Environment Assembly will be held on 22-26 February 2021 in Nairobi, Kenya.



To find out more, please visit: <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/private-sector-engagement-2019-un-environment-assembly>



A Quarter of Humanity Faces Looming Water Crises



Authors: Somini Sengupta and Weiwei Cai

“Water is a local problem and it needs local solutions”. These were the words of Priyanka Jamwal, a fellow at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment in Bangalore, India.

The statement points towards a growing problem for areas of the world that are home to one fourth of the world’s population. If the situation continues at the rate it is going at currently, one quarter of humanity will have run out of ground water for their daily usage within the coming years. Currently there are 17 countries in the world that are using all the water they have at their disposal. This means that the ground water is being used up at a rate which is faster than the natural rate of replenishment.

Add the growing needs with increasing population, the advent of erratic weather patterns with less rains and advancing aridness and the situation becomes catastrophic. Amongst these 17 countries are some cities that have come back from the brink in the past.

Most notable in these is Cape Town which in 2018 averted narrowly ‘Day Zero’-when all its dams were slated to run dry. However, the future does not appear brighter for these places according

to Betsy Otto, the Director of the global water programme at the World Resources Institute.

“We’re likely to see more of these Day Zeros in the future,” she said, adding that “The picture is alarming in many places around the world.”

According to the estimates by the World Resources Institute, 33 of the global cities with more than 3 million people with a combined population of more than 255 million, face the prospect of extreme water scarcity. This number is projected to go up to 45 cities and 470 million people by 2030.

Experts though still feel that the tide can be turned with local solutions such as more prudent water management systems and plugging the leaks in the water distribution. Other measures needed are convincing local farmers to switch from water intensive crops to more sustainable ones like millet.

To find out more, visit:

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/06/climate/world-water-stress.html?nl=todaysh_eadlines&emc=edit_th_190807?campaign_id=2&instance_id=11405&segment_id=15936&user_id=7ddf784614b8bb575d32a8e7ec51e8aa®i_id=605075370807



Best Practices from the archives Saudi International Petrochemical Company (SIPCHEM)

1st RUNNER UP, ARABIA CSR AWARDS 2018, LARGE BUSINESS CATEGORY

Abstract

Founded in 1999, Sipchem is a Saudi joint stock company owned by private sector investors of Saudi Arabia and GCC countries. Sipchem – with its headquarters in Riyadh and its industrial complex in Jubail Industrial City - produces a wide range of products from basic chemicals and polymers to speciality chemicals.

Sipchem has also established the Kingdom's fastest growing precision engineering company, the Saudi Specialised Products Company (Wahaj). Wahaj is the first of its kind in the Gulf region, and also produces EVA film for solar panels and industrial components for the oil and gas industry. Sipchem has spearheaded a corporate R&D centre of universal significance known as Sipchem Technology & Innovation Center (STIC). This state-of-the-art centre of excellence concentrates on the importance of polymerisation and the associated downstream industries and career opportunities latent in these technologies.

Sipchem is a producer for high quality petrochemical products which it exports to markets in various countries. In 2018, it was announced as a runner up for the Large Business Category at the Arabia CSR Awards – a prestigious accolade given the highly competitive nature of the awards and this specific category.

The company was recognised at the Arabia CSR Awards 2018 for a number of reasons – its operational excellence in delivering products and services, embracing innovation and adapting to changing conditions, and caring for the wellbeing of Sipchem's employees, community and environment. These values have helped Sipchem become a globally recognised chemical manufacturer, as well as the first chemical manufacturing company in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to achieve a "Responsible Care" certification, despite being less than 20 years old.

Conclusion:

With the effects of climate change and increasing carbon emissions becoming more and more severe every passing year, it is becoming imperative for industries, especially the high emitting ones to assess how they can optimise their business operations to reduce their carbon emissions.

In recent years, the manufacturing units of the petrochemical industry, especially that in the GCC, has been able to reduce the emissions per ton of capacity, an indicator of the industry's focus on environmental sustainability. Sipchem has shown that it gives high priority to the reduction of its carbon emissions, especially in areas that also result in operational efficiencies and cost-cutting. From the various environment-focused initiatives mentioned in this case study,

Sipchem demonstrates its understanding that the sustainability of its operations, as well as that of the industry lies in keeping up with global sustainability trends. Sipchem is a good example of how profits can be directly linked to implementing community projects. Dedicating 1% of its net profits to CSR initiatives is highly commended and it is hoped that Sipchem will continue to invest these funds in areas that are material to its business, as well as that of the Saudi community.

