

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

February 2020
Volume 8 Issue 102

Arabia CSR Network

newsletter



PRESS LAUNCH OF THE 13TH CYCLE OF ARABIA CSR AWARDS

Upcoming Training

18th - 20th February CSR Advanced Training (Eng)

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

CSR ADVANCED CERTIFIED TRAINING COURSE

FEBRUARY
18th – 20th 2020

Dubai, UAE

OUTLINE

CSR and Sustainability are not static concepts. They work in tandem with and in response to the tectonic forces changing and re-shaping the global market. To develop the right approach for changing social contexts to emerging market scenarios, organisations are essentially required to have an in-depth and advanced understanding of CSR and Sustainability.

This training will provide a thorough and structured look at the theoretical precepts and practical approaches to CSR and Corporate Sustainability. It will take delegates through the whole spectrum of the evolution of CSR, key trends and developments, strategy, measuring CSR performance and best in class examples.

This course is intended for people with a certain degree of exposure to CSR and Sustainability, having a rudimentary understanding of key CSR concepts and terms, and basic Business Project Planning and Management.

COURSE DETAILS

The content of the three-day course is divided into thematic sessions, and will be delivered by a group of expert trainers using a combination of pedagogy, discussion and exercises.

The content is divided into the following:

- Evaluating the Internal and External Environment
- Approaches to CSR and Sustainability
- Stakeholder Analysis and Materiality
- Developing CSR Strategy – a Framework
- Monitoring and Performance Measurement
- From CSR Implementation to Sustainability Reporting
- Best Practice Case Examples

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Top level executives
- Mid level management
- CSR managers
- Sustainability focal points
- Internal and external specialists
- Marketing, PR and brand specialists
- NGOs, Academics and Researchers

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

This certified training comes with a value added - participants have the opportunity to get a certificate of participation at the end of the training.

TRAINING FEE

USD 2,550 (for 3 Days) per delegate
USD 2,200 Early Bird discount
*20 days before the training

This will include the Course fee, training material, handouts, tea and lunch.

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

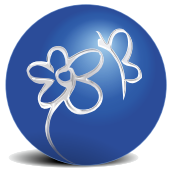
www.arabiaccsrnetwork.com
info@arabiaccsrnetwork.com
www.facebook.com/arabiaccsrnetwork
www.linkedin.com/company/arabiaccsr-network

Inside this issue

President & CEO's Note	2
ACSRN News	3
Member News	6
Local And Regional News	7
International News	8
Feature Article	9
Best Practices from the Archives	10

We are Social! Follow us on

@arabiaccsrnetwork
 Arabia CSR Network
 @ArabiaCSR
 arabiaccsrnetwork



Note from the President & CEO Arabia CSR Network

The results of the recently concluded UN climate negotiations in Madrid have left the world at an impasse as world leaders failed to come to an agreement over the rules of operations in international carbon markets under the Paris Agreement. The disagreements revolved around the issue of whether countries can be allowed to use a large backlog of old, unused emission credits to meet their Paris goals and also whether the same emission reductions can be counted twice, a practice known as “double count”.

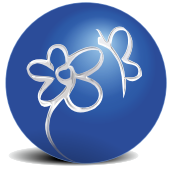
Most experts and countries agree that the answer to both questions is No, as the practice of using unused emission credits, which according to experts, are as many as 4.5 billion of them leftover from the Kyoto Protocol, would be damaging to the war against climate change as it would dramatically slow the pace of global climate action. Furthermore, the effect would be of substituting old emission reductions for future mitigation efforts. The issue of double counting is even more harmful to the cause as it would greatly undermine the integrity of carbon markets and leave them open to exploitation.

Although progress in Madrid has been stalled due to the blocking of a few countries, one could still view it in a positive light. The good news is that at least a majority of world leaders are standing together and are not giving in to unreasonable demands of a few who still refuse to see how the fate of the planet is closely tied to the fate of humanity. At ACSRN, the year 2020 started off with an invitation by the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce on **6th January** to sit in as a member of the Jury Panel in the Sharjah Excellence Award, on the **12th January** I was invited by the Expo 2020 World Majlis Forum to join a panel titled “**Human and Planetary Health – Blurred Boundaries**” and on the **16th January** I was invited as a panelist to the UAE SDG Forum which discussed the actions required for scaling action for the 2030 agenda.

The first training of the year was on CSR Fundamentals which was conducted from the **14th to the 16th January**. The Press Launch of the **13th Arabia CSR Awards** was held on the **20th January** with the introduction of a new category this year and that is “The Automotive Industry”. The 1st GRI Standards training for 2020 was held from the **27th to the 29th January**.

The month of February will feature a 3-day training on the CSR Advanced from the **18th to the 20th**. The month of March promises multiple opportunities for practitioners of sustainability through its multiple trainings and workshops. These include Stakeholder Engagement Workshop on the **18th March**, Materiality Mapping Workshop on the **19th March** and the 3-day GRI Standards training in Arabic, from the **23rd to the 25th March**. The coveted Arabia CSR Forum will also take place in October 2020 which promises to cover the latest burning sustainability issues in the Arab world.





ACSRN News & Events

Expo 2020 Dubai World Majlis

On the **12th January**, ACSRN President and CEO was invited as participant and speaker to the 13th edition of the World Majlis conversation. The event focused on the theme of 'Human and Planetary Health- Blurred Boundaries'. The Majlis was opened by H.E. Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation, Director General, Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau. The World Majlis series is aimed at creating a thread for open and thought-provoking conversation, connecting the Arab region's journey to, during, and beyond Expo 2020. The event was held on the sidelines of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week and was hosted in collaboration with the Alliances for Global Sustainability chaired by H.H. Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment. Other speakers included thought leaders, policy makers and environmentalists from the Arab Region who discussed how best to best influence the health of the planet's systems and the well being of humans as well. The World Majlis convened global thought leaders and university students to address the significant impact that we as humans are having on the environment.

The talk delved into the unsustainable and inequitable consumption of the natural resources and the amount of toxic pollutants being poured into the earth's natural systems. The experts weighed in on the effect these harmful practices were having on the planet and how we were pushing the limits of the biosphere to the detriment of human well-being. It was discussed how there was a disparity between the level of harm already done and the level of commitment being exhibited through government policies, business practices and consumer behaviour. There was a unanimity of opinion on the fact that more needed to be done and there was no time to lose."

CSR Fundamentals Training

From the **14th to the 16th January**, a 3-day training on CSR Advanced took place in Dubai, which was organised and delivered by ACSRN. Sustainability and CSR have emerged as strategic priorities for organisations leading them to find ways to realise the full potential that CSR offers as strategic management tool. The Arabia CSR Network organises these training to help the participants understand how CSR can contribute strategically to an organisation'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 is 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 organisational knowledge about how best to develop an effective CSR and Sustainability practice.





ACSRN News & Events

The UAE SDG Forum

Arabia CSR Network President and CEO attended and was a panelist on the UAE SDG Forum on the **16th January**, in a session titled **"The Future of Business: Scaling action of the SDG's Through Business Unusual"**. The Excellence in Implementation Forum is the UAE's flagship event on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the UAE. The forum was part of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week; it convened high-level government officials as well as thought leaders from business and academia to discuss the creative implementation of the 17 goals. The forum was a unique multi-stakeholder platform to support the UAE's government in scaling action for the 17 goals by fostering public-private dialogues, catalyzing new alliances and exploring innovative solutions and programmes to accelerate sustainable development in the UAE.

At the same event, the General Secretariat of the National Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals in the UAE, in partnership with the Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Prize for Photography, announced the launch of a book entitled **"Our world through the lens"**, which includes 100 expressive pictures of the participants in the "Sustainable Development Goals Award". Her Excellency Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State in the cabinet of the United Arab Emirates, Director General of Expo 2020 and Chairperson of the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority, launched the book with the aim of spreading awareness about the 17 UN sustainable development goals and highlighting the challenges facing human societies by capturing special moments through the lenses of both professional and amateur photographers alike from around the world.

Finally, The National Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals, in partnership with the Arab Youth Center, also launched the **"Arab Youth and Sustainability Report"**, which is the first of its kind at the level of the Arab world, and aims to focus on highlighting the role of Arab youth in supporting sustainable development goals by focusing on a number of creative youth initiatives and their positive effects Societally in achieving these goals. The Arab Youth and Sustainability Report consists of three main sections. The first section includes an overview of the 17

sustainable development goals and the role of youth in supporting the global agenda 2030, and a case study of a number of countries such as the UAE, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia and their role in supporting sustainable development goals and involving young people in achieving them. The second section provides a glimpse of six young leaders who worked to support the sustainable development goals through their innovative initiatives and creative ideas, while the third section includes 14 initiatives launched and implemented by Arab Youth in Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Yemen, Bahrain, Egypt, UAE, Palestine, Oman, Syria and Sudan.





ACSRN News & Events

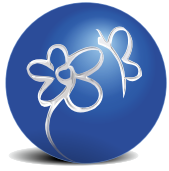
Press Launch of the 13th Cycle of Arabia CSR Awards

Dubbed popularly as the ‘Green Oscars’, the Arabia CSR Awards are the region’s most prestigious CSR and Sustainability awards. The press conference of the launch of the 13th cycle was held at The Address, Dubai Mall on the **20th January**. The launch marks the thirteenth year of the Arabia CSR Awards. During this time, they have successfully brought to light the best practices of public and private establishments across the Arab region. The objective of the Awards has been clearly defined to promote and discover the latest international CSR and sustainability developments, trends and standards taking place in the Arab world. Towards that end, the Awards have consistently over the past twelve years, recognised and honoured organisations in the Arab region that demonstrate outstanding leadership and commitment to Corporate Sustainability. The list of previous winners has included some of the biggest and most well-known names from different sectors. With the introduction of a new sector specific category, the Awards will be spanning thirteen categories this year; - raising the bar for both intra-sector and cross-sector competition. The categories are Public Sector, Large, Medium, Small, Energy, Financial Services, Social Enterprise, Construction, Hospitality, Healthcare, New Business, Partnerships & Collaborations and Automotive Industry.

One of the key reasons for the longevity and consistent relevance of the Awards in a rapidly changing landscape has been the ability of Arabia CSR Awards to adapt and revamp itself to meet the needs of the global scenario. In its prestigious history of 12 years, the Arabia CSR Awards have been re-shaped several times to make them the best and leading award scheme in the Arab world. It helps that Arabia CSR Awards have been externally verified by one of the world’s most reputed providers of business assurance, DNV-GL. Furthermore, the awards derive their criteria from global and regional frameworks and standards, namely, the UN Global Compact Ten Principles, GRI standards, the European EFQM business excellence model and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. All of these and more give credibility and credence to the whole process.

Speaking on the occasion, ACSRN President and CEO said that the Arabia CSR Awards has established itself as the most rigorous and highly acclaimed Awards of its kind in the region, integrating the most powerful international guidelines and frameworks and implementing them in the Arab region, bridging the gap between theory and practice beautifully. Her sentiments were echoed by the winners of the previous cycle which included speakers representing DEWA, Etihad ESCO, Accenture Middle East and Aster DM Healthcare





ACSRN News & Events

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 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. 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 1st certified training partner of Global Reporting Initiative in the Arab region and the only organisation that gives this training in Arabic. From the 27th till the 29th January, ACSRN ran a three-day English training course on the GRI Standards. This was the first for the year and the 54th training overall that was carried out by ACSRN with almost 450 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 end through a highly effective exercise in which they were asked to review and evaluate two GRI Standards compliant reports issued from the region.



Member News

ENOC Group wins Golden Peacock Award for Sustainability

For the third year in a row, Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) was awarded the coveted Golden Peacock Award for Sustainability. In doing so, the organisation was able to beat out 228 global applicants by being recognised for its commitment to improving sustainability standards.

ENOC has been a champion of sustainability since 2014 and has reduced its emission intensity by about 24% and water intensity by about 17% in its manufacturing and retail facilities. In addition to this the group also launched its Energy and Efficiency Report which announced significant savings of Dhs. 71.4 million through its innovative energy efficiency measures implemented over the last five years, resulting in reducing its energy intensity by 23%.

Speaking on the occasion, Saif Humaid Al Falasi, the group CEO said that as an entity that is wholly-owned by Dubai Government and a leading energy player, ENOC understood the importance of binding energy efficiency into all of its operations and acting responsibly. He further added that over the years, ENOC had made significant savings owing to its innovative efforts as part of the organisation's 'Energy & Resource Management (E&RM)' programme. The actions of ENOC reflect its close alignment with the UAE Government's objectives of making Dubai an environment-friendly city with the least carbon footprint in the world by 2050.

To find out more, please visit:

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/local/enoc-group-wins-golden-peacock-award-for-sustainability>



Member News

Dewa to launch the first standard for risk management in the energy sector

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), in cooperation with the British Standards Institute, is preparing to launch the world's first (PAS60518: 2020) specification to manage risks in the energy sector and service institutions.

The authority began preparing for the development of the standard during the year of Zayed 2018, and adopted the number 60518 to be the number for the new standard, referring to the birth date of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God rest his soul, 6th May 1918).

The authority adopts a rigorous system to manage institutional risks and enhance resilience by developing its capabilities to predict risks and prepare for changes and ensure business continuity and harmonization of its environment and operations, in order to support the provision of electricity and water services to more than 900,000 customers in Dubai, according to the highest levels of quality, efficiency and reliability. Some service organisations use the guidance on risk management included in the ISO (31000: 2018) standard, which provides a good starting point, but it lacks guidance on how to implement it. The new PAS 60518: 2020 addresses the gaps in the existing standards.

The new standard constitutes an important addition to the efforts to consolidate the concepts of effective risk management and ensure business continuity and dealing with emergencies with the highest possible degree of professionalism and efficiency to reach the top level of excellence and quality, to serve the people and achieve their happiness.

Local News

New achievements to reduce energy consumption at Dubai airports

Dubai International Airport succeeded in lighting the aircraft park across the airport, which covers an area of 12.5 km², using the most bright and efficient LED lights, after completing a major modernisation project. The project is expected to achieve an annual energy savings of approximately 7,000 megawatts per hour, equivalent to compensating 495 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions or planting more than 8,000 seedlings over a period of 10 years. This shift and dependence on high-efficiency LED lights only consume 810 kW, which is a significant decrease in annual consumption of 63%.

The development is an essential part of the project that was announced by Dubai Airports and "Etihad Esco" last year to replace 150,000 traditional lighting units at Dubai International Airport for LED lamps. Dubai Airports has launched a series of green initiatives since 2019, including a project to replace the fleet of ground services vehicles with electric and hybrid vehicles, and install a solar array of 15,000 panels in the Terminal 2 of Dubai International Airport, which is the largest project of its kind in the Middle East. In addition to banning single-use plastics at Dubai International Airport and Al Maktoum International Airport which started on **1st January 2020**.

These initiatives come together with other environmental projects planned in the future to help Dubai airports support and develop air navigation in Dubai while achieving sustainability goals. In October 2019, both Dubai International Airport and Al Maktoum International Airport achieved a qualitative addition in their journey towards neutrality by reaching the third level of the Airport Carbon Accreditation Programme for Airports Council International.



Local News

Dubai Financial Market (DFM) publishes its Corporate Governance, Social Responsibility and Environmental Reporting Guide

Dubai Financial Market (DFM) has launched the Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Reporting Guide, as part of its ongoing efforts to encourage the expansion of listed companies in applying global best practices.

The DFM plays an active role in the global effort to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the UAE Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and the Dubai Strategic Plan 2021, as well as Dubai's relentless efforts to promote a green economy and establish itself as the capital of the Islamic economy globally.

The market is leading the development efforts in the capital markets sector through the launch of sustainability initiatives, in cooperation with the concerned institutions in the country, and many international institutions including the United Nations Initiative for Sustainable Capital Markets and the Federation of World Exchanges.

International News

A vision for business to accelerate progress on the SDGs

With an aim to accelerate progress on the SDGs, business and policy representatives from around the world have come forward to share their views on the changes needed to ensure that companies can actively contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as deciding how reporting and partnerships supports this process. This was done in the second online forum by GRI and Enel which took place in November. The aim of the forum was to gather and collate ideas so that a scope of the vision for change could be formulated. The forum was attended by 389 individuals from 59 countries and was a continuation on the first session in October, which delved into the current practice for SDGs corporate reporting. Some of the key highlights and ideas put forward from the discussions in this second session talked about:

- How to strengthen links between business reporting and SDG contributions
- Partnerships: business and government
- Partnerships: business to business
- What's needed for effective leadership
- Sustainable business models that support SDGs impact

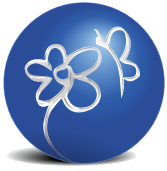
CEOs say they alone can't save the planet

As the financial industry comes under pressure to avoid funding dirty energy, the heads of Citigroup Inc. and Zurich Insurance Group AG said they need their clients to do more work too. They agreed with Corbat that carbon was mispriced, and said insurance firms are having a tough time deciding what to underwrite as a result.

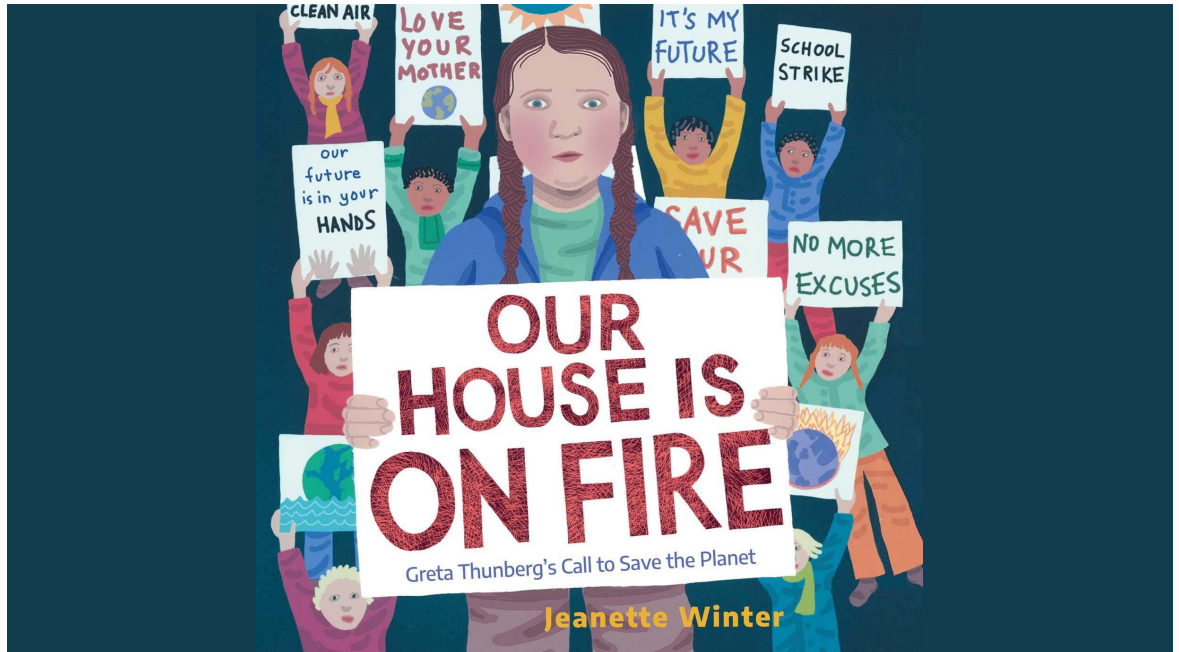
Insurers are underwriting "based on ethical standards," and "compliance with the Paris agreement, but it's not fast enough and it's a tough job," they said. "We don't know exactly" how an industry should restructure itself, "and we are not supposed to do that, so the only thing we can do is stop funding. Stopping funding is a brutal reaction to market displacement."

This year's meeting of the global business elite in Davos has focused on sustainability, Financial companies are under pressure to retreat from funding industries including coal-fired power, and the European Union is working on a so-called taxonomy governing sustainable investments. Lawrence Fink, who runs BlackRock Inc., last week pledged to incorporate environmental concerns into the asset manager's investment process for both active and passive products.

To find out more, please visit: <https://www.globalreporting.org/>



Greta Thunberg's Message at Davos Forum: 'Our House Is Still on Fire'



In a riveting and moving speech, world famous climate change advocate Greta Thunberg launched a frontal attack on the world's business and political leaders at one of the biggest international platforms.

Repeating her famous line, Ms. Thunberg addressed the World Economic Forum annual gathering of the rich and powerful by saying that our world was still on fire and she pointed her finger to the world leaders; accusing them of "empty words and promises" that will do little to avert a climate change crisis. She said that the inaction of the international leaders was fuelling the flames by the hour. She said that it was time to panic and that although planting trees was good but it was nowhere near enough of what is needed to be done, and it could not replace real mitigation or rewinding nature. She said that this was a time to be clear on what was needed and what was not. Going into detail about the latter, she said that the world did not need a "low carbon economy" or to "lower emissions." What was needed was for us to stop our emissions. Until the world developed technologies that at scale can put our emissions to minus, we needed to forget about net zero and focus on real zero. This was because distant net zero emission targets will mean absolutely nothing if we just continue to ignore the carbon dioxide budget — which applies for today, not distant future dates. If high emissions continue like now even for a few years, that remaining budget will soon be completely used up. She said that the fact that we were about to fail the commitments signed up for in the Paris Agreement did not seem to bother the people in power even the least which was a cause for concern.

Ms Thunberg added that any plan or policy that fails to address radical emission cuts at the source starting today is completely insufficient for meeting the 1.5-degree or well-below-2-degrees commitments of the Paris Agreement.

To find out more, please visit:

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/01/climate/greta-thunberg-davos.html?campaign_id=60&instance_id=0&segment_id=20499&user_id=7ddf784614b8bb575d32a8e7ec51e8aa®i_id=60507537



Best Practices from the archives Engie

1st RUNNER UP - ARABIA CSR AWARDS 2018 - ENEGRY SECTOR CATEGORY

Abstract

ENGIE is a global company dealing with utilities, it has come to define its business area as a global energy and services group around three key components: low-carbon electricity production, especially from natural gas and renewable energy, customer solutions and energy infrastructure. The company has shown resolve in taking on global challenges such as access to energy for all, global warming, mobility and more. The commitment shown by the company mirrors its aim of providing customer friendly solutions that are harmonious to the needs of the individual as well as to those of a community. ENGIE has ambitions to go beyond the energy sector and to incorporate its products that promote new uses and ways of living and working. The need to innovate and be constantly on the lookout for unique solutions has been the hallmark of the company since its inception.



Summary

The energy sector is characterised by constant fundamental change. It is no mean feat thus that ENGIE has managed to position its activities and the brand as a whole in a way that enables it to capture new opportunities and in the process, make a name for itself on the regional as well as global scene. The company looks well-placed to merge sustainability with technical expertise and bridge the gap between meeting the collective needs and those of their individual clients.

The operational innovations and strategic improvements have enabled ENGIE to stay abreast of the competition in its bid to be a frontrunner in addressing global energy challenges. The company has heavily invested into a number of projects and initiatives that help address global challenges such as global warming and access to energy for all through solutions that are applicable for cities, companies and even private individuals. Rising CO₂ levels and air pollution are critical factors for the wellbeing of humans, in this generation and the coming ones. Moreover, 1 billion+ people around the world have no access to energy, which hinders their access to health care, education, food, mobility, information and jobs.

ENGIE believes that it has a responsibility and a major role to play in facilitating the energy transition that must accompany the emergence of a world that shows greater respect to the planet. This bigger purpose of increasing access to energy for all, while simultaneously lowering emissions has given ENGIE an edge above most other entities in the energy sector. Accepting that it may have been part of the problem has driven ENGIE to work on a strategy that allows it to be part of the solution, and to enable others to follow its path as well. It has also invested significantly in innovation programmes.

ENGIE believes in the power of collective action, which is why it has put its efforts in bringing together its staff, suppliers, partners and others to introduce change in the way they operate. ENGIE has managed in two years to more than halve its coal capacity and commissioned, constructed or been awarded 6 GW of additional renewable capacity. At present, 91% of its activities are low carbon. The company is currently investing in renewable biogas and hydrogen, with the aim of attaining a fully decarbonised world.