

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

August 2020
Volume 9 Issue 108

ARABIA CSR NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

عِيدُ الْاِخْتِمَاءِ لِلْمَلِكِ
Eid Al Ad'ha Almubarak

Upcoming Trainings & Events

(English)



Online Training GRI Standards for Sustainability Reporting

Date: 25th - 27th August, 2020

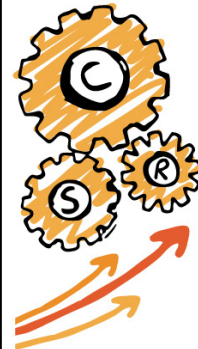
Note from President and CEO	2
ACSRN News & Events	3
Member News / International News	5
Local News	6
Feature, Blogs, White papers, Articles...	6
Best Practice	7

(العربية)



دورة تدريبية عن الابلاغ حسب
المعايير الجديدة للمبادرة العالمية للابلاغ
عبر الاتصال المرئي عن بعد

30 أغسطس - 1 سبتمبر 2020



تدريب معتمد عن أساسيات
المسؤولية الاجتماعية للمؤسسات
عبر الاتصال المرئي عن بعد

15 - 17 سبتمبر 2020
دبي، الامارات العربية المتحدة

We are Social! Follow us on [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Instagram](#) @arabiaccsr



Note from the President & CEO Arabia CSR Network



Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Although the presence and preservation of difference of opinion in any society is a sign of a tolerant and vibrant community, there are times when this blessing can be taken too far. One such example is the refutation of climate change and specifically the absence of a human hand behind the alarming increase of global warming by a section of the population. It is stunning how what seems blatantly obvious to any observer can be denied by some who refuse to take responsibility. In these times, it is always validating when scientific research can be brought forward to back up the claims of those who have been calling for a need to move towards more sustainable and greener methods of living.

In a stunning new development, a study that was made in collaboration between climate researchers from a number of institutions of note from the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland and Russia was released in July that correlated a constant prevalence of temperature of 100.4 degrees for six months consecutively in large parts of northern Siberia. The study which was initiated by the World Weather Attribution project makes the startling fact that this prolonged streak of temperature in the Siberian region was not a common occurrence and would be virtually impossible to occur without the presence of human-induced global warming. According to the findings of the researchers, the January to June heat was made 600 times more likely due to the increase in global warming through man-made actions.

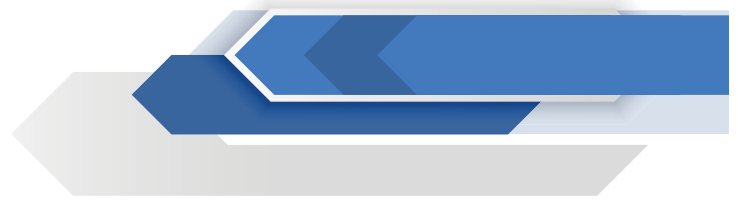
In essence then, the study concludes that such an event would have been nearly impossible in the absence of global warming. In fact, through its analysis of the previous six months, the study shows in the absence of human-caused global warming, the occurrence of six months of above average temperatures in the region would occur less than once every 80,000 years.

The methodology employed by the multi-national team of experts is known as climate detection and attribution.

The process is similar to climate detective work and works by calculating the degree of global warming due to an extreme climate or weather event. According to the findings of the study, the same region would have been cooler by as much as 3.6 degrees over the same period if the same weather patterns had developed in 1900 as opposed to 2020. Thus, the increase can only be attributed to man-made global warming. In the past, the findings of the same research group had pointed to the presence of heat waves that were twice more likely in the presence of man-made global warming than without. However, this is the first time that they have been able to reach such a strong conclusion that leaves nothing to conjecture. This finding is not the first to reach the conclusion that man-made interferences are behind the rise of global warming. In fact, another study on a deadly 2018 heat wave in Japan, and a study published in 2019 made the same point. However, this time, we have the benefit of hindsight to see what the harm in not acting fast enough can do. Hopefully, the worst of the global havoc caused by Covid19 is behind us. But we must never lose sight of the important lesson we have learned in the process. And that is to act proactively and immediately. Experts have been saying that the damages caused by the pandemic shrink significantly when compared to the dangers posed by climate change and global warming. And it is about time we started giving them the same level of importance.

To provide ideas on how to address the consequences of this crisis, the UN Secretary-General has issued a 'Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World' that describes how cities can manage the pandemic and emerge as the hubs of energy, resilience and innovation that make them vibrant and appealing places for many to live. It also looks at how the pandemic has exposed deep inequalities in how people live in cities, and how cities serve their residents, with the most vulnerable suffering the most. The Policy Brief calls for conscious policy choices, particularly with respect to inequalities, local capacities and a green, inclusive recovery. The Secretary-General has called for intensified commitments and action-oriented approach in three key areas, tackling inequalities and development deficits; strengthening the capacities of local actors, particularly local governments and; pursuing a resilient, inclusive, gender equal and green economic recovery.





ACSRN News & Events

Participation in GISD Discussion Groups

On **16th July**, ACSRN participated in an engaging follow-up meeting to the High-Level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond. This was organised by the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, where ACSRN President & CEO is an active member of the Alliance and continues to play a vital role in the growth of the Alliance by injecting the working groups with dynamic individuals. The chairs of the respective Discussion Group no. 3 (Global liquidity and

Financial stability), 4 (Debt and COVID-19) & 5 (Private Sector Creditor Engagement) presented the objectives and priorities of their groups respectively.

In addition to the critical exchange of views, 'Option papers' as a basis to start substantive deliberations were also introduced in this meeting. The group members shared their perspectives and provided strong suggestions for the implementation process.

ACSRN also attended the Discussion Group meeting on **23rd July** that focused on deals for the GISD. The representatives of Ground Up Project presented the Impact Rescue Facility (IRF), designed to direct funds quickly to fund managers in emerging markets with already approved relationships with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and diversified portfolio by well - qualified professional investors. It is seeking up to \$1 billion in investment in tranches of \$50 million, and can deploy the funds within 2-3 weeks of investment with minimum investment size of \$2 million. A Group presented a debt instrument that is intended to fund intermediaries to provide capital for SMEs trying to rebuild from

the COVID-19 crisis, with a focus on women in the informal sector in the Asia-Pacific region. The sectoral themes are agriculture, financial inclusion, and SME financing, and it seeks to raise \$100 million to be issued in Q1/Q2 2021. Another Group presented an infrastructure fund for emerging markets.

It has a relative value focus in emerging markets for greater impact and return and fills a gap in the market between commercial bank lending and long-term structural finance from Development Finance Institutions (DFIs). The fund will focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, and data infrastructure.

The Free Zone Edition of Public Private Connect

On **7th July**, ACSRN attended the 4th webinar organised by Dubai FDI under its 'Public-Private Connect Programme 2020' series that aims to foster public-private engagement and update the local, regional and global private sector on the progressive measures being adopted by the government to strengthen Dubai and the UAE as a business-friendly destination that enables sustainable growth. The CEO of Corporate Strategic Affairs – Department of Economic Development – Government of Dubai, talked about the government stimulus and its impact on Dubai-based Business. The panel of Executive Chairman and CEO – DMCC, Managing Director Dubai Internet City and Dubai Outsource City, Chief Executive of

Mohammed Bin Rashid Aerospace Hub – Dubai South and COO Parks & Zones DP World UAE Region discussed initiatives and incentives designed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on investors.

Read more,
please click



The Dubai Free Zones Council announced a comprehensive economic stimulus package and member free zones rolled out specific initiatives to reduce business costs and enhance financial liquidity for companies, in line with the directives of H.H Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai to ensure business continuity and reduce the economic impact of COVID-19.

ACSRN in WiRE and WICE Webinar

On **15th July**, ACSRN President & CEO was invited as a speaker in a webinar and signing ceremony of CEBC's Women in Clean Energy (WICE) and Canada's Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE). H.E. the Ambassador of Canada to the UAE gave an inspiring opening remarks on 'Green Recovery, Energy Transition and Gender Diversity', following which the passionate women leaders gave presentations on their contribution in the clean energy sector in the MENA Region and Canada. ACSRN President & CEO gave a research-based presentation on the 'Role of Local & International Community in Achieving Gender Diversity in the Energy Sector', shedding light on the current situation of gender diversity and global employment in the renewable energy sector. She concluded that in order to achieve gender equity in the energy sector and establish smart business strategies, we need to focus on the (3Es): Equal opportunity, Equal pay and Equal leadership. This requires strong concerted commitment from governments, industry and other energy stakeholders.





ACSRN News & Events

Interactive CSR Workshop with ENOC Key Targeted Partners

On **16th July**, ACSRN joined its Corporate Member, ENOC for an interactive CSR workshop. Dubai Autism Center (DAC), Al Jalila Cultural Centre for Children (AJCCC) and Al Noor Training Centre participated to discuss ENOC's future direction for CSR and expected role of its key partners for operational efficiency. ACSRN provided the insights on the perception of CSR in the

UAE during these unprecedented times, suggesting that in light of existing financial constraints amid COVID-19, all CSR practitioners around the world are searching for better ways to connect non-financial indicators of impact with financial investment.

The participants also discussed their COVID-19 response mechanisms and innovations being planned and implemented with a view to explore potential opportunities for future collaborations with ENOC.

Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Smart Technologies

ACSRN President & CEO attended on **21st July**, the 2nd webinar under a series titled 'Energy Efficiency: A key driver for clean energy transition' organised by EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network and supported by Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC). Due to the specific demand for heating and cooling, buildings constitute a large percentage of the overall energy consumption in the Gulf Region and in Europe. The webinar addressed how the GCC countries are embarking on a clean energy transition for sustainable, efficient and cost effective methods to find solutions to the existing challenges of low energy efficiency, fuel subsidies and high CO2 emissions. It also discussed the legislative framework of EU that includes

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the Energy Efficiency Directive to achieve a highly energy efficient and decarbonised building stock by 2050, create a stable environment for investment decisions and, enable consumers and businesses to make more informed choices to save energy and money.

The discussions also addressed key questions on opportunities and challenges that exist for energy efficiency at local and regional levels; most suitable policies and regulations for energy efficiency actions/projects; drivers for investment and its financing in energy efficiency; successful business models to accelerate the introduction of energy efficiency technologies and measures; role of SMEs and ESCOs; and key recommendations to promote collaboration between the EU and the GCC stakeholders.

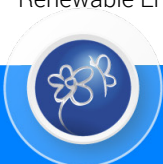
Virtual Panel Discussion on Climate Finance

On **28th July**, Arabia CSR Network joined its environmental partner, Emirates Environmental Group to organise the 3rd Panel Discussion for the year virtually under the theme "Tackling the Climate Emergency with Climate Finance" in association with Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC), Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) and Swiss Business Council (SBC). The distinguished guest speakers were Chairman of CEBC and President of Nasser Saidi & Associates; Managing Director Lead for Experience Services MENA Accenture; and Acting Head of Air Quality Management Section, MOCCA. The panelists gave insightful presentations to emphasise on the urgent need for increasing government and private spending on crucial sectors such as health, education, infrastructure, and climate change. It also opened dialogue about the financial opportunities in the UAE that can be diverted towards combating climate change.

Watch the full event
please click



EEG Chairperson and President of the Arabia CSR Network moderated the session and set the tone for the panel discussion by highlighting the intervention of key investments to build a resilience mechanism against pandemics and climate change. Responding to climate change presents challenges for the oil producing and water stressed countries of the MENA Region, but there are also opportunities to create new paths towards more inclusive and effective development. CEBC Chairman gave deep insights on why GCC countries should develop PAN-Arab model for clean energy technology and climate change mitigation as a part of their foreign aid. Regarding changes in air pollution across the UAE during the COVID-19 outbreak, Acting Head of Air Quality Management Section MOCCA talked about 26 stations across the country that assessed the changes in the ambient concentrations of the pollutants between January to June 2020. Overall an average of 45% reduction in NO2 (Nitrogen Dioxide) concentration was observed. From a corporate perspective, Accenture is expanding its environmental work streams by putting in place Carbon Strategy and Portfolio Management, Green IT, Eco Innovation, 360 Supplier Relationship among many others. Accenture is on road to achieve 100% Renewable Energy by 2023 and secure its position as a climate leader.





Member News

Smart Living Initiative by DEWA

ACSRN is proud of its Corporate Members for the tremendous efforts they carry out year on year to bring sustainable and smart change in the society. Dubai Electricity and Water Authority's (DEWA) efforts to promote sustainability by instilling a culture of conservation is yet another reason of pride for us. Through its 'My Sustainable Living Programme' initiative, DEWA is not just enriching customers' experiences and providing value-added services, but the proactive mechanism interacts with customers who have smart electricity and water meters to help them monitor their consumption patterns on real time basis and get daily, monthly, and annual reports. The residential customers can access the programme by logging onto their account on DEWA's website or smart app.

By updating and comparing their monthly electricity and water usage, it is enabling the residents to make informed decisions based on conservation tips available on the app. This initiative aims at developing highly efficient homes and inspires healthy competition among customers to reduce their consumption.

It is in-line with the directives of H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai to promote conservation culture and protect natural resources in the country. Sustainability starts from home and the President & CEO of ACSRN encourages the UAE residents to make full use of this amazing initiative by DEWA.

For More details
click here



BMMI Donates Household Appliances and Electronic Devices to Families in Need During the Pandemic

In keeping with its tradition and vision of supporting the local community, the BMMI Group reached out to the most at-risk members of the society in the aftermath of the global pandemic. The entity distributed essential household appliances and electronic devices to disadvantaged families that are most vulnerable due to the uncertain economic situation with thousands of workers being laid off and families having no means to feed themselves. The outreach project at BMMI reached out to the local communities in four governorates in Bahrain and supplied appliances including air conditioners, freezers, fridges, ovens, washing machines.etc, to more than 230 households. Various local entities, NGOs and official departments collaborated with BMMI in this project. According to the CEO of BMMI, the entity has always been committed to supporting the local community, and it is more adamant than ever during these challenging times to make a positive difference, wherever it can. Furthermore, the organisation also supported more than 120 students by providing them with laptops to ensure distance learning during Covid19 in a bid to prevent disruption in their studies. Speaking on the occasion, the CEO further added that contributing to support the livelihood of disadvantaged families, as well as enabling students to continue their education are just some of the areas where BMMI can give back to the community.

For More details
click here



International News

Sustainable Development Report 2020 Launched

The United Nations launched the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020 during the virtual High Level Political Forum on **7th July**. The latest available data and estimates have been used to track progress and also, the devastating initial impacts of the COVID-19 on specific goals and targets. The report shows the world was not on track to meet the SDGs even before the pandemic erupted. It also highlights how the COVID-19 crisis is disrupting implementation efforts across the SDGs, undoing years and even decades of progress in some cases. The report also uses infographics to provide a high-level overview of the achievements, gaps and challenges for each Goal before the pandemic, along with insights into the impact of COVID-19. It has been prepared by UN DESA's Statistics Division, with input from over 200 experts in more than 40 international agencies. The data and insights in the report plays an important role in informing the immediate response to COVID-19 and the steps needed to get the world back on track to deliver the 2030 Agenda. The report also provides a progress summary for SDG targets with a 2020 deadline.

For More details
click here





Local News

Call for Application at UN Resident Coordinator Office, UAE

ACSRN brings you an exciting opportunity! The UN Resident Coordinator Office in the UAE is looking for a dynamic candidate for the position of Associate Development Coordinator Officer – Data Management & Results Monitoring/Reporting, Abu Dhabi. The closing date for applications is 31st August 2020 (midnight NY

time). We encourage the qualified and skilled Emirati nationals to grab this opportunity and contribute its best to the country.

Follow the link to know about job description and eligibility criteria,

Hurry and Apply. All the best!

Read more,
please click



FEATURE ARTICLE

Red Sea Corals' Heat Tolerance offers hope for Climate Crisis



In a stunning development that has left experts baffled and optimistic at the same time, the coral reefs along the Gulf of Aqaba in the Red Sea have shown a new way to the future which paints a rosy picture. According to an experiments conducted by researchers at the Institute of Earth Sciences at the University of Lausanne, the coral reefs in the Gulf of Aqaba have never shown a documented case of 'bleaching' which happens due to high temperatures.

That in itself is a remarkable occurrence as the region is prone to high temperatures. In order to put the phenomenon to test, the researchers put the reefs to the test by subjecting them to temperatures that were one degree above the summer maximum recorded for the region. This was above the noted lethal threshold and the coral reefs were expected to die.

Aqaba, that is a trench of water protruding from the Red Sea, lapping Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, were not affected by the increase in temperature. On the contrary, with each increment in temperature, the corals appeared to be 'happier' and healthier.

This is a breakthrough in coral science, a subject that has witnessed a mushrooming of growth and studies in recent years due to the apparent free fall in which this delicate ecosystem seems to be in. With more than half the world's coral reefs already dead and that number is projected to go up to more than 90% by the middle of the century, such promising news is shocking. According to the observations of the researchers, when the temperature was increased by seven degrees, the corals even showed improved physiological performance at higher temperatures. This promising development leads to the possibility of a large range of corals along the 4,000km Red Sea reef that are uniquely resistant to the effects of climate crisis.

For more details
click here





Best Practices 2019 From The Archives Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) Arabia CSR Awards 2019 - Winner - Public Sector Category

Profile

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) is a globally leading sustainable innovative entity that is committed and aligned to Dubai's 8 Principles and 50-Year Charter, supporting the UAE government's directions through the delivery of global leading services and innovative energy solutions enriching lives and ensuring the happiness of its stakeholders in a sustainable manner. It is a public service infrastructure organisation that was founded on the 1st of January 1992 by the late Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. DEWA is an internationally accredited organisation and a multiple winner of the Arabia CSR Awards. According to the Sustainability Report 2018, DEWA employs an active workforce of 11,787 employees and provides 844,216 customers with electricity and 750,172 customers with water. The organisation is on track to achieve its goals of protecting the environment, preserving its natural resources and reducing carbon footprint to achieve the goals of the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 by providing 75% of Dubai's total power output from clean energy sources by 2050 and making Dubai the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the world.



Summary

DEWA's excellence record is driven by its relentless strive to go beyond core services to provide 'Enhanced Lifestyle' to stakeholders. The entity's brand DNA clearly cascades its corporate strategies into stakeholder-driven tactics by having a clear tone of voice, visual imagery and messaging for each stakeholder to ensure DEWA is positively perceived at all times. The Brand Perception KPI reached 88.7% in 2019 showing that customers find DEWA ultimately passing the value back to them. The findings in the latest society satisfaction survey achieved 88.1%, reaffirming its responsibility, care and contribution to the society. DEWA's Brand is committed to the happiness of its stakeholders and the promotion of Dubai's vision through the delivery of sustainable electricity and water services at a world class level of reliability, efficiency and safety in an environment that nurtures innovation with a competent workforce and effective partnerships; supporting resources' sustainability. DEWA promises to cherish the Earth's valuable resources in order to enable growth and prosperity in Dubai for generations to come. Under the Clean Development Mechanism initiative, DEWA established Dubai Carbon Centre for Excellence in cooperation with the UN. Continuous innovation, upgrading of systems, processes, latest technologies like block chain and artificial intelligence have placed DEWA high in world ranking in loss-reduction value in power transmission and unaccounted water, to the extent of even faring better than US and European Union utilities. Supporting the national agenda of improving the lives and future of nationals, DEWA has ensured that education and employment opportunities are systematically generated by establishing DEWA Academy in order to train and harness the skills of the candidates to efficiently integrate into the workforce. Volunteerism plays a major role amongst DEWA employees, in 2018 DEWA reached 45,665 volunteering hours with 1,847 volunteer.

