

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
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Arabia CSR Network®

NEWSLETTER

October 2020 Volume 9 Issue 110

الجائزة
العربية
للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية
للمؤسسات



ARABIA
CORPORATE
SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY
AWARDS

6th October, 2020

Under the Patronage of

H.E. Engineer, Sheikh Salem
Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al-Qasimi

Chairman of the Ras Al Khaimah Civil Aviation Department

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Upcoming Trainings & Events

Online Training GRI Standards for Sustainability Reporting



1. Date: 11th - 13th October, 2020
2. Date: 3rd - 5th November, 2020



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VIRTUAL
MATERIALITY MAPPING
WORKSHOP

28th OCTOBER 2020



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عبر الاتصال المرئي عن بعد

19-17 نوفمبر 2020

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Note from the President & CEO Habiba Al Mar'ashi

A recent Tweet by the UN Secretary General says "In these days of physical distancing amid COVID-19, we must stand together for peace. And together, we can - and will- build a more just, sustainable and equitable world".

Arabia CSR Network stands in accord with United Nations on completing its 75 years and at the same time, to press harder for the advancement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Globally, as reported by WHO, there have been over 33 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, with more than one million deaths till end of September 2020. The world has come together in these harsh circumstances and for more than ever, the value of collective action and finding solutions in unity has become meaningful.

But are we really doing enough to support the global cooperation? Therefore, on this occasion of 75th session of UN General Assembly, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) called private sector leaders for the annual SDG Business Forum in cooperation with the UN Global Compact (UNGC) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) to discuss the role of the private sector in addressing the current economic scenario and to advance the implementation of lasting solutions for a more sustainable future.

The Arab Region has always been moving forward in its vision to contribute effectively to Sustainable Development Goals. The latest Arab Sustainability Development Report 2020 explains the regional trajectory for Arab countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and analyses where the region stands on the 17 SDGs.

It has identified the structural changes across social, economic, political, cultural and environmental aspects for sustainable transformation. The report also highlights the adoption of biotechnology and innovative solutions by the Arab research centres and universities to address environmental and sustainability challenges. In addition to genetically modified seeds, safe fertilisers, and smart irrigation, harvesting, transportation, storage and distribution, they are addressing food loss and waste as an emerging issue.

There are also ongoing efforts to apply new knowledge and innovative technologies to increase efficiency in regards to water scarcity, energy demands and land degradation. Following the global discussions on sustainable financing and economic justice, the UAE Ministry of Economy has announced the theme of "Reimagining Economies: The Move Towards a Digital, Sustainable and Resilient Future" for the upcoming Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) planned for October. Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, this will be the first mega digital event in the region that will set a new benchmark for future virtual events in the UAE.

To align the private sector and organisations on the progressive path towards a sustainable future, Arabia CSR Network will continue to conduct the virtual trainings to reach maximum entities in the Region. We have therefore, scheduled for the last quarter of 2020 very attractive packages with more GRI Standard Trainings, Materiality Mapping Workshop, CSR Strategy and Leadership Training, and CSR Advanced Training. I encourage everyone to benefit from these online trainings to move faster and keep building the foundation of strong approaches towards CSR and Sustainability.

I am extremely honoured to announce that we are organising the 13th cycle of Arabia CSR Awards under the patronage of H.E Engineer, Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al-Qasimi, Chairman of the Ras Al Khaimah Civil Aviation Department and member of the Executive Council-Government of Ras Al Khaimah on **6th October** at J W Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai. To share, celebrate and inspire the entities in Arab Region and beyond, for the first time ever, the Awards Gala will also be live on our YouTube channel. I therefore, appeal to everyone to subscribe to our channel and follow us live to witness the victory of perseverance and commitment that the winners of 2020 have exhibited despite the pandemic.

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ACSRN News & Events

Engaging with GISD Alliance

1. ACSRN President & CEO attended on **10th September** the discussion group meeting that featured the presentation of Women's Livelihood Bond (WLB) by the Singapore-based Impact Investment Exchange (IIX). Women are the backbone of communities' health and the vision of IIX serves to transform the financial system so that women, the environment and underserved communities are given a value and a voice in the global market.

It aids in advancing UN SDGs by expediting global climate action, redefining the narrative to position women as solutions and building resilient communities. WLB is an award-winning series that delivers stable returns and sustainable impact to investors. Further to the history made in 2017 by launching the \$8.5 million Women's Livelihoods Bond 1 (WLB 1) and becoming the world's first gender-lens, impact investing security listed on a stock exchange, in Q1 2020 IIX issued the USD 12 million WLB 2.

With women in the centre of COVID-19 resilience, the WLB 3 is on an ambitious target of USD 30 million to impact 500,000 women in South and Southeast Asia in Q4 2020. WLB 3 will invest in 50% microfinance and the rest in sectors including sustainable agriculture, small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) lending, clean energy, skills development, and sustainable apparel.

2. On **15th September**, GISD held the virtual meeting for its Strategy Group, led by the Director of Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UNDESA. The co-chairs of working group 1 provided updates on the status of their deliverables and discussed the next steps on the recently launched report of GISD – 'Renewed, Recharged and Reinforced – Urgent Action to Harmonise and Scale Sustainable Finance'.

The group also discussed the objectives of the Second Annual Meeting of the GISD Alliance that includes ensuring commitment of the members for the next 2 years, engaging with member states on the implementation and sharing the impact of GISD through media outreach.

The Head of UNEP Finance Initiative (FI) also presented its work on impact analysis and management, specifically on how Positive Impact Initiative and Principles for Responsible Banking can support the work of the Alliance.

Climate Action for Human Security

On **2nd September**, Arabia CSR Network participated in a webinar organised by the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Hub in Amman, through its regional project "SDG-Climate Facility: Climate Action for Human Security". The session discussed the role of climate finance in facilitating transformative climate action to meet the SDGs in the Arab Region.

It dealt with Renewable Energy (RE) systems that entail benefits from SDG 7 and 13, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Climate action still falls far short of what is needed with regards to climate financing and renewable energy globally and in the Arab Region. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2018) estimates that \$1.6 trillion to \$3.8 trillion are needed annually between 2016 and 2050 in order to achieve the transition to a low-emission world.

While climate finance in the Arab Region is lagging behind, there has been some notable successes that were discussed during the webinar. One of which is the Aero Fresh Farms in the UAE that managed to secure venture capital financing to increase its business for food security issues in the country. Public-Private Partnerships are needed to guarantee that new financing models are available in crisis and post-crisis environments.

In the context of financial market development and reform, Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency,

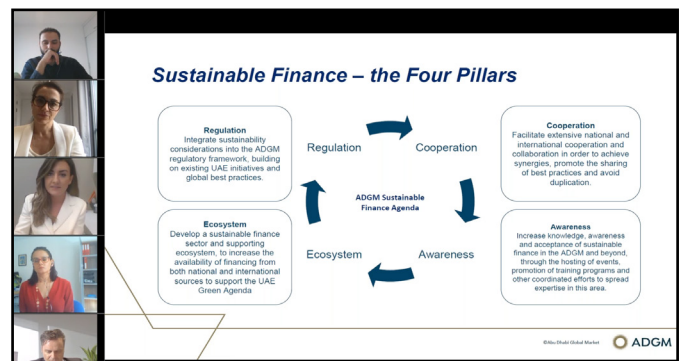
stated that Renewable Energy (RE) can be financed using a variety of instruments, from grants to concessional debt and equity to purely commercial debt and equity.

To watch the recording please click



The discussion recommended that the Union of Arab Banks transition to Green banking, to work together to build a framework for the Arab financial sector to support sustainable development projects.

The session concluded by stressing that there is a clear Pan-Arab commitment to embrace strong forward thinking policies of the RE business.





ACSRN News & Events

Boosting CSR and Sustainability Approach in the Arab Region

The 2020 has been a year of retrospection and building strategies for an inclusive and sustainable development. The national, regional and global platforms have reiterated the crucial sectoral roles to catalyse the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Therefore, it has become increasingly evident for organisations and companies to make CSR and Sustainability a higher priority for a healthier and resilient tomorrow. Arabia CSR Network has been at the forefront to deliver capacity building trainings on these critical areas. On **15th - 17th September**, ACSRN organised the certified training on the Fundamentals of CSR and Sustainability and on **20th - 22nd September**, it organised a virtual training on CSR Strategy and Leadership to promote sustainable impacts of organisational strategies on environmental and societal

issues. The three-day courses each enhanced the conceptual knowledge and advanced the strategic approach towards CSR and Sustainability. The trainings engaged the participants through a combination of lectures, discussions and case studies to illustrate how organisations are leveraging their sustainability performance to contribute towards sustainable development. The President and CEO of ACSRN said, "CSR and Sustainability are meant to help organisations to identify the local, regional and global issues that affect their organisation's sustainability as well as that of the economy, environment and society in which they operate". She also mentioned that in order to reach environmental and economic sustainability in the Region, companies and organisations from all sectors need to commit jointly and strategically.

Virtual Panel Discussion on UAE, A Biodiversity Haven

On **20th September**, Arabia CSR Network joined Emirates Environmental Group to organise its 4th and final virtual panel discussion to highlight the importance of biodiversity in the cycle of life, and the efforts made by the UAE to preserve its biological diversity.

The esteemed panelists were the Director of the Environment -Health and Safety Department at Al Ain Zoo, Head of the Conservation Programme Unit at Al Ain Zoo, Director of Conservation at Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve and Principal of Arbor School Dubai.

The discussion focused on the targets set out in the UN SDG 14 (Life below Water) and 15 (Life on Land) to align the challenges and the progress of the UAE in its conservation efforts. "There is an irreversible decline of genetic and species diversity and disintegration of ecosystems at global, regional and local scales. According to an article, from the world economic forum, anthropogenic activities have led to the loss of 83% of all wild mammals and half of plants.

Scientists are concerned that human activities are putting increased pressure and affecting biodiversity immensely", stated EEG Chairperson in her opening remarks. Each of the expert panelists presented their innovative ideas and shared practices that helped give us more insight on how to conserve our ecosystems on a

global, regional and local level. The esteemed speakers also demonstrated facts about the wealth of terrestrial, avian and marine found within the UAE, which eliminates the assumption that UAE is home to only a desert ecosystem but actually to three.

"An ecoliterate student will understand the natural systems that sustain life on earth and apply the principles guiding ecosystems to help create sustainable human communities and societies", said Principal of the Arbor School as he strongly supported the importance of environmental education at school.

In an effort to implement effective good governance and planning, Director of Conservation at Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve, reiterated the overall purpose of DDCR as a regional leader in biodiversity conservation and building resilience to climate change in arid land ecosystems. The speakers from Al Ain Zoo talked about the mission and vision for conservation of biodiversity in the UAE and said, "Since its establishment in 1968, conservation has been the main objective of Al Ain Zoo, following the vision of the Late Sheikh Zayed. The organisation aims to position itself as one of the global leaders in arid land wildlife conservation and animal management and deliver best practice veterinary care and wildlife management."

To watch full event
please click



Member News

Wasl Supports Remote-Learning

ACSRN member, wasl is committed to contribute to the efforts of the Ministry of Education to ensure progress of the national educational process. It has announced its support to the Dubai Educational Zone and Hamdan Bin Rashid Boys School Dubai by providing their students with laptops and iPads respectively to enable remote-learning process initiated in the UAE. Wasl Property said: "This step represents wasl's contribution to the government's efforts to provide support to different segments in the society and help them overcome the challenges resulting from the current situation. We have a close relationship with the educational sector in the Emirate, and we will continue to provide the necessary support for students to help them excel and give back to their country."

<https://www.wasl.ae/press-releases/wasl-supports-dubai-educational-zone-providing-students-remote-learning-needs>





Member News

Chalhoub Group Enhancing the Future of B2C Communication with Digital Transformation

Arabia CSR Network is proud of its corporate member Chalhoub Group, the leading partner for luxury products in the Middle East, for transforming the future of retail through a collaborative e-retail platform to enable the beauty and fashion advisors to interact and engage with their customers using conversational commerce technology.

This partnership is aligned with Chalhoub Group's transformational principal "Startups Are Our Allies," and one of the Group's core values, Entrepreneurship. The project received an internal excellence award for pioneering such innovative work together. The platform has also created educational Masterclasses as an

online launch pad for the brands to educate and share new products directly to their target audience. The Chalhoub Group was proactive in implementing contactless services at the outburst of COVID-19 pandemic at the beginning of 2020, growing the number of e-services for customers within the UAE by 150%.

This shift from physical store visits to a cloud-based solution has proven to be a sustainable way to continue in a post-Covid world too.

To watch the recording please click



National News

Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant Unit 1

The UAE has put forward many efforts to diversify its energy sources and provide homes with clean and efficient energy. As of now these efforts have turned into reality as TRANSCO has constructed 952 kilometers of 400 kV overhead lines to connect the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant Unit 1 to the Abu Dhabi electricity grid. This link follows the successful start-up by Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) operations and maintenance subsidiary Nawah.

In July, a series of tests were performed that steadily increased power levels to ultimately generate the first megawatts of base load electricity produced by the nuclear plant located in Abu Dhabi's Al Dhafra region. Once the integration and connection will be completed, Unit 1's nuclear operators will begin the process of gradually raising the power levels, which will deliver, at full capacity, abundant baseload electricity to power the growth and prosperity of the UAE for decades to come.

ENEC is proud of the talented Emirati engineers and nuclear professionals who contributed to the construction and commissioning of Unit 1, as well as the Emirati reactor operators and senior reactor operators who have trained for many years across the world and today know how to safely manage the plant.

International News

SDG Action Continues

United Nations turned 75 on **21st September**, and on this occasion it delved into the importance of multilateralism, reflecting on the progress and what needs to be achieved towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The dire need for SDG Action will continue as world leaders will be coming together at the General Assembly for the "SDG moment," to instill a renewed sense of urgency, ambition and accountability into collective efforts.

To support these activities, UN DESA invited the private sector leaders for the annual SDG Business Forum on **23rd September**, in cooperation with the UN Global Compact (UNGC) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

It discussed the role of the private sector in addressing the current economic scenario and to advance the implementation of lasting solutions for a more sustainable future.

UN DESA has also been leading efforts and initiatives of the UN Secretary-General through a series of policy briefs that helped policymakers to learn about the impacts of COVID-19 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It organised an event titled "Navigating uncertainties: An intergenerational dialogue on the impact of COVID-19 on youth employment," to provide opportunities to youth to discuss the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

Learn more about UN DESA's recent activities at,

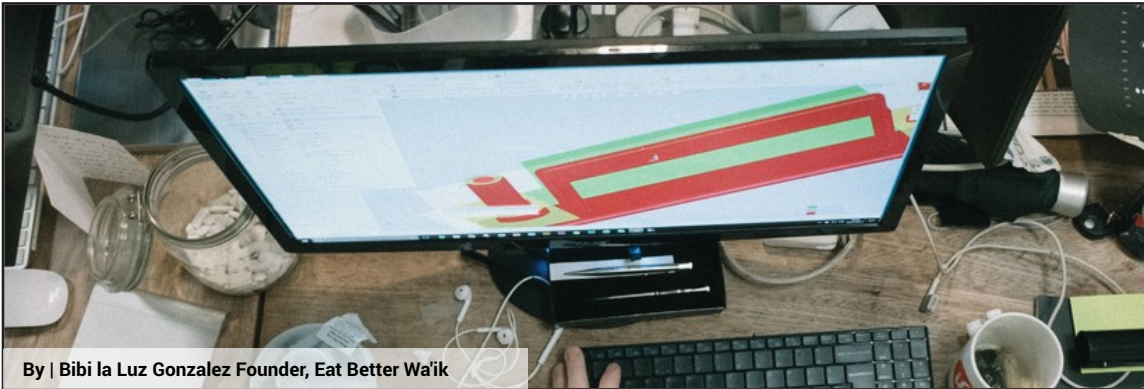
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/undesavoice/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2020/08/DESAVoiceSeptember2020.pdf>





FEATURE ARTICLE

Why Responsible Consumption is Everyone's Business



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By | Bibi la Luz Gonzalez Founder, Eat Better Waik

Consumerism and Essentialism are trending terminologies in this modern age. Shift to greener and healthier lifestyle changes is growing among individuals, and it indicates progressive awareness on sustainable approaches. But how will the future of consumption be reshaped by new business models, retail platforms and sustainability policies? The problem is that consumption and production are considered distant and broad concepts that are somehow unattached from us. They are referenced as responsible for climate change. When in reality, we are the ones consuming goods, and even in some cases, managing production companies. We have turned this into the Anthropocene era.

Consumption is not solely the action of purchasing. It is understanding, acknowledging and consenting to the product's behind-the-scenes practices, either willingly or without much, if any, thought. It is the action of using products for their entire lifetime, and the way you eventually dispose of, or transform them. Clothes, food and other objects we acquire are expected to meet our needs and wants, and reserves for the future.

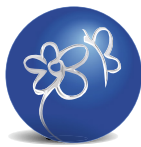
But today, the way we purchase, organise and discard items is more blind consumption of a growing supply of manufactured goods. Consumers make buying decisions based on the value they attribute to items. Some may ponder the origin of what they are buying (and whether it was made with fair and sustainable practices), and have planned the time they will keep them for and then discard them. In the meantime, objects are organised in plain sight or stored in stalls, cabinets, refrigerators, and any other nook or cranny.

"Material footprint" refers to the total amount of raw materials extracted to meet final consumption demands. It is one indication of the pressures placed on the environment to support economic growth and to satisfy the material needs of people. The global material footprint rose from 43 billion metric tons in 1990 to 54 billion in 2000, and 92 billion in 2017 - an increase of 70% since 2000, and 113% since 1990. The rate of natural resource extraction has accelerated since 2000. Without concerted political action, it is projected to grow to 190 billion metric tons by 2060.

The global material footprint is increasing at a faster rate than both population and economic output. In other words, at the global level, there has been no decoupling of material footprint growth from either population growth or GDP growth. It is imperative that we reverse that trend. But, is our economy really driven by consumers? It seems we are being offered and supplied more and more goods that we do not need, but are incentivised to want. An exaggerated amount of manufactured goods are put on display in front of us, the production of which is using up the earth's limited natural resources.

The claim that there won't be enough food for the growing population is especially troubling, since 1.3 billion tonnes of food produced for human consumption are lost or wasted annually. At the same time vast swathes of precious forest are cleared to make space for farming to produce yet more food. We all are the missing piece in the consumption puzzle. Our voice and actions will build the bridge to greater inclusion, human rights, availability and access to sustainable consumption and production patterns, translating into conservation of the environment and biodiversity. You see, it is our business!





Best Practices 2019 From The Archives ETIHAD ESCO

Arabia CSR Awards 2019 - 2nd Runner Up - Small Business Category

Etihad ESCO was established in 2013 as a venture of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) to turn Dubai into a leading example of energy efficiency for the region and the world. As an energy service company, Etihad ESCO has developed energy efficiency projects targeting more than 30,000 buildings. This has resulted in enabling the energy performance contracting market in Dubai.

The organisation has set the target of executing building retrofits, increasing penetration of district cooling, building capacity of local ESCOs for the private sector and facilitating access to project finance in order to jumpstart the creation of viable performance contracting market for energy service companies. Through these ventures, new business opportunities for joint ventures, international partnerships are provided by Etihad ESCO. Furthermore, the entity also aims to engage UAE national entrepreneurs through a diversified supply chain from financial institutions, technology, providers and equipment manufacturers to service providers across the project development, management and reporting stages.



Summary

Etihad ESCO is an entity specifically formed to ensure the sustainability of Dubai as a city for generations to come. It has done remarkably well in a very short period of time, as it is set to achieve the strategic goals laid out by the mother organisation. As a Government owned company, Etihad ESCO has a specific strategy to implement energy saving measures in all government entities. Furthermore, the organisation is looking at the bigger picture; the future.

The vision and mission of Etihad is to make Dubai one of the most sustainable cities in the world and to promote Dubai as a leading example of energy efficiency for the region and the world. The organisation aims to achieve these through setting the following goals:

- Create an energy performance contracting market in Dubai
- Support local & international ESCOs to grow and thrive
- Contribute to achieve energy demand reduction targets set by Dubai Supreme Council of Energy in the Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy 2030

Etihad ESCO's main focus is to reduce the demand on natural resources and water in Dubai. It also focuses on reducing energy costs to the UAE citizens by installing Government subsidised solar rooftop panels to ensure huge savings in the electricity to the owners.

To regularly map the risks and opportunities, it has set an annual process of Enterprise Risk Assessment that enables them to develop long term initiatives to progress efficiently on its energy strategies and implementation. It has also appointed a separate manager for environmental, social and economic issues to ensure that sustainability is always a priority in its operations at all levels.

