



## Upcoming Trainings



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## Note from the President & CEO Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Hello Arabia CSR Network members.

The weather is taking a positive and pleasant turn here in our country and region, but it is worth reflecting on how the future climate of the region will be if we don't take proper action against climate change.

Of course the biggest story in November was the UN Climate Conference (COP26) that took place in Glasgow, Scotland. This climate summit brought together leaders and ministers from all over the world to take collective steps with the aim of closing the gap to limiting global warming to 1.5 °C.

Representatives from nearly 200 countries agreed on a deal that pledges further action to curb emissions, as well as additional funding for low-and middle-income countries. Governments made new pledges as well on methane gas pollution, deforestation and coal financing.

At COP26, more than 100 countries joined a USA and EU-led coalition to cut 30% of methane gas emissions by 2030 from 2020 level. And for the first time, nearly 200 nations targeted fossil fuels as the key driver of climate change. The USA and China agreed to cooperate in this decade to prevent global warming from surpassing 1.5 degrees Celsius by working on boosting clean energy, mitigating deforestation and slashing methane emissions.

However, according to many climate experts, researchers and scientists, the climate pact that was taken at Glasgow is a positive step, may not be enough to limit global temperature rises to 2 °C. Many felt that the summit lacked stronger commitments to reduce emissions. Moreover, there was also a failure to agree "loss and damage" finances for countries that are vulnerable to climate change.

Nonetheless, some of the positive outcomes from COP26 are:

- Leaders of more than 100 nations - including Brazil and Indonesia - made an agreement to end deforestation by 2030.
- More than 100 countries signed the non-binding Global Methane Pledge, agreeing to reduce methane levels 30% by 2030.
- Ecuador announced that it would expand protections around the Galápagos Marine Reserve — one of the first and largest marine reserves in the world.
- The government of the Roman Catholic Church — signed the Clean Energy Transition to phase out fossil fuels and transition to renewable energy sources.
- Costa Rica and Denmark launched the "Beyond Oil & Gas Alliance".

- Leaders and international banks created a US\$10.5 billion fund at COP26 to help developing economies switch to renewable energy.
- 77 nations at COP26 agreed to phase out coal by the 2030s (for developed nations) and by the 2040s (for less developed nations).

In November also, we were fortunate to be a part of the virtual launch of the Impact Shares MSCI Global Climate Select Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) in collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), a non-profit sponsor backed by The Rockefeller Foundation. This ETF was co-created by Impact Shares and a working group of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance. Impact Shares will donate the net management fee on NTZO to UNCDF to build climate resilience and adaptation in the LDCs. This fee donation gives the investing public an innovative new way to support the work of the United Nations.

Earlier in the month, we ran a three-day CSR Advanced virtual training. This training is meant for individuals who have an introductory knowledge of CSR and Sustainability and are looking to add to that to support their organisational roles. The course module has been developed with the aim of equipping participants with a deep and thorough understanding of the holistic concept of CSR and how it lends itself to organisational and social value.

The 3-day course covered advanced principles of CSR and various approaches that align with it, CSR implementation steps and challenges, strategising CSR practices to improve economic, social and environmental performance, and examples and cases.

In November, we also conducted a three-day training course on the GRI Standards. This course focused on the latest iteration of the GRI sustainability reporting standard with an aim to help organisations better understand and communicate their non-financial performance and their sustainability related impacts.

The GRI Sustainability Reporting training is a very efficient mode of gaining comprehensive knowledge about sustainability and reporting. It helps to clarify misconceptions about what Sustainability means and how sustainable practices benefit an organisation. Delegates can intensify their understanding about how best to use sustainability reporting for strategic purposes. Given that sustainability reporting is the bare minimum requirement for a responsible business, GRI provides a well-structured process to mainstream it into business activities.

If you are an organisation that aims to enhance its operations and its skills to become more sustainable, we'd love to work with you. We offer trainings, research, advisory services and more. We are ardent believers that sustainability should be everyone's priority number one. Stay in touch!





## ACSRN News

### Impact Shares and UNCDF Launch New Global Climate Select ETF

Impact Shares, the non-profit ETF sponsor backed by The Rockefeller Foundation, announced the launch of the Impact Shares MSCI Global Climate Select ETF (NYSE Arca: NTZO) in collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) which ACSRN virtually attended on **3<sup>rd</sup> November**. The new ETF, based on the MSCI ACWI Climate Pathway Select Index, was co-created by Impact Shares and a working group of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance.

The NTZO ETF includes UN values in its methodology: companies in the index must abide by the UN Global Compact and entities that profit from weapons, guns, alcohol, tobacco, or palm oil are excluded. Recognising the urgency of moving to a Net Zero economy during the UN Conference of Parties (COP) meeting and beyond, the index also excludes companies that own or profit from any form of fossil fuel.

"The need to address climate change impacts has never been clearer, especially for the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries," said Executive Secretary of UNCDF. "We at UNCDF are very proud to support the GISD by issuing our second ETF with Impact Shares [after the 2018 launch of SDGA, which includes companies that create positive economic benefits in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)]. NTZO demonstrates UNCDF's ability to create innovative financial products that appeal to investors and continue to raise impact standards. The fee donation will help the UN build climate resilience in the world's LDCs."

Impact Shares, the fund manager, will donate the net management fee on NTZO to UNCDF to build climate resilience and adaptation in the LDCs. This fee donation gives the investing public an innovative new way to support the work of the United Nations.

The launch of NTZO was announced on November 3 in Glasgow at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) and began trading on the New York Stock Exchange the same day.

### CSR Advanced Training

Arabia CSR Network, the leading CSR and Sustainability think tank in the Arab world, ran a 3-day virtual training on CSR Advanced from **14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November**. Devoted to advancing the principles and practices of Corporate Social Responsibility in the region. It facilitates networking, learning and sharing experiences and knowledge in matters of CSR. The Arabia CSR Network promotes, encourages and recognises responsible business practices through a bunch of services and offerings such as the CSR Advanced trainings,

CSR Advanced training is meant for individuals who have a foundational knowledge of CSR and Sustainability and are looking to add to that which would help in their organisational roles. The course module has been developed with the aim of equipping participants with a deep and thorough understanding of the holistic concept of CSR and how it lends itself to organisational and social value. The 3-day course covered the advanced principles of CSR and various approaches that align with it, CSR implementation steps and challenges, strategising CSR practices to improve economic, social and environmental performance, and examples and cases.

### ACSRN Conducts the 62<sup>nd</sup> GRI Training

ACSRN, being the 1<sup>st</sup> certified training partner of Global Reporting Initiative in the Arab region since 2011, ran a three-day training course on the GRI Standards from **18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November**. It focused on the latest iteration of the GRI sustainability reporting standard with an aim to help organisations better understand and communicate their non-financial performance and their sustainability related impacts.

The GRI Sustainability Reporting training is a very efficient mode of gaining comprehensive knowledge about sustainability and reporting. It helps to clear up misconceptions about what Sustainability means and how sustainable practices benefit an organisation. Delegates can 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 had taken part in our trainings and gained both knowledge and technical know-how related to sustainability reporting based on the GRI structure. Successful participants received a formal certificate from GRI headquarters in Netherlands for undertaking the training. The training concluded with a highly effective exercise wherein participants reviewed and evaluated two GRI Standards compliant reports issued from the region. This practical activity ensured that the participants had fully grasped the content of the training module and were able to successfully apply the knowledge they had gained.

### The OECD and Environmental Policy - How can Civil Society Engage?

ACSRN attended a capacity building session on **19<sup>th</sup> November** to learn more about environmental policymaking at the OECD and the engagement mechanisms for different stakeholders including environmental NGOs. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) representatives and European Environmental Bureau (EEB) staff shared how the OECD works to learn about the opportunities to engage in and shape better environmental policies. The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) coordinates the voice of environmental organisations within the OECD Environment Policy Committee (EPOC) to broaden their engagement with the support of other environmental civil society organisations. Civil society organisations (CSOs) from developing countries and donor countries are development actors in their own right. They play a crucial role in reducing poverty, upholding democratic development and the fulfilment of human rights. They stand out amongst development co-operation partners for their capacity to reach out to, empower, represent,





and defend people living in vulnerable situations and to trigger social innovation. They are therefore essential partners of public and private actors in their pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. Today, however, efforts by various governments around the world to restrict the civic and political space in which civil society operates have grown at an alarming rate: new laws, policies, and practices limit the possibilities for people to come together to improve everyday lives. In that context, it is even more pressing for donors to offer effective support and partnerships with CSOs and leverage their knowledge, capabilities and influence.

## Tristar External Stakeholders' Workshop

Tristar convened their external stakeholders workshop every year with the objective of gathering their feedback, which is a crucial step in the process of their annual sustainability reporting. The results inform their work on the prioritisation of material or key sustainability issues. This year's workshop was held on the **21<sup>st</sup> November**. Around 45 participants joined the workshop, gaining deeper understanding of Tristar's sustainability performance during the past year and exchanging their feedback and experiences. Arabia CSR Network participated in the workshop as one of the key stakeholders. The workshop began with a note of welcome. A brief about Tristar was presented. Tristar is a fully integrated Energy Logistics business serving the downstream oil and gas industry.

Tristar is built on the foundation of being a 'Business For Purpose' and has an established 'ESG' framework in order to achieve a positive impact on communities and the environment while providing positive returns to all stakeholders. Since 2011, Tristar is a signatory of the United Nations Global Compact with compliance to the Principles of Human Rights, Anti-Corruption, Labour and Environment. Tristar supports the advancement and advocacy of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the implementation of various initiatives. Tristar's role in Dubai Expo was shared, in which the company is the Corporate Partner of the India Pavillion.

It was followed by a detailed presentation on Tristar's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Strategy and the initiatives in the year 2020. Tristar, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), has mapped their activities to the SDGs prioritising UN Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8. Various efforts in the year 2020 was discussed, like recycling of tyres, the extension of their well-recognised road safety programme across global operations, LNG powered vehicles, installation of solar panel, hybrid biodiesel, water reduction, carbon management, establishment of a Covid Risk Committee, collaboration with EEG, etc. Of note are the awards received by the company, including the Safety awards which Tristar has been winning consistently for many years. Tristar also attained the Green Building certificate for two of their facilities.

The keynote address entitled 'Transition to a Circular Economy', was presented by the Dean, College of Business Administration of the University of Sharjah. The key points of her talk were the following: foundations and key enablers of the Circular Economy Model, the status of Circular Economy in the UAE and the conditions for making further progress and some examples of best practice in this area. The highlight of the workshop was the live survey that was conducted by the Tristar team, the Stakeholder Materiality Assessment. Participants were requested to provide their inputs to a set of questions related to Tristar's ESG focus areas. The Group Founder & CEO gave an inspiring short talk, combining both achievements and messages. This was followed by a formal conclusion facilitated by Tristar's Chief Administrative Officer.

## Member News

### ABB to Showcase the World's Fastest Electric Car Charger at Expo 2020 Dubai

As part of its mission to power e-mobility, ABB will be showcasing its all-in-one Electric Vehicle (EV) charger at Expo 2020 Dubai, coinciding with the company's ABB Day celebrations on 13th December.

Making its public debut in the Middle East, visitors to the Swedish Pavilion at Expo 2020's Sustainability District will get a firsthand look at Terra 360 – which provides the fastest charging experience on the market. ABB's new technology comes engineered with a modular charger capable of charging up to four vehicles simultaneously. It can deliver a maximum output of 360 kW, which can fully charge an electric car in 15 minutes or less.

The launch of ABB's new electric car charger comes during a time in which the number of electric and hybrid cars on the roads continue to increase globally. In the UAE alone, estimates predict that by 2030, there will be 42,000 electric cars on the roads across the Emirates. Initiatives such as the Dubai Green Mobility Strategy 2030 and the Abu Dhabi Transportation Mobility Management Strategy indicate a clear focus on encouraging the use of sustainable transport and electric vehicles in the country.

In addition to serving the needs of private EV drivers at fueling stations, convenience stores and retail locations, ABB's Terra 360 chargers can also be installed on an organisation's commercial premises to charge electric fleet cars, vans and trucks. Owing to the small footprint of Terra 360 chargers, they can also be installed in small depots or parking lots where space is at a premium.

ABB is a world leader in electric vehicle infrastructure, offering the full range of charging and electrification solutions for electric cars, electric and hybrid buses, vans, trucks, ships and railways. ABB entered the e-mobility market back in 2010. ABB's high-power chargers are already being deployed around the world through the company's partnerships with international charging operators such as IONITY and Electrify America.

To explore ABB's electric vehicle charging technology, visit: <https://new.abb.com/ev-charging>







## EGA New Power Plant for the Production of Low Emission Aluminium

Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) has recently announced the completion of the UAE's most-efficient power plant, which will significantly improve environmental performance at EGA in Jebel Ali regarding its aluminium production.

The AED 1 billion state-of-the-art power plant is built around a Siemens Energy H-class gas turbine, the first in the UAE and in the global aluminium industry, with a generation capacity of around 600 megawatts. The new power plant further improves the efficiency of power generation at EGA, saving natural resources and reducing costs and environmental emissions. Five older, less efficient turbines at EGA are being put on standby for use only in emergencies.

The new power block is expected to lower greenhouse gas emissions from EGA's power-generation and aluminium-smelting operations at Jebel Ali by some 10%. NOx emissions are expected to decrease by as much as 58%.

The UAE Energy Strategy 2050 aims to reduce the carbon footprint of power generation in the UAE by 70%, and increase energy efficiency by 40%.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### UAE Must Learn from UK's COP26- When it Takes the Climate Leadership Baton

By Jonathan Gornall

With hindsight it seems incredible that, until now, ever since COP1 in 1995 the words "coal" and "fossil fuel" have failed to make the cut in the final reports of any of the conferences of the parties to the UN's Framework Convention in Climate Change.

That would be like a report by the World Health Organization on the global response to COVID-19 failing to mention the SARS-CoV-2 virus – unthinkable.

As every schoolchild in the world surely knows, the climate-change catastrophe looming over the planet has been generated by the unfettered burning of fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas – since the dawn of the coal-powered industrial revolution in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The annual failure of COP delegates to acknowledge the fossilized elephant in the room has, of course, been the product not of ignorance, but of the myriad social and economic pressures, experienced by multiple countries at different stages of development.

Forget elephants, the animal present at every COP for the past quarter of a century has been a giant ostrich, with its head buried deep in the ground. At Glasgow, the ostrich was finally allowed to raise its head, albeit only for a brief peak at reality. Even then, attempts to overthrow King Coal were watered down by last-minute interventions from its loyal subjects, China and India.

What the world needs now, more than anything else, is compelling leadership.

One announcement to come out of Glasgow was that COP28 in 2023 would be staged in the United Arab Emirates, home to the UN-created International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). This isn't the first time the COP roadshow has traveled to the Middle East – in 2012 COP18 was held in Doha – but a decade on the climate-change landscape has changed utterly.



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## Best Practices 2020 From The Archives Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) Arabia CSR Awards Winner - Large Business Category

### Profile

Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) is a leading joint venture setup and owned by the Oil and Gas Holding Company (Nogaholding), Kingdom of Bahrain, SABIC Agri-Nutrients Investment Company, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), Kuwait. GPIC was set up for the purposes of manufacturing fertilisers and petrochemicals namely Ammonia, Methanol and Urea.

GPIC is a proactive stakeholder within the Kingdom and the Region, natural gas purchases, empowering Bahraini nationals through training & employment, utilisation of local contractors and suppliers, energy consumption and other financial, commercial, environmental and social activities that arise as a part of their core operations within the Kingdom. They are committed to the safe, ethical and environmentally sound management of the petrochemicals and fertilisers that they make and export. Stakeholders' well-being is always a key priority at GPIC.



### Summary

GPIC is a multiple-time winner of the Arabia CSR Awards, climbing in rank from runner-up to winner in successive cycles and finally retaining its top spot year after year. GPIC has openly stated in its Sustainability Report that within the business 'sustainability has evolved to a strategic imperative that focusses on economic, environmental and social risks and opportunities.' From this standpoint, the evolution of GPIC as one of the unquestioned champions of corporate sustainability.

GPIC's smart and forward looking business approach has embraced the shift from the classical 3 pillars of Sustainable Development to the 5 P's- People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnerships & Peace. The progression upholds GPIC's strive to become a part of the global transformation for a sustainable future. As far back as in 2014, the company decided to create a strategic alignment to the UN priorities and Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030. Thus, establishing Sustainability Goals that cover Climate Change, Resource Efficiency, Safety, Health & Environment, Learning & Development, CSR & Community Engagement and Economic Sustainability.

GPIC applies the Business Risk Review process to assess and minimise possible adverse impacts on people, property and the environment resulting from their business activity, including minimising SHE impacts associated with new and existing operations, products, applications and services throughout the products' life cycle.

The year 2019 marked a watershed in GPIC's operations, by reaching new heights of excellence, the company achieved the highest cumulative production of 1,644,590 tons along with record highs in daily and monthly productions and annual exports. The icing on the cake for GPIC was an impeccable safety record of over 32 million man hours without Lost Time Incident (LTI). A plan to install a 3 MW solar power facility at the plant was also taken up with a view to reducing GPIC's carbon footprint. During the COVID 19 pandemic, GPIC released more than 66 directives to ensure safety of workers and contractors, while aspiring for a safe and successful turnaround in the year 2021.

### Lesson Learnt

GPIC has always stood out as a visionary and a game changer in the petrochemical sector in the Arab Region. What GPIC has created over the years is a purpose that transcends the business as usual perspective. Each little effort that GPIC has directed towards attaining higher and higher levels of excellence in economic and social realms has borne rich fruit.

Starting from its erudite participation in the Arabia CSR Awards and applying jury feedback and recommendations, to its extensive outreach internationally on climate change, hunger, gender empowerment and many more, GPIC has proved time and again that responding to the voice of stakeholders is the road to continual success.

Tying together business interests and corporate goals with elevated societal performance is the smart way to grow both the economic value and the social license to operate.

