



## Upcoming Trainings

**Sustainability Reporting Training**

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية  
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات  
Arabia CSR Network®

**ONLINE GAP ANALYSIS WORKSHOP**

19<sup>th</sup> May 2022

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية  
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات  
Arabia CSR Network®

**THE BATTLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE**  
The True Reality

3<sup>rd</sup> Panel Discussion | 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022

REGISTER NOW

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

Dear Members and Readers,

May Allah the Almighty bless you today, tomorrow and always. Eid Fitr Mubarak to all!

We hope you are in good health and have made the most of this blessed month to recharge you to be more committed towards values of kindness, responsibility and sustainability.

Here at the Arabia CSR Network, the month of April has been quite busy with a number of events, discussion and meetings with important stakeholders. One of the key events that we organise every year to facilitate the applicants of the Arabia CSR Awards is the Awards Clinic. In the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April, we organised a virtual Clinic that provided a detailed walk-through of the award participation and application process to all interested and applying organisations.

At the Clinic, I have shared that *"The Arabia CSR Awards is the Awards of Choice. It is a learning tool and a mechanism that can be used to develop a sustainable value framework of the highest standard and has world-class Independent bi-lingual jury of CSR and sustainability experts. It is also independently verified by a third party certification body"*. Since the inception of the Arabia CSR Awards in 2008, it has welcomed 1,236 organisations who have participated in the awards, representing 44 sectors from business and industry operating across 14 Arab countries. If you too are interested to showcase your sustainability achievements, I strongly encourage you to apply for this Awards programme. We are certain that it will be very beneficial for all organisations.

As one of the Board Members of the United Nation's Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance we seek to deliver concrete solutions to scale-up long-term finance and investment in sustainable development. We participated in April in GISD's new Work-stream on Aligning Investment with Sustainable Development which consist of two subgroups: 1) The 1<sup>st</sup> sub-group will focus on advancing the alignment of investment portfolios and investment products with the SDGs, building on the sustainable development investing (SDI) definition; and 2) the 2<sup>nd</sup> sub-group will build on the GISD sector-specific, SDG-related metrics and could also consider reviewing methodologies to assess company sustainable development impact.

Another crucial event that we participated in April was the UN SDG Investment Fair which aimed to promote high impact sustainable development projects in emerging and frontier markets. We attended two spotlight sessions on: 1) 'Enhancing

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) as catalyzers of private finance'; and 2) 'Understanding the impact of SDG investments by refining sustainability reporting'. You can read more about this very important engagement on page 3.

Towards the end of April, our sister organisation – the Emirates Environmental Group – with the Network's support organised a very important panel discussion titled **"The Green Grid Initiative: Commencement of the Renewable Energy Generation,"** this panel focused on the challenges of switching to smart green grids, and the efficiency of existing grids in the Arab region and internationally. It also aimed to touch upon other related topics, such as the environmental and geological challenges of establishing the grids, the changes required in policy, the role of private sector and households, and the role of recycling organisations in the renewable economy. Read more on page 4.

We believe that a discussion on a renewable grid is not only extremely important but is FUNDAMENTAL because its widespread implementation will effectively contribute to achieving several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: #3 – Good Health and Well Being, #7 – Affordable and Clean Energy, #11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, #13 – Climate Action, #14 – Life Below Water, #15 – Life on Land and #17 – Partnership for Goals.

We will also be jointly organising a 3<sup>rd</sup> Panel Discussion under the theme of "The Battle against Climate Change - The True Reality" on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The session will address the actual reality of the progress towards sustainable actions. It will also address the impact of activities of major sectors on climate change, the steps taken to tackle the issue, the time required to attain sustainable economic models...etc. Support us by registering and attending this session to enable us to bring you more such important platform.

Do you want to be a strategic leader in CSR and sustainability and you want to advance further in these fields of utmost importance in today's world? We have planned for you wonderful training programmes in the month of May: 1) Sustainability Reporting Training on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> May; and 2) Gap Analysis Workshop on 19<sup>th</sup> May. Don't miss this golden opportunity to learn and build your capacity on contemporary sustainability issues.

Furthermore, if you are an organisation that would like to do more to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, or improve on your sustainability performance, we'd love to help you out.

Feel free to reach out to us at [admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com](mailto:admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com), and we will be happy to chat with you about corporate sustainability. It's what we do best!

Wishing you all a blessed Eid!





## ACSRN News

### Arabia CSR Awards Clinic

Arabia CSR Network organised on **7<sup>th</sup> April** the online Awards Clinic for the 15<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards. The session provided a walk-through to the applying organisations, where every element of the participation process was explained in detail. Arabia CSR Network Founder, President and CEO Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi shared that, "The Arabia CSR Awards is the Awards of Choice. It is Internationally & Regionally Acclaimed, Externally Assured, a learning tool and a mechanism that can be used to develop a sustainable value framework of the highest standard and has world-class Independent bi-lingual Jury Panel of CSR and Sustainability Experts. Moreover, the Awards are considered a benchmarking amongst industry peers."

ACSRN took the attendees through the whole process and gave a complete overview of the key points that applicants should prioritise to make their applications strong. Some of the tips included, providing evidence based responses, avoiding duplications, emphasizing on innovation and the strategy developed or adopted by the entity, stating in detail the partnerships/collaborations of entities within the Arab region and finding linkages with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. It was shared in the session that since the inception of the Awards in 2008, **1,236** organisations have participated in the awards, representing **44** sectors from business and industries operating across **14** countries. The call for applications is open till the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2022! Please follow the link for more details: <https://arabiacsrawards.com/>

### GISD Work-stream on SDG alignment

The United Nation's Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance seeks to deliver concrete solutions to scale-up long-term finance and investment in sustainable development. The GISD Alliance has committed to develop and promote the use of innovative financing facilities and tools to scale up long-term investments. To achieve this objective, the Alliance is working to identify obstacles to investments, build a pipeline of investment-ready projects and develop new platforms and scalable instruments that channel investments to countries and sectors most in need.

ACSRN Founder, President & CEO, one of the Board Members of the United Nation's Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, participated on 7th April for GISD's new Work-stream on Aligning Investment with Sustainable Development. The new work-stream consists of 2 sub-groups. The 1st subgroup will focus on advancing the alignment of investment portfolios and investment products with the SDGs, building on the sustainable development investing (SDI) definition. The 2nd sub-group will build on the GISD sector-specific, SDG-related metrics and will also consider reviewing methodologies to assess company sustainable development impact. The discussion involved the planned progress during the first phase of the work-stream, its barriers and progress achieved inside and outside SDG. The discussion also involved the "Next phase's priorities" that focused on GISD's SDI definition implementation in products and strategies, SDG footprint of investment portfolios, and GISD sector-specific metrics and SDG-related disclosures. Know more about United Nation's GISD Alliance and their important works on <https://gisdalliance.org/>

### UN SDG Investment Fair

The UN DESA organised its UN SDG Investment Fair on **26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April** which ACSRN virtually attended. It aimed at promoting high impact sustainable development projects in emerging and frontier markets. The Fair revolved under the main topic "Domestic and International Private Business and Finance". In understanding the role of the private sector in financing sustainable development, it is important to recognise that the private sector includes a wide range of diverse actors, from individual households and international migrants to multinational corporations, and from direct investors to financial intermediaries, such as banks and pension funds.

In addition, the Arabia CSR Network attended 2 GISD Alliance spotlight sessions on:

- 1. Enhancing MDBs as catalyzers of private finance.** Developing countries are unable to finance the SDGs as there are insufficient domestic and international financial resources available at affordable rates and the domestic resource mobilisation process suffered a sharp blunt with the pandemic. The Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) is crucial in helping developing countries deliver the SDGs by providing concessional and non-concessional stable long-term finance. As recognised by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, blended finance instruments that combine public and private resources serve to lower investment specific risks and incentivise additional private sector finance across crucial development sectors led by regional, national and sub-national government policies and priorities for sustainable development. Understanding the impact of SDG investments by refining sustainability reporting.
- 2. Understanding the impact of SDG investments by refining sustainability reporting.** A review of reporting standards and metrics widely used in corporate sustainability undertaken by the GISD Alliance found that existing frameworks could not be used for comparing performance within sectors. To address this gap, a set of SDG-aligned sector specific metrics were designed by GISD to increase transparency and promote standardised impact measurement of SDG investments. It is intended for these metrics to be integrated into existing reporting structures to enable a deeper view into the contribution of business activities towards the global goals. Since the launch, these sector-specific metrics have been adopted by leading investors including members of the GISD Alliance. To increase their uptake in the industry, lessons learnt must be shared by early adopters so that best practices can be codified and propagated more widely. During this session, panelists presented their experiences of integrating the sector-specific metrics in their reporting frameworks.





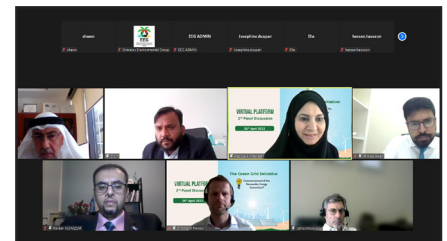
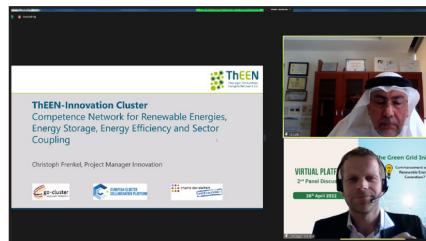
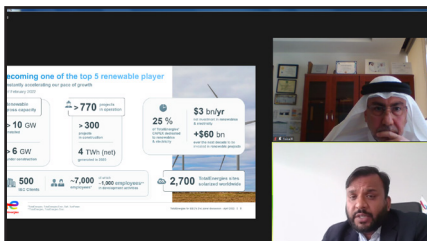
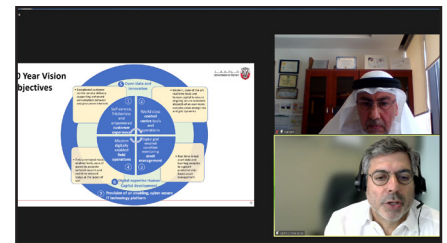
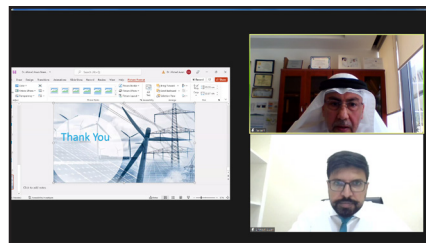
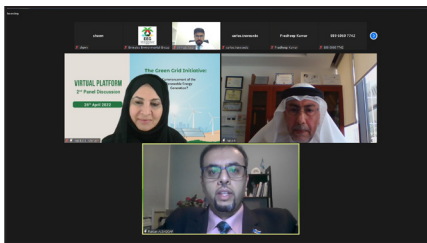
## EEG's 2<sup>nd</sup> Panel Discussion

Arabia CSR Network joined Emirates Environmental Group in conducting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Panel Discussion virtually on **26.04.22**. The panel was held under the theme "The Green Grid Initiative: Commencement of the Renewable Energy Generation?" Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Founder, President & CEO of ACSRN in her opening address stated "Introducing Green Grid on the global market will help attract investments in renewable energy sources as well as maximise the use of skills, technology, and finances. The resulting economic gains will have a positive influence on several UNSDG's such as; poverty reduction and assistance in addressing water, sanitation, food and other socio-economic challenges." The session was headed by **Engr. Faisal Ali Rashid** – Senior Director, Dubai Supreme Council of Energy.

The panel discussion brought together 5 distinguished panelists namely:

1. **Dr Raidan AlSaqqaf**, Economist, United Nations Office in Abu Dhabi, UAE
2. **Dr. Ahmed Awan**, Assistant Professor - College of Engineering and IT, Ajman University
3. **Mr. Carlos Travesedo**, Energy Policy Executive Director /A in the Department of Energy (DoE)-Abu Dhabi
4. **Mr. Gopin Korah Mani**, Country Director - TotalEnergies Solar, Middle East
5. **Mr. Christoph Frenkel**, Project Leader - Thuringian Renewable Energy Network (ThEEN)

The session addressed several questions like; how can power grids be brought to one standard when countries have different capacities? What would be the cost-optimal, low carbon solution to integrate into the green grid? The paradigm shift of the conventional energy market might prove to be a setback for the Middle East countries but what type of opportunities does it provide? How many solar resource/renewable resource monitoring stations does the UAE have? What is the UAE Clean Energy Strategy Target for 2030 – 2050? and many others.



## Member News

### McDonald's Ramadan Initiative

This Ramadhan, McDonald's UAE joined Emirates Red Crescent and Al Ghadeer Emirati Crafts in a Ramadhan initiative. McDonald's UAE focused on empowering women in need through collaborating with Al Ghadeer Emirati Crafts. The initiative by Emirates Red Crescent supported more than 200 women in need across the country of varying ages and nationalities, by providing them with resources to make culturally inspired products to support their livelihood. Three colouring storybooks were sold across all McDonald's restaurants in the UAE for Dh5 each, with all the proceeds going to Al Ghadeer Emirati Crafts. The special collection of colouring storybooks has been penned by Emirati author Maitha Al Khayat, while the colouring sketches are designed by Al Ghadeer's craftswomen.

The books can be purchased at McDonald's restaurants across the UAE, whether at the front counter or drive-thru service, as well as part of delivery orders on the McDonald's App. Each book focuses on locally inspired characters whose adventures can be followed by young readers as they colour the sketches.

[CLICK FOR MORE](#)







## Wasl Properties Launch 6,200 Housing Units

Wasl Properties, one of the largest real estate development and management companies in Dubai, has launched its latest master development, 'Wasl Village,' a residential and retail development in Al Qusais. With easy access to Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road, Wasl Village consists of 62 buildings comprising 6,200 housing units. The structures range from studio apartments to one, two, and three-bedroom units. The Wasl Properties project includes a community centre hosting a number of retail units, F&B outlets, a supermarket, a clinic, a gym, and a swimming pool.

It is a gated community that features a 1,700m-jogging track around the project, with tennis, football, cricket and basketball courts, a BBQ area, lush green landscaping, parks, a mosque, and an outdoor play area for kids as well as fitness equipment for adults. Wasl through this project is ensuring that it is delivering healthy spaces for the development and wellbeing of the people. The new launch comes as part of Wasl Properties' analysis of market trends and caters to the demand for providing accommodation that takes in perspective environmental issues and societal prosperity.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

# Climate Change: Key UN Finding Widely Misinterpreted

Excerpts from Matt McGrath

A key finding in the latest IPCC climate report has been widely misinterpreted, according to scientists involved in the study. In the document, researchers wrote that greenhouse gases are projected to peak "at the latest before 2025". This implies that carbon could increase for another three years and the world could still avoid dangerous warming. But scientists say that's incorrect and that emissions need to fall immediately.

The IPCC's most recent report focused on how to limit or curtail emissions of the gases that are the root cause of warming. In their summary for policymakers, the scientists said it was still possible to avoid the most dangerous levels of warming by keeping the rise in global temperatures under 1.5C this century. This will take a herculean effort, with carbon emissions needing to shrink by 43% by the end of this decade to stay under this threshold of danger. But before they fall, emissions need to reach a peak - and it's in the text explaining this idea that the report becomes confusing.

"Global greenhouse gases are projected to peak between 2020 and at the latest by 2025, in global modelled pathways that limit warming to 1.5C," the summary states. Most media outlets including the BBC concluded that meant emissions could rise until 2025 and the world could still stay under 1.5C. "When you read the text as it's laid out, it does give the impression that you've got to 2025 which I think is a very unfortunate outcome," said Glen Peters, from the Centre for International Climate Research in Oslo, and an IPCC lead author. "It's an unfortunate choice of wording. That is, unfortunately, going to potentially have some rather negative consequences."

So what went wrong? It's partly because the climate models that scientists use to project temperatures work in five-year blocs, so 2025 follows 2020 for example, without reference to the years in between. "Because models work on 5-year increments, we can't derive statements with higher precision," said Dr Joeri Rogelj, from Imperial College London, and an IPCC lead author. "But when you look at the scientific data supporting this headline, it becomes immediately clear that any scenario in line with 1.5C drops emissions from 2020 to 2025. Even for scenarios that limit warming to 2C this is also the case.

"Another issue was timing. Covid delayed the mitigation report by about a year but the information used came from models that projected peaking, by and large, in 2020. "The headline statement couldn't say emissions should have peaked already, as governments and scientists need to agree on messaging that is scientifically accurate without being policy prescriptive," said Dr Edward Byers, an IPCC contributing author from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. This led to a lengthy debate during the two-week long approval session between the scientists and government officials over the exact words to use.





## Best Practices 2020 From The Archives

### Tristar Transport LLC

#### Arabia CSR Awards 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up - Large Business Sector Category

## Profile

Tristar Transport LLC is a 26-year old logistics business that offers logistic solutions to international and national oil and gas companies and international NGOs. It operates in more than 20 countries across 3 continents and is headquartered in Dubai - UAE. The Company's logistics platform includes road and maritime transportation, specialised warehousing, fuel farms, commercial aviation refueling and remote fuel supply operations.

Tristar has set high standards for health, safety, environmental and compliance practices, and has received many awards for its record of operational and safety excellence. The Company is a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and is also a member of the Board of the UNGC UAE Local Network. It is fully committed to following the 10 Principles covering Human Rights, Labour, Anti-Corruption and Environment. Tristar has its own ESG strategy that is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implements a number of initiatives as part of its strategy.



## Summary

As a responsible business operating in the logistics industry, Tristar is highly committed to the health and safety of its people, the community and the environment. It has been recognised multiple times for its focus and work on occupational health and safety. The organisation has a range of internal HSE-related programmes and initiatives, such as the HSE Champion Programme, its Drill exercises, its road safety awareness campaigns and more. At the 2020 Arabia CSR Awards, Tristar was awarded the 1st Runner Up position of the Partnership & Collaboration Award for its 'Safety at Sea' Conference to highlight the importance of managing the emotional well-being of crews at sea. Tristar rolled out a programme in collaboration with a subject matter expert – MINDSPEAK for the benefit of the employees and it has grown into something much bigger than initially planned.

## Lessons Learnt

Through the Safety at Sea programme, Tristar championed health and wellbeing and also addressed basic human rights such as quality of life and freedom of movement. The Company realises that many a time seafarers are either unable to board ships or are stranded on board, thus creating several impacts on the worker's mental health, which could potentially impact the security of maritime assets including potential for environmental incidents.

Tristar's Safety at Sea programme is an initiative that dared to go beyond standard health and safety conventional programmes. While the Company accepts that physical safety is critical for the wellbeing of employees and the sustainability of business operations, Safety at Sea shows that Tristar believes in the importance of mental wellbeing and the role that it can play on a seafarer's quality of life and work. With the world changing around us and its impact on business, Tristar's Safety at Sea programme is a testament that the Company is actively addressing issues to reinvent its business and operations. It understands that for CSR to make a difference, it needs to think big and think different. Good collaborations that build on each partner's strengths allowing them space to practice their expertise is critical to creating successful programmes with strong impact. Tristar may have significant seafaring experience, but it has done well to bring in experts in mental health and counseling to make Safety at Sea have a relevant impact on its stakeholders.

Designing a strategy, and organising a conference with subject matter resources is a very good start, but it can only be meaningful if the discussions, dialogues and ideas are translated into effective programmes at the ground level. By conducting Psychological First Aid (PFA) workshops for the seafarers and also allowing them access to a 24/7 helpline, Tristar has shown that actions speak much louder than words.

