الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية الإجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network©

NEWSLETTER

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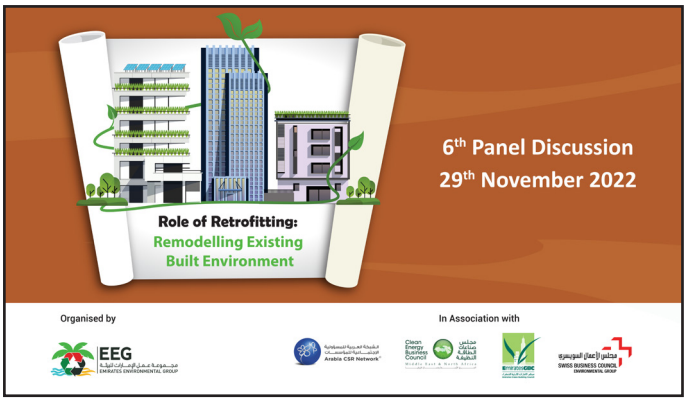
Upcoming Trainings



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Note from the President & CEO
Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Marhaba to all our Arabia CSR Network members, readers and followers

I am delighted to have each one of you so closely associated with the Arabia CSR Network wherein we collectively set new benchmarks for the sustainable development in the region. November has begun and has bought with it significant relief as we are finally seeing the tail-end of the COVID pandemic and the cooler season is being ushered in.

We have recently witnessed enormous strides taken by governing bodies at the national and international level to curb pollution and meet their ambitions to reduce carbon footprint by 31% in 2030. Out of the many environment-focused meetings that I attended during October, I am glad to see glimpses of hope as finally the words and promises are being followed up by actual actions. I hope that this will mark a new shift towards greater environmental protection. There is definitely a huge scope for sustainable growth by scaling up investments in projects that contribute to decarbonisation and bring forth tangible and sustainability achievements. This will provide a huge opportunity for businesses to tap into sustainability and contribute to the community prosperity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to convey my deepest congratulations to all the winners and the participants of the Arabia CSR Awards for their steady and invincible commitment towards CSR and sustainability as witnessed in the 15th cycle of the Awards program that we concluded in a grand ceremony on the 5th of October. The platform that we built in 2008 as Arabia CSR Awards has truly stood the test of time and has developed a strong foundation and mission to Share, Celebrate and Inspire. I am thankful to our sponsors, supporters and participating entities for their valuable time and contribution to make this year's cycle a unique success. Apart from the Awards Gala, ACSRN also conducted an online 3-day CSR Strategy & Leadership Training from 25th – 27th Oct and a Gap Analysis Workshop on 28th Oct. In the month of November, we will have the Sustainability Reporting Training, in addition to the CSR Advanced Training. I would like to invite and encourage businesses in the region to sign-up for these trainings and build strong sustainability foundations in their organisations.

I was delighted to participate in the 4th Annual Meeting of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance 2022 with the H.E. the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, on October 12th 2022, at the UN Headquarters in New York. During this meeting, the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance brought together members and representatives of member states under the direction of UN Secretary-General. I was privileged to attend sessions that emphasised scaling up private investment for the SDGs in times of global crisis and enhancing the partnership between the public and private sectors.

I have always stressed that responsible CSR actions of an entity are what make it stand out amongst the rest. The ACSRN has pledged to take businesses on this route with the right sort of guidance and determination they require. So, in our efforts to enhance the sustainability performance of different entities, it gives me great pleasure to announce the latest advancement in sustainable technology that might just be a game changer for many - CARBONTEK. This is a digital calculating tool developed by our active corporate member (Farnek), it is used to measure the carbon footprint of business activities, find the source of emissions and enhance business strategies using the data to reduce the emissions of GHGs. Tools like these are a step in the right direction to help businesses transition to a low carbon or a carbon neutral economy.

I would like to end my note by welcoming Accenture and thanking them for renewing their effective collaboration with us as a Gold Member. We look forward to achieving greater heights and invite our readers to join us too as we believe in 'Building Partnerships for a Sustainable Future'.

ACSRN News

Arabia CSR Awards

The Arabia CSR Awards were created in 2008 to fill a void and replenish the much needed thirst for a CSR centric sustainability best practice. By implementing international frameworks and principles like the UN Global Compact Ten Principles, the GRI standards, the EFQM business excellence model and the 17UN SDGs. The Awards have succeeded in earning the respect and acknowledgement of big brands, multinational and regional powerhouses that continue to vie for the top spot. The 15th cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards was conducted under the prestigious Patronage of H.E. Eng. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Department of Civil Aviation RAK and Member of the Government of Ras Al Khaimah's Executive Council. The number of registrations received in 2022, stood at 111 which were spread over 15 categories.

31 CSR and sustainability champions were announced and facilitated in a grand ceremony held on **5th October**, at Hyatt Regency Dubai Creek Heights. The applicants gave strong evidences that organisations in the Arab World have not only embraced best international CSR and sustainability best practices, but are also leading across the globe in creating and developing robust policies and strategies for ESG issues and opportunities. The event sponsors were: Platinum Sponsor: Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC). Gold Sponsor: Tristar Group and Silver Sponsors: Al Sayer Group and McDonald's UAE. The official Communications Partner was ASDAA BCW. The media partner was Climate Control Middle East. DNV was the Assurance Provider. The environmental partner was the Emirates Environmental Group. This event was a carbon neutral event courtesy of Farnek.

The winners in the various categories in the 15th cycle are:

الجائزة العربية للمسؤولية الإجتماعية للمؤسسات
ARABIA CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARDS

Congratulations to the Proud Winners of the 15th Cycle of Arabia CSR Awards 2022

Winners	Country	Organisation Name
Small Business Category		
Winner	UAE	Acer
1st Runner Up	UAE	Transworld Group
2nd Runner Up	UAE	Cyrus Group
Medium Business Category		
Winner	UAE	CANPACK Middle East One Person Company LLC (FDI)
1st Runner Up	UAE	CROWN Emirates Co. Ltd.
2nd Runner Up	UAE	TotalEnergies
Large Business Category		
Winner	Bahrain	Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC)
1st Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	Accenture Middle East
1st Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	Tristar
2nd Runner Up	KSA	Saudi Telecom Company (STC)
Public Sector Category - Large		
Winner	UAE	Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA)
1st Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	Public Prosecution - Dubai
1st Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	Roads & Transport Authority (RTA)
2nd Runner Up	UAE	General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs - Dubai
Energy Sector Category		
Winner	Oman	Petroleum Development Oman
1st Runner Up	UAE	ENGIE - International Power S.A. (Dubai Branch)

Winners	Country	Organisation Name
2nd Runner Up (Tie)	Oman	OQ
2nd Runner Up (Tie)	KSA	Northern Area Well Completion Operations
Social Enterprise Category		
Winner	Sudan	SALAM Social Enterprise
Hospitality Sector Category		
Winner	UAE	Holiday Inn Dubai - Al Barsha
Financial Services Category		
Winner	Morocco	Bank of Africa BMCE Group
1st Runner Up	UAE	Zurich International Life
2nd Runner Up	KSA	Riyad Bank
Construction Category		
Winner	UAE	China State Construction Engineering Corporation Middle East (L.L.C)
Healthcare Sector Category		
Winner	UAE	Aster DM Healthcare
Partnerships & Collaborations Category		
Winner (Tie)	UAE	Aster DM HealthcareMinistry of Economy
Winner (Tie)	UAE	Breastfeeding Friends Association
1st Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	Accenture Middle East
1st Runner Up (Tie)	Bahrain	Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC)
2nd Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	DP World UAE Region
2nd Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	Public Prosecution - Dubai

Organised by | Platinum Sponsor | Gold Sponsor | Silver Sponsors | Environmental Partner | Assurance Provider | Official Communications Partner | Media Partner | Supporting Entities | Carbon Neutral event courtesy of

As the Middle East is inching closer to a sustainable future, more and more organisations are incorporating standards that align with a sustainability conscious approach. We at Arabia CSR Network, call on such organisations in the Arab Region to display their sustainable practices and be part of the prestigious awards in its 16th Cycle to be launched in January 2023.

The 4th Annual (GISD) Alliance Meeting

The Fourth Annual Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance meeting took place at the UN headquarters in New York on **12th October**. Members of the GISD Alliance met the Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and other top executives in a close session. Ms. Habiba Al Mar'ashi as a member of the Alliance attended physically the same.

Experts delivered bold solutions to unlock long term transformative investment solutions for bridging the financing gap for developing countries to reach the ambitious 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - the agreed roadmap for a more peaceful and inclusive world.

The discussion between GISD Alliance CEOs and Member States focused on:

- Scaling up finance to achieve the SDGs through joint actions by the public and private sectors at all levels
- Strengthening the alignment of private finance and investment with sustainable development and climate action requirements ahead of the G20 Summit and COP27
- Developing instruments, tools and platforms to channel SDG-aligned investments to developing countries.

5th Panel Discussion

Arabia CSR Network joined its sister organisation, the Emirates Environmental Group to conduct the 5th Panel Discussion on **20th October** in a hybrid format under the theme **"Achieving Net Zero: Spotlighting Urban Sprawls"**. The session was by supported by EGBC, CEBC and the Swiss Business Council. KEO was the Co-sponsor and Smart Automation Energy was the support sponsor of this event that was conducted at Holiday Inn Dubai – Al Barsha.

In the opening speech and address to the audience, Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Founder, President & CEO of ACSRN said that "Research shows that more than 50% of the world's population currently lives in cities, and that figure is expected to increase to almost 70% by 2050. Cities generate around 70% of global carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions. As societies recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, CO_2 rates are unfortunately rebounding rapidly."

The distinguished panelists who were invited to contribute to the discussions included:

1. **Dr Ioannis Spanos** - Director of Sustainability, KEO
2. **Mr. Issa Azar** - CEO, Smart Automation Energy
3. **Mr. Muhamad Rehan Razzak** - Executive Vice President - Finance, Siemens Middle East
4. **Mr. Sanjeev Coelho** - Senior Associate, HOK

The session was headed by Mr. Saeed Al Abbar – CEO, AESG who chaired the discussion and set the right tone for the discussions. This panel addressed several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals including SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Productions, SDG 13: Climate Change, SDG 15: Life on land & SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Engagements with Dignitaries

In our pursuit to expand the scope and scale up the reach of the Arabia CSR Awards, our Founder, President and CEO, Ms. Habiba Al Mar'ashi met distinguished dignitaries to promote and advance the reach of the Arabia CSR Awards. She engaged with the Consul General of the Republic of Egypt, The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon in October to give a brief about the Awards and the role that it is playing in changing the Sustainability landscape of the Region.

She requested for their support and backing to promote the Awards in their respective countries to help promote sustainable development through responsible corporate practices. The Arabia CSR Network is keen to pursue collaborations to develop synergies and contribute jointly to the sustainable growth and development of the Arab region and beyond.

Trainings & Workshop Conducted in October

Since its establishment in the year 2004, the Arabia CSR Network has been at the forefront to share knowledge and embolden various stakeholders to tap the potential of sustainable development practices. The Network conducted a 3-day CSR Strategy & Leadership Training from **25th Oct – 27th Oct** and a Gap Analysis Workshop on **28th Oct**. These courses saw participation from the UAE and the other GCC countries.

Our trainings and workshops provide a competitive edge to lead in sustainability practices to business leaders, managers, aspiring entrepreneurs, CSR & consulting professionals, or simply a purpose-driven individual looking to make a difference in the world. These programmes equip professionals from various industries with critical skills and expertise needed to improve sustainability in their given spheres of influence. The Network believes that through effective trainings and workshops organisations can identify their societal impacts and craft strategies that support their core business objectives as well as social value creation. Over the years, the Network has engaged thousands of patrons in innumerable sectors to strengthen their CSR and Sustainability practices.

Member News

6th Phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park

ACSRN's Corporate Member, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), has invited international developers to send their Expressions of Interest (EOI) to implement the 6th phase of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park based on the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model. H.E. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA said that "The 900 MW 6th phase of the Solar Park will be implemented using photovoltaic solar panels. It will become operational in stages starting from Q3 of 2025. We work in line with the vision and directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to achieve the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2050 to provide 100% of the total power production capacity from clean energy sources by 2050."

The production capacity of clean energy has reached about 12.1% of Dubai's total energy mix and is expected to reach 14% by the end of this year. The Solar Park, implemented by DEWA using the IPP model, is the largest single-site solar park in the world, with total investments of AED 50 billion. When completed, the Solar Park will reduce more than 6.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Global Potential to Increase Generation from Hydropower Projects

By Jeff Opperman, Global Lead Scientist

Hydropower is currently the world's largest source of low-carbon generation and it will continue to play an important role as the world pursues net zero power systems. However, new hydropower dams can impose considerable tradeoffs, such as impacts to free-flowing rivers and the people and ecosystems that depend on them. But hydropower generation and/or energy storage services can be expanded significantly with little or no tradeoffs. Between retrofits of existing hydropower dams, adding turbines to non-powered dams, floating solar on hydropower reservoirs, and off-channel pumped storage, the world can add considerable amounts of generation and storage from hydropower projects without building any new dams.

Central to stabilising the planet's climate is a rapid decarbonisation of the economy, including power systems, requiring a dramatic expansion of renewable generation capacity. Hydropower is currently the global leader among renewable generation technologies (although wind and solar PV are by far the dominant sources of new generation added each year). Several forecasts of how the world can achieve a net zero power system by 2050 include a doubling of global hydropower capacity, such as analyses from the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Read More

Best Practices 2021 From The Archives
Accenture Middle East
Arabia CSR Awards 2nd Runner Up - Large Business Category

Profile

Accenture is a global professional services company with leading capabilities in digital, cloud and security. The company offers Strategy and Consultation, Interactive, Technology and Operations services - all powered by the world's largest network of Advanced Technology and Intelligent Operation centers.

With employee strength of 674,000 people globally, Accenture serves its clients in more than 120 countries. It embraces the power of change to create value and shared success for it clients, people, shareholders, partners and communities.

Accenture's inherent belief in sustainability is clearly brought out in its policies, strategies and initiatives. It has chosen to use its extensive experience and expertise in technological domain to promote sustainable technologies for an advanced future.

The company has entrenched sustainability-related requirements across its entire network, starting from the top leadership to all its employees, suppliers and clients.

Its engagement with suppliers is not just about stipulating compliance requirements, but also providing guidance and mentorship, while also bringing inclusiveness by engaging with small and medium sized businesses and women entrepreneurs.

The leadership at the entity also examines Regional Networks and the latest developments to ascertain and recognise probable partnerships that can bring about greater impact.

Lessons Learnt

Accenture through its engagement at the UNGC SDG Ambition Accelerator Programme contributed towards building the capacity of 30 companies based in the UAE to integrate sustainability principles in their businesses.

It has been widening its services in sustainability by supporting its customers and partners in improving and transforming towards adopting sustainable practices.

Accenture's strong focus on ethics, standards, code of conduct, as well as ensuring diversity; gender balance and inclusion have resulted in robust labour practices.

At the societal and community level, Accenture has contributed towards building the skills of key population like the youth and those at risk of being displaced from employment on account of automation.