



Upcoming Trainings

Sustainability Reporting Training

Date: 19th - 20th December, 2022

Press Launch of the Arabia CSR Awards

12th January 2023

MATERIALITY MAPPING WORKSHOP

23rd JANUARY 2023 | DUBAI, UAE

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Note from the President & CEO Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Hello to all our Arabia CSR Network members, readers and followers!

As we approach the end of the year, we are welcoming the start of the cooler weather in the Arab region, and with that I wish you all a wonderful and pleasant winter!

We've been keeping extremely busy at the Arabia CSR Network with a series of panel discussion and trainings. I participated as a panel speaker at a United Nations Habitat – Urban Thinkers Campus. The theme of this panel was 'New Technologies, Materials, and Methods for Affordable and Sustainable Construction and Development'. In my address, I spoke about effective housing policies in place in the UAE that are also focusing on eco-friendly infrastructures. I also talked about the work that we are doing on the ground to push the sustainability agenda in the country.

In association with the Emirates Environmental Group, we also organised a panel discussion on the 'Role of Retrofitting Remodeling Existing Built Environments'. This panel – was supported by EmiratesGBC, Clean Energy Business Council and the Swiss Business Council. It aimed to facilitate a discussion to highlight the financial benefits of retrofitting, and the challenges faced by the industry in an unsteady economy. The retrofitting industry is a booming industry globally and has massive potential in helping countries reach their goals of sustainability including the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The session discussed several points such as:

1. The different types of retrofits that can improve the sustainability of a building,
2. The impacts of retrofits have on the economy, society & the environment,

3. Policies in the UAE that support the retrofit business, environmental impacts of manufacturing retrofit devices,
4. The role of financial institutions in the installation of retrofits in existing constructions, and
5. Best practices from other countries where retrofitting was successful in increasing the overall sustainability of the building/city.

Finally, January 2023 will see the unveiling of the 16th cycle of Arabia CSR Awards, which will reach a new milestone, having successfully completed one and a half decade.

The 2023 Arabia CSR Awards cycle will have 15 categories for the applicants to choose from: Small Public Sector Organisations / Departments, Medium Public Sector Organisations / Departments, Large Public Sector Organisations / Departments, Large-sized Enterprises, Medium-sized Enterprises, Small-sized Enterprises, Energy, Financial Services, Social Enterprise, Construction, Hospitality, Healthcare, Best New Business, Automotive Industry and Partnerships & Collaborations (projects / programmes / initiatives). Complete information about the awards is available on www.arabiacsrawards.com where the awards guidelines and registration form will be downloadable.

I would like to end my note by expressing my delight in having all of you so interested and closely associated with the ACSR Network. As always, I also urge organisations – large or small, public or private – to constantly evaluate their sustainability policies and practices. It is the only way we can improve our social and natural world. And I believe one of the best ways to do this evaluation is to participate in the Arabia CSR Awards.

Many organisations have greatly benefited from the application and self-assessment process, as well as the feedback our experts provide. For further information, please contact us via awards@arabiacsnetwork.com, admin@arabiacsnetwork.com, or +97143448622.





ACSRN News

ACSRN President addressed the 'Urban Thinkers Campus' at the UN Habitat

Mrs. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, President & CEO, ACSRN and GUD Vice-Chair and UAE Coordinator joined as a panel speaker on **11th November** a United Nations Habitat – Urban Thinkers Campus. The session was conducted in a hybrid way under the theme "New Technologies, Materials, and Methods for Affordable and Sustainable Construction and Development".

In her address, she brought to light the effective housing policies already in place within the UAE, backed by the governing bodies assisting the society in increasing eco-friendly infrastructures. The other panelists who joined her were:

1. Dr. Banning Garrett, GUD Vice Chair and Berlin Coordinator,
2. Sam Ruben, Co-Founder and Senior Sustainability Advisor, Mighty Buildings, and GUD Senior Fellow
3. Michael Blanford, Research Engineer, Affordable Housing Research and Technology, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
4. David Smith, Founder and CEO, Affordable Housing Institute

The session was headed by Dr. Marc Weiss – President of GUD

6th Panel Discussion – Role of Retrofitting Remodeling Existing Built Environments

The retrofitting industry is a booming industry globally and has massive potential in helping countries reach their goals of sustainability including the UN Sustainable Development Goals. To facilitate a discussion highlighting the financial benefits of retrofitting, the challenges faced by the industry in an unsteady economy, policies that hinder or promote the retrofitting business, ACSRN joined EEG in rolling out a special plenary session for 2022 under the subject **"The Role of Retrofitting: Remodelling Existing Built Environment"**. The session was conducted on **29th November 2022** in hybrid format.

The panel was organised in association with Emirates Environmental Group and supported by EmiratesGBC, Clean Energy Business Council and the Swiss Business Council. Rheem was the Co-sponsor of this event.

The session was chaired by Mr. Issa Azar, CEO of Smart Automation Energy. The distinguished plenary session speakers who contributed their expert views were:

- Mr. Khaled Bushnaq, CEO Energy Management Services
- Mr. Henrique Pereira, CEO of Taka Solutions
- Eng. Mozah Mohamed Al Nuami, Director of Productivity and Demand at the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
- Srinivasan Rangan, Director of Marketing and Product Management – RMEA Manufacturing LLC.

The session discussed several points such as; (1) the different types of retrofits that can improve the sustainability of a building, (2) impacts of retrofits on the economy, society & the environment, (3) policies in the UAE that support the retrofit business, environmental impacts of manufacturing retrofit devices, (4) any aid/grants from financial institutions for the installation of retrofits in existing constructions, (5) best practices from other countries where retrofitting was successful in increasing the overall sustainability of the building/city.





Arabia CSR Awards 16th Cycle Press Launch

January 12th 2023, will see the unveiling of the 16th cycle of Arabia CSR Awards. The journey has been a long and challenging one but we have been able to persevere relentlessly. The result is clear for everyone to see – the Sustainability Benchmark of the Arab Region that has germinated from the Region itself.

This annual programme is reaching a new milestone in 2023, having successfully completed and grown over the past fifteen years. An official press launch will be organised by the Arabia CSR Network to mark the occasion and announce the opening of the 16th cycle. The conference will be attended by print and electronic media, past applicants to the awards and organisations' with an interest to apply in the new cycle.

The awards this year included **15 categories**, where entities had the option to apply to the one that best fits their description and activities. The categories are: Small Public Sector Organisations/Departments, Medium Public Sector Organisations/Departments, Large Public Sector Organisations/Departments, Large-sized Enterprises, Medium-sized Enterprises, Small-sized Enterprises, Energy, Financial Services, Social Enterprise, Construction, Hospitality, Healthcare, Best New Business, Automotive Industry and Partnerships & Collaborations (projects/programmes/initiatives).

Complete information about the awards is available on the dedicated website linked to the ACSRN website where the awards guidelines and registration form will be downloadable. For further information about the launch, please reach out to the Awards Secretariat via email awards@arabiaccsrnetwork.com; admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com or by phone +97143448622.

Member News

Accenture Middle East Innovation Maturity Index

Accenture – a corporate member of ACSRN carried out a survey of the C-level executives from 200 large companies in the UAE and Saudi Arabia between August and October 2020 to understand the extent of the region's current innovation maturity. The report which has been published this year, found that 67% of Middle East executives indicate that they have taken measures to modernise their existing technology infrastructure – moving from data servers to cloud storage – in the past five years. This figure is poised to increase to 86% in the next five years.

Accenture also highlighted that "However, only a handful of regional companies have put in place structural actions which could help them become agile and flexible in their workforce. Companies need to intensify their innovation and make greater strides in their business transformation."

Accenture Research's global work on best practices for governing innovation was applied using the Innovation Maturity Index methodology. They also evaluated the same set of companies for their current adoption of 12 innovation habits and the expected adoption in the next five years to determine the extent of their innovation impact.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Positive Steps on Food and Agriculture Amid COP 27 Compromises

By: Ben Cooper, Author, Just-Food.com

The raised profile for food and farming at COP 27 better reflects the contribution the agri-food sector could make to global emission reductions.

The COP 27 climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh closed on Sunday (20 November) in much the same manner as COP 26 did in Glasgow a year ago, with a mixture of relief among delegations that they had something to show for their two weeks at the luxury Egyptian resort, and widespread dissatisfaction among external stakeholders with what the conference had achieved.

Those striving for a more sustainable, climate-friendly food system, however, may see COP 27 in a more favourable light than other observers. Agriculture and food had a substantially higher profile than at previous COPs, with the conference witnessing a number of significant announcements relating to addressing climate impacts in food and agriculture.

For the first time at a COP there was a dedicated food and agriculture pavilion hosted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation and inter-governmental agricultural research organisation CGIAR. Also new this year was the Food Systems pavilion, hosted by an international coalition of food, agricultural and environmental NGOs, with backing from the EU, which showcased actions aimed at creating healthier, more resilient and more equitable food systems.

The FAO announced during COP 27 it intends to publish, by next year's conference, a climate plan for the agri-food sector to show how food and farming can align with the UN goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. FAO deputy director Zitouni Ould-Dada made the commitment at an event hosted by FAIRR, an organisation advising investors on material ESG issues in the animal protein sector.

As the conference drew to a close, a group of the world's largest agricultural commodity corporations, facilitated by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), launched the Agriculture Sector Roadmap to 1.5°C.



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Best Practices 2021 From The Archives

Emirates Taste Catering Services LLC

Arabia CSR Awards Winner - Medium Business Category

Profile

Emirates Taste Catering Services LLC is a company with a primary focus on providing safe, efficient and quality services for Catering, Banqueting & Event Management, Cleaning, Laundry and Integrated Facilities Management. Emirates Taste operates two state-of-the-art Central Production Kitchen complexes in Mussaffah Abu Dhabi and Jebel Ali Dubai to support its projects through economies of scale. Its vision is to be the best services solutions company, measured by benchmarking with: Global best practices; Market Competitiveness; Industry leading Net Promoter Score; Caring and Nurturing Our People; Delightful Customers, Quality Par Excellence.

Established in the UAE in 2008, Emirates Taste is Renaissance's presence in the UAE. (Renaissance is the leading accommodation, services solutions and IFM Company in Oman, listed on the Muscat Securities Market.)



The most senior management of ETCS has shown full commitment to CSR issues and sustainability practices. It has been using Integrated Management Systems (IMS) & has assessed major potential-impacts to Environmental, Social & Governance aspects, thereby taking required measures to ensure compliance within stipulated standards.

The company has also adopted the QHSE policy, waste management, & energy policies thereby reinforcing its obligation to reduce adverse environmental impacts. It believes in investing in various processes and systems that will support efforts towards energy and water conservation. In order to promote minimal food wastage, it has been supporting various campaigns to generate awareness as well.

Lessons Learnt

ETCS and its parent company Renaissance have shown clear understanding as well as commitment to long term goals and excellence for ESG and sustainability through emphasis on 4 ethos, that is, Efficient, Safe, Local and Green.

ETCS' risk management practices, especially in areas that impact its supply chain and the environment, help the organisation to address expected losses and challenges.

To ensure first-rate sustainability performance management, ETCS has constituted an Executive committee that directly reports to the Deputy CEO. This committee comprises of representative from the senior management and heads of departments from operations, HSE, Procurement, HR & Admin, and Accounts etc.

Sustainability objectives are incorporated as part of senior managers KPI's with set targets as part of the performance requirements. Compensation is then based on their level of performance against these sustainability objectives and KPIs.

