



## Upcoming Trainings

**Sustainability Reporting Training**

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية  
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات  
Arabia CSR Network®

الاجازة  
الاجتماعية  
المسؤولية  
المؤسسات  
ARABIA  
CORPORATE  
SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY  
AWARDS  
16<sup>th</sup> Cycle

**Press Launch of the  
Arabia CSR Awards**

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية  
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات  
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**MATERIALITY MAPPING  
WORKSHOP**

23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2023 | DUBAI, UAE

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

As the year 2022 is about to bid us goodbye, all eyes are on the year 2023. It will be a historic year for the UAE as it prepares to host the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Parties (COP 28) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

COP28 represents a moment of vital significance as the world seeks to maximise progress since the Paris Agreement. The conference will witness a critical stocktaking moment for climate action, in addition to defining future Nationally Determined Contributions.

UAE is a nation that has always risen up to challenges and has made its people proud by establishing its position as a world leader by undertaking projects that accelerate progress in achieving environmental sustainability. This has been reflected time and again in the forward-thinking policies and national agendas such as Vision 2021, the UAE Green Agenda 2015-2030, UAE Circular Economy Policy 2021 – 2031, UAE Energy Strategy 2050, UAE Net Zero 2050, and UAE Centennial 2071 Plan.

At this critical juncture, we at ACSRN continue our commitment to expand and widen our reach further to have more effective outcomes. Rounding up our accomplishments in 2022, I feel proud to share that, ACSRN had a year packed with trainings and workshops to embed the latest sustainability approaches and tools in their core operations and businesses. The Network, successfully conducted the 15<sup>th</sup> cycle of the ACSR Awards – a milestone achievement.

Looking ahead to 2023, ACSRN prepares to make deeper inroads to raise awareness and advance the CSR and Sustainability across

a range of stakeholders and support organisations, to reach newer heights of excellence and achievements.

To achieve our goal, we have scheduled a year filled with capacity building opportunities and expanding the knowledge base of our stakeholders, associates and partners. If you would like to take a deep dive into CSR topics ranging from biodiversity to waste to emissions – to HR and ESG practices, we highly recommend you to consider signing up your CSR and other related team members to avail of our training courses spread out throughout the year.

The Arabia CSR Forum, will be held in October 2023, with to shed light on some of the conclusions, learnings and recommendations that have been followed by the champions and proponents of corporate responsibility and sustainability from our region. Additionally, we will have the opportunity to hear from global experts, think tanks and change makers from various backgrounds.

I would like to inform all our readers and followers that the registration for the 16<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards shall open on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. This year's cycle – like last year is available in 15 categories to choose from. We call on all government and private institutions, joint ventures, industries and social enterprises, of all sizes in the Arab World, to apply for this prestigious award.

Thank you for always supporting us. We look forward to working with companies of all sizes, from various industries, to help them in their sustainability journey. Please reach out to us at [admin@arabiacsrn.com](mailto:admin@arabiacsrn.com) and we will be there for your CSR needs.

For all the readers of Arabia CSR Network Newsletter, here's wishing you a happy new year and may the next one be filled with vibrant and sustainable future!





## ACSRN News

### WorldGBC Board Meeting

Arabia CSR Network CEO and President, in her capacity as WorldGBC Board Member, attended the World Green Building Council's (WorldGBC) Board meeting on **7<sup>th</sup> December**.

The meeting focused on 2022 highlights and discussed the leadership role of the built environmental sector. The meeting highlighted the latest insights that WGBC in collaboration with the #BuildingToCOP Coalition, the WorldGBC team spoke at 43 events at recently concluded COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

The discussion also emphasized WGBC global strategy update for the year 2023 – 2025. WorldGBC, as the organisation that convenes the largest local-regional-global network leading the sustainable transformation of the built environment, established several mandates in the meeting to deliver meaningful systematic change; revolving around championing private sector leadership and aligning members and partners around shared goals and influencing high-level political agendas and driving action.

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### Trainings and Workshop in December

Arabia CSR Network, the first multi-stakeholder CSR and sustainability platform in the region, and the region's foremost leading knowledge and training center is committed to engage small and large businesses and government institutions to leverage sustainable development practices since its inception in 2004.

The Network has been consistently achieving milestones to make CSR and sustainability reporting a standard practice for all companies and organisations. The Network concluded the year by conducting a 2-Day Training Course on Sustainability Reporting on **19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022**.

The 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. The Sustainability Reporting course covered linkages with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and focused on the essential components of the sustainability reporting process from start to finish.

The training aimed to:

- Facilitate a thorough understanding of sustainability issues including strategy, stakeholders, material topics, implementation and monitoring, results and outcomes, gap analysis and reporting
- Enhance job related knowledge by identifying Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) related risks and opportunities across all functions
- Measure company impact on society and the planet by using appropriate metrics
- Acquire know how based on various ESG and social impact related standards, frameworks and benchmarks and apply the same within respective organisations
- Develop skills for effective communication with Board, Leadership team and key stakeholders regarding non-financial performance and the Triple Bottom Line
- Teach participants to differentiate between PR communiqué, transparency and accountability- oriented disclosures

The training laid a strong foundation for the participants. The course included interactive discussions and exercises, which helped to test the ideologies on practical basis. The training ensured that individuals also can build their knowledge, demonstrate competence in Sustainability Reporting, supported by continuing education and upskilling.





## Arabia CSR Awards 16<sup>th</sup> Cycle Press Launch

Launched in 2008, The Arabia CSR Awards (ACSRA) is known popularly as the 'Green Oscars' of the Middle East. A home grown product of the MENA region, The Awards is externally verified by one of the world's most reputed providers of business assurance, DNV-GL. The Awards have earned credibility, respect and recognition by injecting international frameworks and principles such as the UN Global Compact Ten Principles, Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, the GRI standards framework, the EFQM business excellence model and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The objective of the Awards has been clearly defined to promote and discover the latest international CSR and sustainability developments, trends and standards taking place in the Arab world. Towards that end, the Awards have consistently over the past fifteen years, recognised and honoured organisations in the Arab region that demonstrate outstanding leadership and commitment to Corporate Sustainability.

The official Press Launch of the 16th cycle of Arabia CSR Awards will be organised by the Arabia CSR Network on Monday, **23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2023**. The event calls upon all the past and potential applicants of the Arabia CSR Awards as well as members of the media. The complete outline of the methodology, the categories and useful hints on submitting a successful application will be discussed at the launch.

### Member News

## DEWA offers retail stores within the Hatta project

In implementation of the grant by **HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai**, to the citizens of Hatta to create additional job opportunities and meet the needs of social, economic and environmental development, ACSRN's Corporate Member, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) will offer the retail stores within the Hatta Sustainable Waterfalls project, free of cost, to Emirati citizens in Hatta. These include coffee shops, restaurants, and children's play areas, as well as honey, local products, and souvenir shops.

In line with the vision and directives of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, DEWA awarded the Hatta Sustainable Waterfalls project, at a cost of around AED 46 million, as part of its social and investment responsibility to make this project a distinctive tourist destination.

HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA "DEWA is implementing pioneering projects in Hatta in line with the vision and directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, for a comprehensive and sustainable development all over Dubai, and to transform Hatta into a tourism and investment hub, while preserving the city's heritage and attractive nature. Through these projects, they aim to develop Hatta and provide innovative job opportunities for the citizens of the area, as well as promote society happiness. Leveraging state-of-the-art technology and taking into account the unique geology of the Hatta region, they are implementing the Hatta Sustainable Waterfalls projects in accordance with highest international environmental standards. The aim is to preserve the Hatta Mountain Reserve, and to harmonise the project with its surroundings in the Hatta region to offer a unique experience for UAE tourists and show the beauty of the mountainous regions of the UAE,"

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

# Challenges for 'Blue Carbon' solutions

Excerpts from Phil Williamson, Honorary Reader at the School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, UK

Blue carbon ecosystems are diverse and highly productive coastal habitats (mangroves, seagrasses, and tidal marshes) that sequester large quantities of carbon and provide a suite of important ecosystem services ('co-benefits') for humans and the environment. In particular, the restoration of such 'blue carbon' habitats was included in initial Nationally Determined Contributions by 23 signatories to the Paris climate change agreement.

Awareness of the climatic importance of carbon removal and storage by these ecosystems has developed rapidly in recent years. During the period 1990-2010, there were fewer than 20 research papers published per year on coastal blue carbon ecosystems (CBSEs); by 2020 that number had increased more than ten-fold, to 270 per year.



The theoretical potential for increasing the natural ocean uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> is immense: the global ocean contains around 50 times more carbon than the atmosphere, and it has already absorbed around a quarter of the extra CO<sub>2</sub> that has been released by human activities.

CBSE are being threatened globally due to land-use change driven by expanding agriculture, aquaculture, coastal development and pollution. Climatic impacts further threaten the resilience, functionality and adaptability of blue carbon ecosystems. Dire climate warnings are now coming thick and fast. The world is not reducing emissions quickly enough to avoid potentially catastrophic climate change – as if what is happening already is not bad enough.

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## Best Practices 2021 From The Archives

### Al Dhafra Recycling Industries

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

## Profile

Al Dhafra Recycling Industries (ADRI) is responsible for the processing of construction and demolition (C&D) waste materials across the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The aim of the facility is to reduce the level of construction and demolition material being disposed of in Abu Dhabi's landfills. In partnership with TADWEER, the Al Dhafra facility processes C&D waste material to produce recycled products suitable for use as road base aggregates and for structured & non-structured backfill projects.

Al Dhafra Recycling Industries is managed by the BIC Contracting LLC (formerly known as HLG Contracting LLC), one of the leading international contractors in the Middle East. TADWEER is the leading provider of comprehensive waste and environmental services in Abu Dhabi. The Al Dhafra facility is owned by the Government of Abu Dhabi through TADWEER (The Center of Waste Management) and Al Dhafra Recycling Industries LLC is the operator of this facility.



Al Dhafra Recycling Industries' activities have greatly helped Abu Dhabi's mandate of diverting 75% of waste from landfills. In addition to its existing facility, ADRI has set up a new crushing facility at Ghayathi landfill. It is very encouraging to know that the company is looking forward to expanding its operations thereby enhancing its contribution to the environment.

Al Dhafra Recycling Industries has contributed a lot towards supporting sustainable practices in the construction and infrastructure sector in the UAE. Its outstanding recycling facility (set up in 2008) has done much with regards to diverting waste from landfills. The excellent work of ADRI is well reflected in the accolades it has received, including 2017 MENA Green Building Awards for innovation and excellence in sustainability practices; Tadweer Appreciation Award 2019 and accreditations including ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, QCC Certificate and OHSAD Certificate.

## Lessons Learnt

ADRI's work in recycling, reusing and supporting the reduction of waste in landfills is well aligned with the sustainability and climate change goals of SDG's as well as support the UAE Circular Economy Policy (approved in 2021), UAE Green Agenda Programme (2015-2030) and the National Climate Change Plan for the UAE (2017-2050).

Recycling and processing of C&D waste is based on international standards, and re-using them for infrastructure and construction projects certainly promotes the cause of a Circular Economy.

The installation of solar panels in the facility to support operations (thereby reducing the use of fossil fuel) has further helped promote energy efficiency and the proper utilisation of power.

ADRI has taken up the role of spreading awareness on the use of Recycled Concrete Aggregates (RCA) in the sector's stakeholder community.

