



الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

NEWSLETTER

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الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

ARABIA CSR FORUM 10th CYCLE

Unlocking Sustainable Transformation:
Breaking Barriers, Creating Solutions
3-4 OCTOBER 2023

To Register Click Here

Upcoming Trainings

Sustainability Reporting Training



Date: 11th - 12th September 2023



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ONLINE TRAINING ON CSR STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP

10th - 12th October 2023



Online Stakeholder Engagement Workshop

Date: 14th September 2023

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Building Partnerships for a
Sustainable Future ©

P.O. Box 112101, Villa No. 117a, JMR 68, Jumeirah 1, Dubai - UAE
☎: +971 4 344 8120, +971 4 344 8622 Fax: +971 4 344 8677
✉ admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com 🌐 www.arabiaccsrnetwork.com

Editorial Team: Habiba Al Mar'ashi,
Iqtedar Ali

Design by: Munim Khan



Note from the President & CEO Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Dear Members, Friends
and Well-wishers,

A warm welcome to all of you,
I thank you for sparing some of your
valuable time to delve into the contents of this
August edition of our newsletter.

I am delighted to announce that our team at the Arabia CSR Network has embarked on the second half of the year with great enthusiasm and optimism. We eagerly anticipate engaging in a multitude of opportunities that await us, especially in light of the upcoming COP28 to be held in Dubai during Nov-Dec 2023. Our activities have been strategically planned for the upcoming months to maximise the positive influence on various stakeholders in the Arab region before, during and post COP28.

In the realm of Arabia CSR Awards, July assumes special importance as it witnesses the meticulous evaluation process for the applications received from many countries in the Arab region. The esteemed jury members have diligently begun examining each submission, leaving no word unanalysed, and this will continue until the end of the 1st week of August. Every supporting document and evidence piece will undergo rigorous scrutiny. By 1st week of September, the finalists in each category will be revealed, and on the elegant evening of 4th October, the winners will be honoured and celebrated during the grand Gala Awards Ceremony at Anantara Downtown Hotel Dubai.

I am eager to draw your attention to the highly anticipated and magnificent two-day event centred on CSR and sustainability in the Arab world - the "Arabia CSR Forum," scheduled to be held on **3rd & 4th October** in Dubai. I am proud to announce that the Forum has received the generous patronage of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment - UAE. Their unwavering support has infused my team with tremendous enthusiasm to orchestrate an outstanding event during the celebrated 'Year of Sustainability.'

I am particularly pleased by the array of distinguished speakers of

international, regional, and national renown who have graciously accepted our invitation to join the Forum and to elevate the discourse. It is poised to draw an audience encompassing UN entities & other international organisations, government bodies, private corporations from various industries, financial institutions, investment firms, academia, scientific community, media and youth. Read more details about the Forum in the inside pages. For further details and registration, please visit www.arabiacsnetwork.com/forum or send us a message at forum@arabiacsnetwork.com.

Recalling the stimulating atmosphere of the previous panel discussion conducted in collaboration with our Environmental Partner – the Emirates Environmental Group, I eagerly look forward to the 3rd Panel Discussion happening on **23rd August**, revolving around the theme "Decreasing Wildlife Population, Increasing Human Population: Striking a Balance in Natural Biodiversity." I extend a warm invitation to all our network members to join us as esteemed speakers and participants. For information, please reach out to us at admin@arabiacsnetwork.com.

The Network takes immense pride and excitement in the forthcoming series of targeted trainings and workshop programmes planned for the months of September till December, catering to numerous professionals across the Arab region. For details on our training and workshop programmes, kindly write to us at trainings@arabiacsnetwork.com.

Before signing off, it brings me immense delight to reiterate to our honourable readers that if your organisation requires knowledge assistance in formulating impactful sustainability and CSR strategies, managing environmental impact, validating existing CSR policies or designing customised sustainability-oriented training programmes, we are just a call away to offer our support. Do not hesitate to contact us at admin@arabiacsnetwork.com and we will be at your disposal to assist you.

I would like to conclude by reiterating that we need to work together to build effective partnerships for a sustainable future.





ACSRN News

Arabia CSR Forum under the patronage of MOCCA

Arabia CSR Network is delighted to receive the patronage of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment for the 10th Cycle of the Arabia CSR Forum scheduled to take place on **3rd & 4th October** at Anantara Downtown Hotel Dubai. The exceptional support displayed by the Ministry has boosted our confidence manifold to deliver an outstanding event.

We are also excited to welcome celebrated speakers on board from the international, regional and local spheres, to elevate the level of discussions at the Forum, the likes of Mr. Navid Hanif (Assistant Secretary-General UN), Dr. Nasser Saidi (President of Nasser Saidi & Associates), Dr. Yousef Al Assaf (President of Rochester Institute of Technology, Dubai Campus) and many more distinguished personalities.

Under the central theme of "Unlocking Sustainable Transformation: Breaking Barriers, Creating Solutions," the two-day convention will be divided into keynote addresses and panel discussions. The event will offer the convenience of virtual participation also for the participants from out of UAE and simultaneous language translation to the enthusiastic audience from the Arab region and beyond.

We highly encourage you to register and join this meaningful platform and enjoy the constructive and rich dialogues on sustainability as the world prepares for the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28 occurring in Dubai during Nov-Dec 2023.

Visit <https://arabiacsrnnetwork.com/forum/> to learn more

PS. Contact forum@arabiacsrnnetwork.com and admin@arabiacsrnnetwork.com for Sponsorship Opportunities

Upcoming Trainings & Workshops

Arabia CSR Network, the first multi-stakeholder CSR and sustainability platform in the Arab world, and the region's foremost leading knowledge and training centre, since its inception in 2004, has been committed to building capacity by empowering public and private sector institutions in driving sustainable practices.

Through its commitment to value-driven training and workshop programmes, the Network has been nurturing a workforce equipped to make a lasting impact on society, the environment and corporate governance.

These programmes are ingeniously crafted on the solid foundation of leading international frameworks like the EFQM, GRI, 10 Principles of the UN Global Compact and 17 UN SDGs. They equip professionals in the Arab region and beyond across a wide range of industries with the necessary expertise required to transform their organisations' CSR & sustainability trajectory.

Our upcoming set of trainings and workshops includes:

- Sustainability Reporting Training and Stakeholder Engagement Workshop in September
- CSR Strategy & Leadership Training and Gap Analysis Workshop in October
- Sustainability Reporting Training and CSR Advanced Training in November
- Sustainability Reporting Training in December

Feel free to contact admin@arabiacsrnnetwork.com to learn more.

The collage features six promotional posters for upcoming trainings and workshops:

- Sustainability Reporting Training** (1st - 2nd August 2023): Focuses on understanding the importance of sustainability reporting, identifying key stakeholders, and developing a reporting strategy. Fee: USD 1,200.
- Stakeholder Engagement Workshop** (14th September, 2023): A practical workshop on identifying stakeholders, understanding their needs, and developing engagement strategies. Fee: USD 500 +5% (VAT).
- Training on "CSR Strategy and Leadership"** (11th - 12th July, 2023): A two-day training program for senior leaders to develop a clear CSR strategy and leadership approach. Fee: USD 2,275.
- GAP ANALYSIS WORKSHOP** (29th October, 2023): A hands-on workshop to assess current CSR performance against international standards and identify areas for improvement. Fee: USD 600 +5% (VAT).
- Certified Training on Fundamentals of CSR & Sustainability** (1st - 2nd November 2023): A two-day foundational training program for professionals new to CSR and sustainability. Fee: USD 1,000.
- CSR ADVANCED CERTIFIED TRAINING COURSE** (14th - 15th Nov 2023): An advanced training course for professionals with prior CSR knowledge, focusing on strategic implementation. Fee: USD 2,200.





Member News

DEWA launches new disruptive lab promoting partnerships and exchanging experiences

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) has inaugurated a new Disruptive Lab in Dubai, as part of its innovation and future-shaping framework.

DEWA's Disruptive Lab (DDL) provides a scientific environment that encourages its utility engineers and innovators to develop and test the disruptive technologies of the 4th Industrial Revolution. The lab promotes partnerships and exchanging experiences with leading global institutions in the utility sector.

The Innovation and Future Shaping Framework features 3 main phases. Each phase uses different tools, including strategies, action plans and pioneering initiatives. It also includes 9 enablers: Foresight Tools; Knowledge Management; Innovation and Future Policies; Partnerships; Research and Development; Human Capital; Performance Management; Future Platforms; and Innovation Platforms.

The lab uses concept design methodologies to help business teams identify requirements and challenges and develop innovative solutions. It also invests in Computer-Aided-Design (CAD) software to create digital models and simulations that can be used for testing and validation. The prototypes developed by DDL at DEWA's Distribution Power Division Complex include a speech-to-text smart application that streamlines the work of engineers and field technicians when writing observations and notes.

The lab is currently developing a project for manufacturing electric vehicle chargers for different types of car models, enhancing efficiency and reducing costs. Meanwhile, DEWA is leveraging Artificial Intelligence to augment the efficiency of operations in Dubai's water and power network. It has been striving to accelerate digital transformation, decarbonisation and the development of a future-oriented power communication network.

The company became the first utility in the world to enhance its services with Microsoft's artificial intelligence technology ChatGPT in February. The utility giant plans to integrate ChatGPT technology into its services to customers and employees through Moro Hub, a subsidiary of Digital DEWA. It has also been investing in metaverse technology to implement and develop its current and future projects. Last October, it unveiled 'DEWAVerse', to become the first local government organisation to launch its platform on the metaverse to advance its services to customers and employees.



DEWA works in line with the directives of the wise leadership to anticipate the future of strategic sectors based on sound scientific foundations and a clear vision that anticipates future challenges and turns them into promising opportunities. It is committed to utilising all resources and capabilities, providing an environment that motivates innovation and creativity, and helping Emirati competencies to anticipate and shape the future to contribute to realising DEWA's vision as a globally leading sustainable innovative corporation committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

Read in detail at <https://gulfbusiness.com/dewa-inaugurates-new-disruptive-lab/>





FEATURE ARTICLE

Carbon offsetting: Complementing decarbonisation strategies

Summary of the article written by James Ramsay, Director of Sustainability Solutions at ENGIE Impact

Any molecule of carbon dioxide we can prevent from entering the atmosphere is a step in the right direction towards combating climate change. But while organisations should be doing all they can to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions, there will be some emissions they are simply unable to reduce. And this is where carbon offsetting plays a valuable role by enabling organisations to fund projects that reduce emissions outside their organisational boundary. These projects generate carbon credits which can be bought before being eventually retired for voluntary or compliance purposes.

The offsetting space attracts a lively debate and some fair criticism. Detractors will claim carbon offsetting can potentially be abused by organisations simply looking to buy their way out of the problem instead of genuinely looking to reduce their overall carbon emissions. For offsetting to be a valid strategic tool, it must be part of a broader decarbonisation programme dedicated to delivering ambitious emissions in line with a science-based reduction trajectory.

Carbon credits (1 carbon credit = 1 tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent reduced, avoided or removed) can be acquired via trading on a secondary market or via direct purchase by signing agreements to purchase carbon credits directly from a project developer. They can also be generated through direct development, joint ventures or funding project developers.

Those projects will typically fall into one of three main types of carbon offsetting projects:

- Avoidance project – A carbon project that aims to avoid emissions being released compared to the most likely outcome if the project didn't occur (e.g. off-grid renewable energy projects displacing diesel powered energy generation or nature-based conservation projects that prevent forest destruction).
- Carbon removal projects – A carbon project that aims to remove or sequester emissions already in the atmosphere, these can be nature based (e.g. afforestation, mangrove regeneration) or technology based (e.g. direct air carbon capture).
- Reduction projects – A carbon project that aims to reduce the quantity of emissions released compared to the most likely outcome if the project didn't occur (e.g. cleaner cooking stoves that reduce or displace the need to burn wood) and methane capture and destruction that reduce but do not eliminate emissions.

[CLICK FOR MORE](#)





Best Practices 2021 From The Archives National Developmental Housing Corporation (SAKAN) 2nd Runner Up - Partnerships & Collaborations Category

Profile

SAKAN is a civil institution and an independent legal entity in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It enables the Saudi families to find sustainable housing solutions and contributes to improving the quality of life of families in the target community. It is registered with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development with license No. 215. Sakan provides property technology platform in the real estate marketplace, thereby providing a unique and integrated property experience for various stakeholders in the real estate sector. SAKAN's mission is to offer innovative and creative PropTech solutions in the MENA region and digitise various aspects of the property journey. Sakan's key objective is to facilitate and enhance real estate transactions and effectively cater for the growing demand by real estate agents, property management companies, landlords and tenants.



The Jood Eskin platform was introduced in 2019 under the supervision of the National Housing Development Association in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as an initiative to promote crowd funding so as to support the provision of housing facilities to families that are in need. The platform facilitates residential charitable giving and oversees the delivery process for eligible families.

It is intended to manage and monitor donations from individuals, companies and other charitable institutions who want to make a contribution to support and pay for the rental and home ownership scheme for these families. The initiative is aligned with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 which has a segment on housing programme and which envisages the provision of a home for every member of the society.

The platform is significant as it supports an administration and governance of philanthropic giving by collaborating with NGOs that feed the Jood Eskin platform with family-cases that are eligible and verified based on established conditions and criteria. Qualified cases are highlighted and can be seen on the Jood Eskin platform so that patrons can extend their contributions by electronic means or directly. Formed by a ministerial decision, the platform has managed to garner donations amounting to 508,452,475 Riyals, and reaching 2,941,892 shareholders and covering 26,835 beneficiaries.

Conclusion & Lessons Learnt

The Jood Eskin Platform, an initiative of SAKAN is indeed contributing considerably towards achieving one of the national goals of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The project supports the Housing Programme of the Vision 2030 which has a goal of strengthening the provision of housing solutions that will empower Saudi families to own a home and will be based on their personal requirements and monetary ability. The programme also aims to specially support the underprivileged segments of the population to own a house, while also strengthening the governance and monitoring procedures of the housing segment, thereby improving the sector's contribution to the national economy. The project's stakeholder-partnerships and the unique crowdfunding initiative are truly replicable models that can be adopted to support social and community causes.

The Jood Eskin platform has quite efficiently used crowd-funding to invite donation and contributions from interested parties to support needy families in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to achieve a fulfilling and holistic lifestyle by providing them access to suitable homes. The initiative has very well used marketing and awareness strategies to reach out to implementing partners like NGOs, and expanding the number of donors - be it companies, charitable organisations, or individuals - who want to contribute to the cause. Administrative and work efficiencies have been incorporated into the project by assimilating best practices and highest standards of governance. The project is also designed to be in-line with the goals of the Saudi Arabia Vision 2030. The project is heavily reliant on the success and alignment among all its collaborating partners, and this has been done through effective communication channels and coordination mechanisms.

