



Upcoming Trainings



الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الإجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

**ONLINE CSR ADVANCED
CERTIFIED TRAINING
COURSE**

14th - 16th November 2023



الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الإجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

**Sustainability
Reporting Training**

Date: 18th - 19th December 2023



Under the Patronage of
MINISTRY OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Organized by
EEG

FROM WORDS TO ACTIONS:
UAE'S COMMITMENT TO COP28
JOIN THE
**CLEAN UAE
CAMPAIGN**

Under the Patronage of
UAE'S COMMITMENT TO COP28

DATES OF THE CAMPAIGN

DEC 5
DEC 6
DEC 9
DEC 11
DEC 13
DEC 14
DEC 16

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Note from the President & CEO Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Dear readers and well wishers, Marhaba,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you about the actions undertaken in the month of October at the Arabia CSR Network. I am sure that in the last issue, you were able to thoroughly enjoy reading the news updates on the Arabia CSR Awards and the Arabia CSR Forum. The awards that took place on the 2nd of October and the forum held between the 3rd and 4th of October were greatly appreciated by all. These events brought key stakeholders from all across the Arab region to the country in the Year of Sustainability. I highly recommend you read the last newsletter if you missed the same last month, as it covered the first week of October.

Continuing on, the remaining month has been fruitful as well. Looking at the global scenario, I hope that you were able to appreciate a few of the international days that occurred in the month of October. While there were many, to name a few, October 20 was World Statistics Day. I am sure that readers need no introduction to the importance of statistics. The entire perspective gained from sustainability projects and their outcomes; CSR initiatives and their results; KPIs and the milestones reached; GRI reporting and identifying impacts; ESG and identifying opportunities; and all the other initiatives undertaken on a professional level will not be complete if we are not able to incorporate them into tangible tabulatable data.

These data are vital to ensure that we understand the government and socioeconomic progress made by each and every entity and the path towards sustainable progress. Currently, there is a lack of data on many platforms, and it is important that everyone get on board with proper unified documentation that can track performance.

On October 24th, the world celebrated United Nations Day and World Development Information Day, which highlighted the value of international cooperation, the dissemination of information and awareness, and garnering public opinions of the information. Finally, October 31st was World Cities Day, where the discussions revolved around building resilient, sustainable cities that are equitable for all and consider the sustainability of the environment as well.

In the context of information dissemination, collaborative efforts, and the pursuit of sustainable urban development, the Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN) proudly partnered with the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) in their fourth and final panel discussion. This partnership focused on the crucial theme of "Integrating Stakeholder Alliances: Towards a Carbon-Free UAE." The discussion was met with exceptional

appreciation, drawing attendees from all sectors of society.

The session served as a platform to share and highlight best practices concerning the paramount importance of forging alliances and collective endeavours to achieve various climate-related goals. It underscored the undeniable necessity of such collaborative efforts if we genuinely aspire to enact transformative change. The resounding message resonating with the audience was that no single entity can tackle the intricate challenges of sustainability in isolation.

Moreover, the audience had the invaluable opportunity to connect with like-minded entities during the discussion. It was truly gratifying to witness our platforms serving as catalysts for fostering positive networking experiences that transcended organisational boundaries, uniting stakeholders with a shared commitment to sustainability and the betterment of our environment. This collaborative synergy exemplified the essence of collective action and underscored the pivotal role of partnerships in advancing the cause of sustainability.

On a related note, I am delighted to inform you that the Co-operative & Agricultural Credit Bank (CAC Bank) has become a proud member of the ACSRN. The commitment shown by financial institutions to join our ranks, actively seeking valuable CSR expertise, and becoming integral members of our diverse network of organisations, represents a significant milestone. Their initial steps in pursuing excellence in business practices through the implementation of sound policies are indeed commendable. With our guidance and support, I am confident that they will be well-equipped to elevate their CSR initiatives and pave the way for a sustainable future.

As we approach the final two months of the year, there is a wealth of opportunities for other entities to join the Arabia CSR Network and embark on their own CSR journeys. In November, we have a training session planned, with one more in December. For those among us aspiring to become CSR stewards capable of guiding our respective businesses and organisations towards growth, I encourage you to seize this opportunity to enhance your capacities. Please do not hesitate to share information about our training sessions with your peers in the industry, as there is no need for competition when it comes to CSR; collaboration is the key to success.

In conclusion, the Arabia CSR Network is proud to be the official CSR partner for the upcoming Clean UAE campaign scheduled for December. I extend a heartfelt invitation to all residents of the UAE to register and participate in this nationwide CSR initiative, aligning with key performance indicators and fostering a positive impact. Let us not miss this opportunity to conclude the year on a high note, making it truly the "Year of Sustainability."





ACSRN News

ACSRN is the official CSR partner of "Clean UAE" campaign.

ACSRN is delighted to join its environmental partner, Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), as a CSR partner in the upcoming "Clean UAE" campaign.

This campaign is the UAE's longest-running nationwide drive. Conducted under the patronage of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, this campaign is set to be held in all the 7 Emirates from 5th to 16th of December. Garnering participants from all sectors of society and from all the emirates, this is a unique event that brings together over 60,000 participants for the cause of environmental sustainability. This event provides all the entities in the UAE with a brilliant opportunity to enhance their CSR initiatives and fulfil employee KPIs, all while instilling environmentally conscious behaviour in the minds of all the people in the country. This mega campaign brings climate champions from every background to the fore, working together to tackle and rectify environmental challenges in the country as the UAE sets itself to become a climate conscious leader.

Join this campaign and make your year a sustainable one in this "Year of Sustainability".

Register Now: [Register](#)



Arabia CSR Network aligns with its Environmental Partner to conduct Panel Discussion

On the **30th of October**, ACSRN joined its environmental partner, Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), in conducting their 4th and final panel discussion of the year under the theme "Integrating Stakeholder Alliances: To a Carbon Free UAE."

In the Year of Sustainability, collaborative efforts are required to drive change. This discussion revolved around the impact of forging alliances. Taking a unified approach to issues and involving all stakeholders, empowering each other, or holding each other responsible for their emissions will help accelerate decarbonisation efforts in the country and beyond. The pledges taken by each country to reach net zero and carbon neutrality by 2050 and beyond will only be possible through the concerted efforts of diverse entities working in unison to drive change to tackle climate challenges. In her speech, the President of ACSRN discussed the instrumental role that the UAE will play as it fosters global partnerships promoting climate action. It is imperative to empower alliances as outlined in Sustainable Development Goal #17, a vital goal needed to actualise a carbon-free future.



The session brought together key industry experts:

- **Chris Wood, CEO of RAK Gas**
- **Ralph Martin, Chairman and founder of O! Millionaire and Oasis Park; Chairman of The Rockets Investment/Consulting and CEO of 5th Consulting DMCC,**
- **Ali Makki, CEO of Kilimanjaro Energy Group**
- **Farah Yassine, Senior Manager in the Capital Projects Team at PwC**

The panel explored diverse topics on cross-sector partnerships, strategies to overcome challenges, ways to tabulate impacts through metrics, the importance of regulations and laws, and the possibilities of using various financial models, among others, all connecting back to the theme of collaborative efforts and partnerships for achieving goals. ACSRN extends its gratitude to the venue host, Two Seasons Hotel and Apartments, all other associated and supporting entities, the panellists, and the diverse attendees from various sectors, including government, corporate sector professionals, youth, and media, for joining this discussion. These discussions have successfully brought together key entities as ASCRN dedicates its efforts to building key partnerships for a sustainable future.







ACSRN News

Trainings & Workshops

Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN) has been a key player in the region, empowering the private sector in the region and building the capacity of the people in the working sector. One of the main concerns in a global setting when analysing sustainability engagements and improvements is the lack of data. There is a shift in the dogma of all entities. Stakeholders and clients now expect to see the transformation of an entity, whereby sustainability is an aspect that needs to be incorporated into the workings of the entity.

With nearly two decades of experience, ACSRN has developed vital and holistic training programmes that ensure that the training attendees are able to utilise all the resources available to analyse and write reports. These programmes are designed with principles taken from various frameworks, including EFQM, GRI, UNGC principals, and SDGS. All the necessary elements that professionals in the Arab regions will require to develop and amend their CSR strategy and sustainability are cohesively taught in these trainings.

On this note, we are pleased to present to you below our curated set of **certified and conveniently online** trainings and workshops scheduled for the coming months of the year:

November			
<p>Tuesday, 14th – Thursday 16th</p>	<p>CSR Advanced Training</p>	<p>Trainees will benefit from understanding of the whole evolution of CSR (theoretical and practical), key trends and development, strategy, measuring CSR performances and sharing of best practices.</p>	
December			
<p>Wednesday, 18th – Thursday, 19th</p>	<p>Sustainability Reporting Training</p>	<p>Imparts proficiency in planning, quantifying and illustrating non-financial institutional performance as well as in crafting comprehensive data-driven sustainability reports</p>	

For more information or registration, contact us at trainings@arabiacsrn.com. We look forward to receiving your employees' registrations to enable them to build their capacity and gain the knowledge and experience of these well-structured programmes.





Feature Article

Closing the Climate Action Gap: Accelerating Decarbonisation and the Energy Transition in MENA

Extracted from the Executive Summary of the Report Published by World Economic Forum - In collaboration with Bain & Company

The Middle East and North Africa is warming at twice the global average – by 2050 it could be 4°C warmer if it continues on the same trajectory. MENA is acutely prone to climate shocks – water scarcity, droughts, elevated pollution levels and chronic waste – and the knock-on effects of climate change have the potential to compound deeper systemic issues that threaten human livelihoods and environmental liveability. While many of the largest

economies in the region depend on hydrocarbon production for growth, others suffer from widespread unemployment, fragile social fabrics and humanitarian crises as an effect of war. The fact that the impacts of climate change do not stop at national borders underscores the need for comprehensive action.

MENA's commitment to the Paris Agreement, signed by all of its major economies, provides the pivotal foundation for climate action. In the past two years, an estimated 60% of the region's emissions and GDP have come under net-zero pledges, and while this is a strong start, corporate climate leadership in MENA trails that of the region's global peers.

With an instrumental role in global energy flows – the region contains almost half of global proven oil reserves and delivers around 30% of global oil production – MENA has a clear responsibility to lead decarbonization efforts on conventional energy. Further, the region's key export markets, such as the European Union, China and the United States, among others, are tightening emissions-related regulations. Thus, while decarbonization could be seen as an added cost or risk, it also provides a tremendous opportunity for MENA.

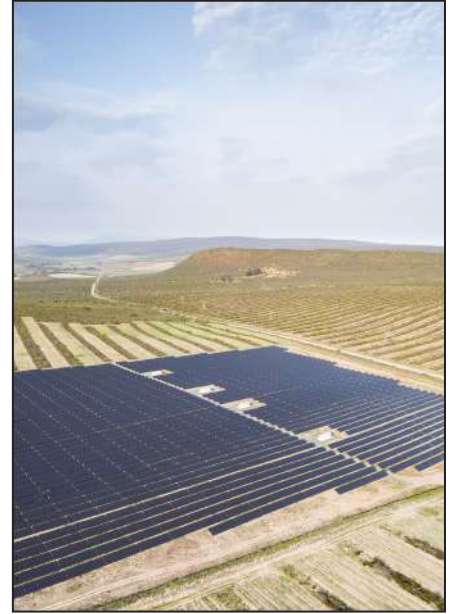
Endowed with abundant access to solar and wind energy, coupled with extensive expanses of untapped land, MENA boasts a largely untapped potential for renewable energy and emerging energy vectors such as green hydrogen. In addition, the largest MENA economies also benefit from synergies from capital availability and bold and decisive

governance, which can help accelerate the region's progress in the global energy transition and position it as a global powerhouse exporting affordable clean energy. These bold pathways would facilitate MENA's transition to a decarbonized economy while also helping to meet the escalating international demand for low-carbon solutions.

Moreover, sustainability action aligns well with the broader national objectives of MENA countries for economic diversification and localization, thus stimulating business growth. Therefore, for the MENA region, the pursuit of climate solutions is not just an environmental imperative but a strategic opportunity to drive decarbonization and generate significant economic prospects for the foreseeable future. These prospects can enable MENA to establish a central leadership role in the global clean energy economy.

Capturing this opportunity will require "Visionary Pragmatism": visionary, because policy-makers and businesses need to move in lockstep to stimulate future pathways and make strategic efforts in investment redirection, technology development, cultivation of talent and regional coordination; pragmatic, because given its lowest-cost and lowest-emissions position for conventional energy extraction and production globally – and this applies particularly in the Gulf region – it continues to play an important role in providing reliable and affordable energy to meet the growing energy needs of the world, especially those of the Global South, during the transition to net zero. Simultaneously, MENA has to catch up on decarbonization efforts through science-based commitments, and policy-makers need to enact clear disclosure mandates/targets, facilitate the development of critical infrastructure and establish necessary enablers, including access to financing and training. Moreover, large state-owned enterprises can help further stimulate progress within their value chains.

For states and firms ready to seize the moment, sustainability action unlocks doors to economic diversification, high-quality job creation and global leadership in sustainable technologies. With COP28 about to begin, the MENA region holds the key to jumpstarting change. The window of opportunity is narrow, but the time to act is now. With united ambition and urgent implementation, MENA can build an equitable and resilient net-zero future, aligning its own interests with a sustainable path forward.



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Member News

Cooperative & Agricultural Credit Bank (CAC BANK)



Cooperative & Agricultural Credit Bank (CAC Bank), was established in 1982, it is a trailblazer in Yemen's financial sector, having been the 1st to integrate sustainability methods in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Central to their mission is the eradication of poverty and the conservation of the planet.

A strong emphasis is placed on financing renewable energy and agricultural ventures. This fosters agricultural growth nationally and underpins the bank's support for cooperative, agricultural, and craft societies.

CAC Bank demonstrates its commitment to sustainable development by establishing a financing policy tailored for small to medium-sized businesses, startups and social institutions. One of the bank's commendable practices include conducting environmental, social, and governance risk assessments. This proactive approach has propelled them towards implementing green technologies and set ambitious targets: a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and a substantial 70% reduction in paper usage.

Actively addressing local environmental and social challenges, CAC Bank backs projects that resonate with environmental conservation, such as decontamination initiatives and afforestation. An equally significant part of their strategy is the empowerment of women through financial support for women-led businesses and the provision of specialised training programmes. The bank also promotes electronic services, further pushing the envelope for reduced paper consumption.

Fully aware of the impending threat of climate change, CAC Bank assists clients in evaluating the potential consequences of their projects on the climate and vice versa. In a bid to foster a sustainable future, the bank promotes investments centered on neutralising greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening climate-resilient infrastructures.

Workshops on sustainable financing and development further fortify their commitment, underscoring the bank's recognition of the pivotal role the green economy plays for Yemen.

Before sanctioning any project, a thorough environmental and social assessment is conducted by CAC Bank. This exhaustive evaluation takes into account the multifaceted impacts on the natural, biological, socio-economic, and cultural ecosystems. Post-approval, the Bank remains actively involved, overseeing the project to ensure adherence to environmental and social guidelines. Ensuring all operations remain above board, the Bank's Board of Directors vigilantly monitor compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

Transparency and accountability are pillars of CAC Bank's operations. Channels are provided for stakeholders to voice concerns, and the bank diligently publishes and disseminates sustainability reports. Their commitment to exemplary corporate governance is evident through their pioneering efforts; releasing the country's first governance guide.

Further accentuating their dedication to sustainability, the bank invests in its employees by offering specialised training in areas like sustainable finance. This was notably highlighted during the Sustainability and Sustainable Finance Forum 2023 in Sharm El-Sheikh. To ensure the efficacy of their training initiatives, they have integrated an automated performance appraisal system with their human resources database.





Best Practices 2022 From The Archives Dubai Electricity and Water Authority Winner - Public Sector Category - Large

A Profile of the Organisation

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority is a self-governing utility regulated by the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, this body with significant regulatory responsibilities, is in charge of Dubai's energy policy, planning, and coordination.

DEWA's purpose is to provide leading sustainable, efficient, and reliable power and water services, and related innovative smart solutions in the Emirate of Dubai. It also operates and maintains power stations, desalination plants, aquifers, electricity and water transmission lines as well as power and water distribution networks. Natural gas is used to power its power and water desalination stations, purchased from the Dubai Supply Authority (DUSUP), which is in charge of acquiring, transferring, storing, and delivering all-natural gas in Dubai to end users. The share of Renewable energy has increased to reach 11.4% in Dubai's energy mix in 2021.



A Brief & Lessons Learnt

By aligning with Dubai's 8 Principles and 50-Year Charter supporting the UAE's directions through the delivery of global leading services and innovative energy solutions, DEWA is able to enrich lives and ensure the happiness of the stakeholders in a sustainable manner. By aiming to develop proactive and innovative solutions, DEWA can help realise the vision of the wise leadership of the country to make the UAE the leading nation in the world by its centennial in 2071. Due to its strong understanding of the value of innovation, DEWA has updated its innovation framework and is the 1st organisation in the world to receive and maintain ISO 56002:2019 and other international standards, and also the 1st government organisation globally to earn The British Standards Institution (BSI) Kite mark for Innovation.



Through its vision, "A globally leading sustainable innovative corporation," DEWA can support sustainable development while taking into account world-class standards of qualified, dependable and safe management of water and energy services.

By virtue of being the 1st in the Middle East to comply with International COVID-19 prevention standards set by the British Safety Council, DEWA won the 1st & 2nd Harvard Business Council 2021 International Awards for Health & Safety as well as the COVID-19 awards. As a worldwide leading, sustainable and innovative organisation while also ensuring that it is closely connected with the ambitions outlined in the UN SDGs, DEWA reformulated its vision on the basis of 4 directives. They have made a determined effort since 2016 to rigorously investigate how they may better align with the SDGs and contribute to their efficient delivery. The Emission Reduction Programme (ERP), which was introduced in 2012 as part of a mitigation initiative, is a long-term carbon emissions reduction strategy for the P&W sector in the Emirate of Dubai. It offers a thorough study of current GHG emission levels and reduction goals until 2030.

Since 2012, DEWA has been one of the 1st organisations in the area to create a thorough Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) structure for its GHG emissions. DEWA makes use of its revised innovation framework and the successful application of the innovation standard to make innovation a daily practice and solid corporate culture. These initiatives contribute to making Dubai the happiest and most intelligent city in the world, and advance the strategy's 3 sustainability pillars. DEWA strives to create proactive, innovative solutions in order to accomplish the vision of the wise leadership to make the UAE the leading nation in the world by its centennial in 2071.

