



## ARABIA CSR AWARDS 2024

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### Upcoming Trainings




 الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية  
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 Arabia CSR Network®

### Sustainability Reporting Training

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024




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20<sup>th</sup> May 2024




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### Sustainability Reporting Training

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

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

Dear members, readers and well-wishers, I hope this message finds you safe and well.

In the wake of the recent storms that swept across the UAE, it is my first priority to check on the well-being of each one of you and your loved ones. Such extreme weather events remind us of the fragility of our environment and the urgent need to build resilience in our cities.

These storms are not isolated incidents; they are a call highlighting the implications of climate change that is affecting the entire world. The increasing frequency and intensity of such events urge us to rethink our strategies and methods towards a more sustainable and secure future.

In the UAE, the commitment to sustainability is evident from the highest levels of government actions down to the grassroots initiatives. Plans are in place to enhance our infrastructure to withstand these new challenges, including upgrading urban planning, improving water and energy efficiency, and investing in renewable and clean energy sources. These initiatives aim to mitigate the impacts of climate change and secure a thriving future for generations to come.

At the Arabia CSR Network, we stand committed to advancing these national efforts. Our services are designed to support organisations in integrating sustainable practices into the core of business strategies. From tailored training sessions and workshops to our advisory services, we empower you to not only meet the global standards of sustainability but also to lead by example in your respective industries.

Furthermore, we leverage our extensive network and partnerships to connect organisations with resources, opportunities, and like-minded peers, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange for mutual growth and impact. By facilitating cross-sectoral dialogue and collaboration, we seek to amplify the collective voice and influence of the sustainability community, driving systemic change and paving the way for a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable world.

In essence, at the Arabia CSR Network, sustainability is not just a goal; it is a journey, and we are committed to accompanying organisations every step of the way. Together, let us harness the power of collective action to build a brighter, more resilient future for generations to come.

One way to do this is by participating in the 2024 Arabia CSR Awards. This prestigious programme celebrates organisations public and private across the Arab region that exemplify exceptional commitment to CSR and sustainability. Earlier in April, we

hosted a virtual clinic to assist this year's applicants to the Arabia CSR Awards Programme. Our experts explained the application process, offering insights into the latest updates of the awards.

The Arabia CSR Awards offer a unique opportunity for all types of organisations-whether corporate entities, government bodies, NGOs, or SMEs-to highlight their CSR achievements. Participation in the Arabia CSR Awards signifies more than just a competitive endeavour; it symbolizes a commitment to the collective wellbeing of society. By sharing success stories and best practices, participants inspire others and contribute to a knowledge-sharing ecosystem essential for driving systemic change. I urge you not to overlook this opportunity to stand among the vanguard of organisations dedicated to shaping a brighter, more sustainable future. I encourage you to seize this opportunity to showcase your contributions to a better world.

In April, I had the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion at the Bloomberg Sustainable Business Summit in London. Titled "ESG in emerging markets", this panel sought to answer how companies can work to close the ESG performance gap between developed and emerging economies. The discussion covered the various challenges and opportunities in embracing sustainability principles.

I also attended the VIP Gala Dinner celebrating ALSAYER Group's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Kuwait. Originally a foodstuffs business in the 1930s, the Al Sayer family shifted focus with the discovery of oil, establishing Al Sayer Holding in 1954 and soon becoming Toyota's second representative in the Arab world. Today, ALSAYER spans various sectors including heavy equipment, transportation, and technology, with a strong commitment to sustainability. They lead in marketing sustainable products like hybrid vehicles and eco-friendly lubricants, aiming to increase their sustainable product lines by 10% by 2025.

To conclude, the journey towards sustainability is a collective effort. It requires the engagement and collaboration of all stakeholders - businesses, government entities, non-profits, and the community at large. Together, we can make a significant impact and ensure that our responses to climate challenges are robust and effective.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to a sustainable future.

Stay safe and resilient.

For further information or support, please contact us via [awards@arabiacsrnetwork.com](mailto:awards@arabiacsrnetwork.com), [admin@arabiacsrnetwork.com](mailto:admin@arabiacsrnetwork.com), or +97143448622.

## ACSRN News

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ACSRN President's Radio Podcast Interview

**April** The General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA), Dubai conducted a Live interview on **3<sup>rd</sup> April** – with Arabia CSR Network Founder, President & CEO, Ms. Habiba Al Mar'ashi at Radio Al Oula, Dubai Media City. The series of podcast which ran for two weeks was held under Qailat Jawazat Dubai Programme.

In the live session she discussed and shared the journey so far for both ACSRN and its sister organisation the Emirates Environmental Group; climate change and its repercussions, recycling and its relationship with the circular economy, sustainability and the role of government entities, action plans, impact initiatives at ACSRN and EEG, and more. ACSRN is always thrilled to share best practices and sustainability suggestions through such public platforms.



### 4<sup>th</sup> Tristar Audit

**April** Tristar, one of the leading energy logistics companies in the country and beyond, has been actively involved with ACSRN for quite a few years now. Supporting and participating in our various events and campaigns, the organisation and its employees have a clear goal of curbing their carbon emissions, empowering themselves and taking sustainability initiatives.

ACSRN, as an entity that has helped countless companies in their sustainability path, was delighted to be involved in the issuance of Tristar's sustainability reporting. As more and more companies start reporting and more compliance measures are being mandated by governments, it becomes vital to start reporting at the earliest. ACSRN, audited Tristar's sustainability report as an external assurance party provider for their 2023 sustainability report as it has done for the last several years.

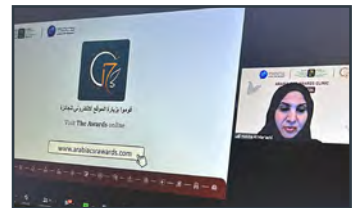


### 16<sup>th</sup> ACSRN Awards Clinic

**April** Arabia CSR Awards is the most coveted green awards in the region, with hundreds of entities - Public, Private including small, medium, and large enterprises applying annually to get recognition for their CSR initiatives and sustainability strategy and for their commitment to the social well-being of the societies that they function within. The application will close on 30th June. It is important to submit your application at the earliest opportunity to avoid any last-minute submissions that might not be up to the mark or that the entity does not miss the deadline.

Considering the same, ACSRN held an Awards clinic on 16th April to discuss the application process with the attendees and address any doubts or concerns that the applicants might have. Several key points and mistakes to avoid were discussed in this virtual session.

The application is still open and as world governments strategies' to enforce reporting and sustainability compliance measures, the entities who have already started their green journey will benefit more. Start your journey now by applying for this well established and highly regarded award. For more information and to apply, visit the [www.arabiacsrawards.com](http://www.arabiacsrawards.com).



### 21<sup>st</sup> ACSRN President photographed for Sustainability Magazine

**April** The international magazine brand Monocle has been tasked with creating the content for the National Sustainability Book in partnership with the National Projects Office and the UAE Presidential Court and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). To gather a holistic approach, ACSRN President as one of the leaders in sustainable development in the region, was approached to be involved in this publication among entities who contributed to environmental sustainability and climate action. On **21<sup>st</sup> April**, a photography session was organised for that. The magazine aims to gather information on ACSRN and EEG's efforts in the region and publish it for all to peruse.

## ACSRN News

### 25<sup>th</sup> Bloomberg Business Summit

**April** ACSRN president as one of the most prominent environmental and CSR experts in the region, was invited to be a speaker at the Bloomberg Sustainable Business Summit in London. She was delighted to join in a session titled “**In Focus: ESG in Emerging Markets**” held on **25<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.

The goal of the summit was to address the changing ESG scenarios and discuss various climate ambitious goals while maintaining business values and leaders remaining flexible to change for better. Mrs. Almar’ashi in her deliberation emphasised that One Size Does Not Fit All and we need to adapt ESG & CSR to regional needs.



She also drew attention to the limitations and challenges of ESG with regards to its contextual relevance, the financial constraints, the overemphasis on short-term metrics, the stifling impact of ESG on innovation and its influence on investment decisions amongst others.

### 30<sup>th</sup> ACSRN joins Al Sayer's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

**April** Arabia CSR network has managed since 2004 in working closely and engaging with many private and public sector entities in the region to help build capacity in CSR and Sustainability issues through several of its focus areas including the popular Arabia CSR Awards. It is vital to ensure that all sectors of society are equally given a levelled playing ground to participate and innovate in environmental and CSR domains.



Al Sayer Group is one of those entities that has been engaging effectively in ACSRN Awards and Forum, in light of that, Mr. Faisal Bader Al Sayer, the Chairman of Al Sayer Group sent a personal invitation to Mrs. Habiba Al Mar’ashi, Founder and President of ACSRN to attend the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Al Sayer Group. She delightfully accepted the invitation to attend the event and be part of this historic moment.

As a good friend and supporter, few of the close personal attendees of the celebration and people coming from abroad were invited to attend a pre-event celebratory dinner on the night before the event.

ACSRN looks forward to continuing the effective partnership forged between the network and the Al Sayer to work towards building a more sustainable future.

## Upcoming Event

### 30<sup>th</sup> Panel Discussion

**May** Arabia CSR Network works closely with Emirates Environmental Group to organise the series of panel discussions annually and for 2024 a total of 6 such panels have been planned. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Panel Discussion of the year, which was to be held on **30<sup>th</sup> April** has been postponed to **30<sup>th</sup> May** because of the weather conditions and the heavy rains that the country witnessed during that period and also to ensure more registered participants are able to attend.

This discussion will be held under the theme “**Economic & Social Instability: Hindering Sustainable Progress?**”. It aims to bring together experts to discuss the impact of global turmoil, considering the repercussions of wars and geopolitical instability on sustainable development; at the same time explore challenges, future-proofing economic processes, navigating political landmines and addressing the importance of poverty eradication and the impact of population growth.

ACSRN extends invitation to all its members, readers, and stakeholders to attend the panel discussion. The session will be held physically at the Five Palm Hotel from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

To register please click the link. [CLICK FOR MORE](#)





## Member News

### DEWA advances smart and innovative solutions for the future of Dubai

Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) stands at the forefront of innovation and sustainability, spearheading the development of cutting-edge energy solutions to ensure the delivery of electricity services at the highest standards. HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to global sustainability goals, emphasizing its leadership in digital transformation and its dedication to clean and renewable energy projects. DEWA's strategic efforts align with the vision of the wise leadership, aiming to address future challenges securely and sustainably across all domains. These endeavours underscore DEWA's vision of becoming a globally leading sustainable and innovative corporation, dedicated to achieving Net-Zero by 2050.

DEWA's initiatives encompass a wide array of pioneering projects aimed at diversifying clean energy production sources and developing energy storage technologies. The phase 4 of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, boasts the world's largest energy storage capacity, and the pumped-storage hydroelectric power plant in Hatta are prime examples. Read more here: [CLICK FOR MORE](#)

### Tristar consolidated revenues jump 31% to AED 4 billion in 2023

Tristar Group has reported a significant 31% surge in consolidated revenues, reaching AED 4 billion, with EBITDA also increasing by 29% to AED 812 million as of December 2023. This growth was primarily propelled by the robust performance of the Fuel Farms segment and favourable freight markets in the Maritime sector. Additionally, the acquisition of a 51% stake in Aquarius Energy, formerly HG Storage International, in August 2022 contributed to the group's earnings, further bolstering its financial standing. Eugene Mayne, Group CEO of Tristar, reiterated the company's commitment to sustained growth, citing its strategic partnerships with industry leaders like RM Parks Inc. and Shell. The recent collaboration grants Tristar the license to operate over 150 Shell-branded fuel sites across Sri Lanka for the next two decades, setting a solid foundation for continued expansion. Read about this more here: [CLICK FOR MORE](#)

## Feature Article

### Middle East renewable capacity doubles but the region is lagging

Analysis article written by Andy Sambidge in Arabian Gulf Business Insights and published on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Renewable energy capacity in the Middle East has more than doubled in the past decade, with Iran and the UAE leading the way – but the region remains a bit-part player globally. New figures released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (Irena) show that regional capacity rose from just under 16 gigawatts to more than 35 GW between 2014 and 2023. However, despite 17 % growth compared with 2022, the region still accounts for less than 1 % of global capacity and only the Central America and Caribbean region have a smaller share.

Asia, which boasts more than half of global renewables capacity, generates nearly 2,000 GW, while Europe and North America generate 787 GW and 530 GW respectively. Asia also accounted for most of the new capacity added during 2023, increasing its total by 328 GW, while Europe added 72 GW. Over the decade, the Middle East's renewable share of total electricity capacity has increased from 5.9 % to just below 10 %. Iran has the biggest capacity, with more than 12 GW, although growth has been relatively slow over the review period, increasing by less than 2 GW.

By contrast, the UAE has experienced a surge in renewable energy capacity, increasing from just 133 megawatts (MW) in 2014 to more than 6 GW last year. Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel have also seen accelerated capacity growth while Iraq's capacity has fallen from 2.3 GW in 2014 to about 1.6 GW last year. The figures reveal that Bahrain and Kuwait are lagging behind, with less than 200 MW of capacity combined last year. Last month, Kuwait announced a new 20-year renewables strategy but experts told AGBI the country still has a way to go on its energy transition.

Irena said 2023 set a new record in renewables deployment globally by reaching a total capacity of 3,870 GW. The 473 GW of renewables expansion last year was led by Asia with a 69 % share, driven by China. Globally, solar photovoltaics increased by 346 GW last year - China alone added 217 GW to the total expansion. Concentrated solar power increased by 0.3 GW.

Renewable hydropower capacity reached 1,270 GW while wind power grew at a rate of 13% to 1,017 GW and geothermal energy increased by just 193 MW, led by Indonesia. Francesco La Camera, Irena director-general, said renewables are the “only technology available to rapidly scale up the energy transition aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement”.

Read the complete article with graphical statistics: [CLICK FOR MORE](#)



## Best Practices 2022 From The Archives Cyrus Group 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up - Small Business Category

### A Brief about the Organisation

The Cyrus Group, which began as a family business some 40 years ago, has gradually grown into a global and multi-cultural corporation with international activities and strategic partners.

The Cyrus Group first started importing bulk goods in 1977, mainly food and fertiliser. The Cyrus Group created “value-added” manufacturing capabilities over the previous ten years to serve the expanding infrastructure sector. Under its Cyrus infrastructure brand, the company has gained recognition on a global scale as a leading provider of specialised bituminous products and construction chemicals to the MENA Region, India and Africa. Cyrus Infrastructure has now become a market leader in Polymer Modified Bitumen for major road and airport pavement construction projects.

Today, The Cyrus Group operates as a wholly owned independent business, bringing together a wide range of companies under the 4 primary operating groups of CYRUS Infrastructure, CYRUS Oil & Gas, CYRUS Logistics, and RANSA Commodities.

From including their staff in monthly innovation workshops, waste-to-value product planning, and mentorship by well-known corporations through the Dubai Chamber Sustainability Network such as Michelin Tyres, Cyrus Group has made innovation clusters and labs a key component of their business.

Through a relationship with the climate-tech firm, The SURPLUSS, Cyrus Group has also brought its passion for innovation to the UAE cluster. In order to capture carbon and utilise it as carbon black as an RM in their production, the company is installing an air pollution capture unit. Additionally, they have recycled numerous secondary materials into unique furniture and pet beds while diverting waste from landfills.

Cyrus Group continues to emphasise innovation as a means of fostering the possibility for circular economy approaches that can help businesses financially while also improving their climate intelligence.

### Lessons learnt

- The company manages the business ethically by upholding the three pillars of sustainability-economic, social and environmental.
- Innovation as a means of fostering the possibility for circular economy approaches has helped their businesses financially while also improving their climate intelligence.
- A variety of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights has been instrumental for Cyrus in upholding the human rights of all stakeholders.
- The Cyrus Group’s most valuable resource is its human capital.
- By moving to the next phase of its sustainable procurement plan, a component of the Group’s “Green Procurement Programme”, the company has been able to save resources, cut emissions, and generate economic and environmental benefit.

