



ARABIA CSR & SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS CLINIC 2026

April 14th 2026



Upcoming Trainings & Workshops



الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

Certified Training on Fundamentals of CSR & Sustainability

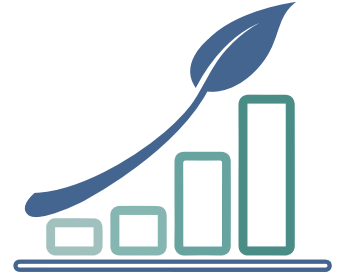
April 15th - 16th 2026



الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

Sustainability Reporting Training Online

May 13th - 14th 2026



الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الاجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

GAP Analysis Workshop Online May 18th 2026



| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Note from President & CEO | 2 |
| ACSRN News | 3 |
| Upcoming News | 4 |
| Member News | 5 |
| Feature Article | 6 |
| Best Practice | 7 |

Follow us:



@arabiacsr



Note from the Founder & CEO

Dear Members, Partners and Friends, I hope you all had a peaceful and blessed Eid Al Fitr, and that this special blessed occasion brought you and your families renewed strength, good health and moments of reflection. The past weeks have been a sobering reminder to our nation and to the wider Middle East of how fragile global stability can be.

The geopolitical developments unfolding across our region have once again underscored the importance of resilience, unity and responsible leadership in navigating uncertainty. In times such as these, nations are defined not only by the challenges they face, but by how they respond to them. The United Arab Emirates continues to stand as a model of stability, foresight and measured leadership — guided by a clear vision and an unwavering commitment to progress. We extend our deepest gratitude to our leadership, whose wisdom, decisiveness and forward-thinking approach continue to provide reassurance, direction and confidence to all who call this nation home.

What is particularly remarkable is the collective strength demonstrated across the UAE. We have witnessed how government entities, private sector organisations and communities come together with a shared sense of purpose. There is a deep-rooted resilience that defines this country — one that transcends sectors, cultures and industries. It is this unity, this sense of shared responsibility, that ensures the UAE remains not only stable, but forward-looking and progressive, even in times of uncertainty.

As a region, and as a global community, we are reminded that sustainability is no longer a parallel agenda — it is central to resilience, stability and long-term prosperity. Responsible business practices, strong governance and sustainable value creation are no longer optional; they are essential pillars for navigating today's complex and evolving landscape.

At the Arabia CSR Network, we remain steadfast in our mission to support organisations in embedding sustainability into their core strategies and operations. Over the past month, we have continued to engage actively in regional and international platforms that shape sustainability dialogue, policy and action.

On **2nd March**, I participated in the stakeholder engagement on Financing for Development (FFD) outcome negotiations and preparations for FFD Week, contributing to discussions on mobilising sustainable finance and strengthening global cooperation. On **9th March**, I attended a specialised session organised by the World Packaging Organisation, focusing on the impending PFAS compliance requirements under the EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation — a critical development reinforcing the importance of regulatory readiness and responsible value chains.

On **10th March**, I had the privilege of joining the EmiratesNBD Women's Network Iftar as a Guest of Honour, where we engaged in meaningful dialogue on women's leadership, impact and the importance of inclusive growth. On **31st March**, I participated in the World Green Building Council Board Meeting, contributing to global discussions on advancing sustainability within the built environment and strengthening climate-responsive development.

I was also honoured to be featured in the March issue of Waste & Recycling Magazine, highlighting the role of women in driving the circular economy and advancing sustainable practices across sectors. Further details of this feature, along with other highlights, are available within this newsletter.

Importantly, while the current regional situation calls for reflection and caution, it must not slow our momentum. On the contrary, it reinforces the urgency of our work. **The 19th Cycle of the Arabia CSR & Sustainability Awards** is continuing with full commitment and determination. Now, more than ever, is the time for organisations to step forward, demonstrate leadership and showcase measurable impact. It is in times of uncertainty that true leadership is revealed — through transparency, accountability and a genuine commitment to sustainability. We strongly encourage all organisations to seize this opportunity to benchmark their performance, strengthen their strategies and contribute meaningfully to the region's sustainable development journey. At the same time, preparations for the 14th Cycle of the Global Sustainability & CSR Forum are progressing with great momentum. We are curating an exceptional line-up of high-level speakers, global thought leaders and local practitioners who will drive insightful dialogue and actionable outcomes.

I encourage you to mark your calendars for **12th & 13th October**, as we come together once again to shape the future of sustainability in the region. In line with this, I also encourage organisations to actively participate in our upcoming training programmes, which are designed to build capacity, strengthen ESG understanding and support practical implementation.

This is the time to put your house in order—review your systems, align your strategies and ensure you are well-prepared to meet the evolving expectations of sustainability and responsible business practices. Moving forward, one message remains clear: resilience is built through collaboration, leadership and shared responsibility.

The challenges we face today must serve as a catalyst for stronger partnerships, more responsible practices and deeper commitment to sustainable development. Let us continue to work together — with purpose, integrity and determination — to build a future that is not only resilient, but sustainable, inclusive and prosperous for generations to come. Thank you for your continued trust, support and partnership.





ACSRN News

Stakeholder Engagement on Financing for Development

On **2nd March**, Dr. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, ACSRN Founder & CEO participated in a high-level virtual stakeholder engagement meeting in her capacity as a Board Member of the United Nations Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance.

The session focused on the ongoing outcome negotiations under the Financing for Development (FFD) framework, as well as preparations for the upcoming FFD Week. The meeting brought together representatives from international organisations, financial institutions and policy bodies to discuss key priorities in mobilising finance for sustainable development. Deliberations centred on strengthening financial systems, enhancing investment flows towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and promoting inclusive, resilient and sustainable financing mechanisms.

Dr. Al Mar'ashi's participation provided an important opportunity to contribute to global discussions on sustainable finance and responsible investment, particularly in the context of current economic and geopolitical dynamics. It also reinforced the critical role of collaboration across sectors in addressing systemic challenges and advancing the 2030 Agenda. Such engagements reflect a continued commitment to supporting global efforts in advancing sustainable finance, strengthening governance frameworks and enabling impactful climate and development outcomes.



WPO Webinar on PFAS and PPWR Regulatory Framework

On **9th March**, Dr. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, attended a specialised webinar organised by the World Packaging Organisation (WPO), focusing on the evolving Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) and its implications for PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) in packaging.

The session brought together international experts and practitioners to discuss key regulatory developments impacting packaging value chains, particularly for organisations engaged in or exporting to Eu-

ropean markets. Discussions covered emerging compliance requirements, substances of concern, recycled content considerations and the increasing importance of transparency and accountability in material usage.

ACSRN's participation in this session reflects its commitment to keeping its members informed of global regulatory developments that directly influence responsible business practices, supply chain compliance and ESG performance. As regulatory frameworks continue to evolve, particularly in major markets such as Europe, it is essential for organisations in the region to remain prepared and aligned with international standards.

The webinar also provided practical insights into how organisations can proactively respond to these changes, including adapting internal processes, strengthening reporting mechanisms and ensuring compliance readiness.



ENBD Women's Network Iftar

On **10th March**, Dr. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Founder and CEO of the Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN), attended the EmiratesNBD Women's Network Iftar at the Meydan Hotel as the Guest of Honour, where she delivered the opening address for the evening.

Held during the holy month of Ramadan, the gathering brought together a distinguished group of women under the theme "Women with Impact", providing a valuable platform for connection, knowledge exchange and shared experiences in a supportive and inclusive environment.

In her opening remarks, she emphasised the importance of women's leadership in advancing responsible business practices, sustainability and inclusive economic growth. She highlighted the role of collaboration, resilience and purpose-driven leadership in shaping organisations and communities that are aligned with long-term sustainability goals. The session enabled participants to engage in meaningful dialogue, strengthen professional networks and exchange perspectives on leadership and impact, reinforcing the importance of empowering women across sectors.





EmiratesGBC Q1 Board Meeting

On **26th March**, Dr Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Founder and CEO of the Arabia CSR Network (ASRN), participated in the Q1 Board Meeting of the Emirates Green Building Council (EmiratesGBC) in her capacity as Co-Founder, Vice Chair and Treasurer.

The meeting focused on advancing sustainability within the built environment, strengthening collaboration across the sector and reviewing key initiatives that support low-carbon and resource-efficient development. Dr Al Mar'ashi's engagement reflects ACRN's continued commitment to promoting sustainability and responsible practices across sectors, particularly in areas critical to climate action and long-term development.

ECOSOC Special Meeting on Credit Ratings

On **30th March**, Dr Habiba Al Mar'ashi, Founder and CEO of the Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN), participated virtually in her capacity as a Board Member of the United Nations Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance at the ECOSOC Special Meeting on Credit Ratings. The meeting brought together key global stakeholders to examine the role of credit ratings in influencing the cost of capital, assessment methodologies and the capacity of developing countries to engage with financial systems.

These discussions are critical in ensuring that financial frameworks support inclusive and sustainable economic growth. ACSRN's participation reflects its continued commitment to advancing responsible business practices and supporting the integration of sustainability into financial and governance frameworks at both regional and global levels.

WorldGBC Board Meeting

On **31st March**, Dr. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, attended the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) Board Meeting in her capacity as a Director of the Board. The meeting convened global Board members to review strategic priorities, governance matters and key initiatives advancing sustainability within the built environment.

Discussions focused on accelerating the transition towards low-carbon, resource-efficient and resilient cities, while strengthening alignment with international climate commitments. Deliberations also highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaboration, innovation and policy engagement in scaling sustainable building practices globally.

The role of the private sector in integrating sustainability into development frameworks and investment decisions was a key area of focus. Dr. Al Mar'ashi's participation reflects ACSRN's continued engagement in global platforms that shape sustainability governance and influence responsible business practices. Insights from such forums support ACSRN's efforts in guiding organisations across the Arab region to strengthen ESG integration, enhance sustainability performance and align with international frameworks.

Waste & Recycling Magazine

Dr. Habiba Al Mar'ashi, was featured in the March 2026 issue of Waste & Recycling Magazine as part of a special feature titled "Women Driving the Circular Economy Revolution."

The feature highlights leading women who are shaping the transition towards circular economy models through innovation, leadership and impactful initiatives across sectors. It recognises individuals who are contributing to responsible resource management, sustainable business practices and environmental stewardship at both regional and global levels.

Dr. Al Mar'ashi's inclusion reflects her continued efforts in advancing CSR, ESG integration and sustainability frameworks, while supporting organisations in embedding circular economy principles within their operations and value chains. This recognition reinforces the growing role of women leaders in driving systemic change, influencing policy direction and strengthening sustainable development agendas. It also highlights the importance of inclusive leadership in accelerating progress towards more resilient and responsible economies. This feature stands as a testament to her enduring commitment to sustainability and her role in inspiring organisations and future leaders to adopt more responsible and impactful practices.



[Read More](#)

Upcoming News

Arabia CSR & Sustainability Awards Clinic 14th April

This highly focused and interactive clinic is designed to support organisations in successfully navigating the application process for the Arabia CSR & Sustainability Awards, one of the most respected and rigorous platforms recognising responsible business practices in the region. The session will provide participants with a comprehensive walkthrough of the Awards framework, including detailed insights into the evaluation criteria, scoring methodology and submission requirements.





Participants will also benefit from practical guidance on structuring strong applications, aligning their initiatives with international best practices, and clearly demonstrating measurable impact.

Through real examples and expert-led discussions, the clinic will highlight common gaps observed in submissions, while offering actionable recommendations on how to strengthen documentation, improve data presentation and effectively communicate sustainability performance.



[Register Here](#)

CSR Fundamentals Training 15th – 16th April

This two-day training programme offers a structured introduction to the principles and practices of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), equipping participants with the knowledge and tools required to develop and implement effective CSR strategies.

The training will cover key concepts, global frameworks and emerging trends, while also providing practical guidance on integrating CSR into business operations, stakeholder engagement and sustainability reporting. Designed for professionals across all sectors, the programme supports organisations in building a strong foundation for responsible business practices, enhancing their contribution to sustainable development and long-term value creation.



الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الإجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

**Certified Training
on Fundamentals
of CSR & Sustainability**

April 15th – 16th 2026



[Register Here](#)

Member News

Tristar Group Featured in Gulf News on National Resilience

The Arabia CSR Network (ACSRN) is proud to highlight the recognition of Tristar Group, one of its valued members, in a recent feature by Gulf News focusing on national resilience and stability in times of global uncertainty.

The article brought together perspectives from business leaders and institutions, emphasising how preparedness, strong governance and people-centric approaches continue to position the UAE as a stable and forward-looking nation.

In the feature, Tristar Group's CEO, Mr. Eugene Mayne, underscored the critical role of leadership and collaboration in sustaining resilience. He noted that government-led efforts to promote peace and stability create a secure and predictable environment that enables economies, businesses and communities to navigate and adapt to global challenges effectively. He further highlighted the important contribution of the private sector in supporting national strategies and advancing sustainable growth.

Tristar Group's inclusion in this feature reflects its commitment to responsible business practices, resilience and alignment with the UAE's long-term vision for sustainable development. ACSRN takes pride in the achievements of its members and continues to support organisations that demonstrate leadership in sustainability, governance and community impact. Such recognition reinforces the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors in building resilient, inclusive and future-ready economies.

At a time when global uncertainties continue to test resilience, this recognition serves as a strong reminder that sustainability and responsible leadership remain key pillars of long-term stability. ACSRN remains committed to fostering a network of organisations that lead with purpose, drive measurable impact and contribute meaningfully to the region's sustainable and inclusive growth.



[Read More](#)





Feature Article

Corporate Governance: Definition, Principles, Models, and Examples

Excerpt from James Chen, expert trader, investment adviser, and global market strategist.

What Is Corporate Governance?

Corporate governance is how a company is run and held accountable—the way it makes decisions and follows rules. It requires balancing the interests of many groups, such as employees, stakeholders, senior management, customers, suppliers, lenders, government regulators, and even the local community.

Strong corporate governance touches nearly every part of business, from setting strategy to building internal controls for performance and investor relations. Good governance is about creating clear processes that keep the business fair, transparent, and effective to reduce risk, inspire investor confidence, and support long-term growth.

Understanding Corporate Governance

Governance refers to the set of rules, controls, policies, and resolutions put in place to direct corporate behavior. A board of directors is pivotal in governance, while proxy advisors and shareholders are important stakeholders who can affect governance.

Communicating a company's corporate governance is a key component of community and investor relations. For instance, Apple Inc.'s (AAPL) investor relations site profiles its corporate leadership (the executive team and board of directors) and provides information on its committee charters and governance documents, such as bylaws, stock ownership guidelines, and articles of incorporation.

Most successful companies strive to have exemplary corporate governance. For many shareholders, it is not enough for a company to be profitable; it also must demonstrate good corporate citizenship through environmental awareness, ethical behavior, and other sound corporate governance practices. These practices can also improve a company's public reputation, which can attract and retain a more committed base of customers.

Benefits of Corporate Governance

Corporate governance that is carefully thought out and implemented creates transparent rules and controls. It can serve as a guide to leadership, aligning the interests of shareholders, directors, management, community members, and employees. When implemented across all company levels of management and operations, good corporate governance can:

- **Build trust with investors, the community, and public officials**
- **Give investors and other stakeholders a clear idea of a company's direction and business integrity**
- **Promote long-term financial viability, opportunity, and returns**
- **Facilitate the raising of capital**
- **Contribute to rising share prices**

Good corporate governance should be part of any company's game plan for resilience and long-term success. Bad corporate governance, on the other hand, can have the opposite effect, eroding relationships and trust both internally and externally. This can damage a company's reputation, lead to regulatory or ethical scandals, reduce both employee and customer retention, cause stock prices to fall, and ultimately compromise a company's profitability.

Corporate Governance and the Board of Directors

The board of directors is the primary direct stakeholder influencing corporate governance. Directors are elected by shareholders or appointed by other board members and charged with representing the interests of the company's shareholders.

The board is tasked with making important decisions, such as:

- **Corporate officer appointments**
- **Executive compensation**
- **Dividend policy**

In some instances, board obligations stretch beyond financial optimization, as when shareholder resolutions call for certain social or environmental concerns to be prioritized. Boards are often made up of a mix of insiders and independent members. Insiders are generally major shareholders, founders, and executives. Independent directors do not share the ties to the company that insiders have. They are typically chosen for their experience managing or directing other large companies. Independents are considered helpful for governance because they dilute the concentration of power and help align shareholder interests with those of the insiders. The board of directors must ensure that the company's corporate governance policies incorporate corporate strategy, risk management, accountability, transparency, and ethical business practices.



[Read More](#)





Best Practice

Saudi Arabian Mining Company (Ma'aden) Partnerships & Collaborations Category

Winner Arabia CSR Awards 2023

Brief

The Schools of Excellence (SoE) project, initiated in 2017 in Saudi Arabia's Northern Borders Region (NBR), is a groundbreaking partnership between Ma'aden Waad al Shamal Phosphate Company (MWSPC) and the Ministry of Education (MoE). It stands as a beacon of innovation and educational transformation. SoE's primary goal is to revolutionize the NBR's educational landscape by establishing three model schools.

These institutions are designed to excel in curriculum, teaching methods, and student outcomes, producing highly qualified graduates eligible for admission to competitive universities, particularly in science and engineering disciplines. This partnership is a testament to Ma'aden's commitment to skills, education, and economic growth in the region, driven by a shared vision for educational excellence. The project is a shining example of collaboration between the corporate and educational sectors, creating a positive impact on the broader educational community in the NBR.

Summary & Lessons Learnt

The Schools of Excellence (SoE) CSR project offers important lessons for successful community engagement and regional development:

- **Collaboration Triumphs** - Cooperation and partnership were instrumental in overcoming challenges, highlighting the value of working together to achieve common goals.
- **Addressing Education Gaps** - Recognising and addressing educational deficits in the Northern Borders Region was a vital aspect of the project. It emphasizes the role of education in regional development.
- **Technical Skill Development** - Focusing on technical skills, especially in STEM fields, not only supports Vision 2030 but also enhances local employment opportunities in key sectors like mining. **Community Receptiveness** - The SoE initiative's warm reception underscores the importance of designing CSR projects that align with community needs and aspirations.
- **Continuous Learning** - The project's success emphasizes the importance of continual learning and adaptation to remain effective as it expands and evolves.
- **Community-Centric Approach** - Engaging with local stakeholders, understanding their unique challenges, and aligning initiatives with national development goals are key to success.

The SoE project demonstrates the power of collaboration, the significance of addressing education gaps, and the need for adaptability and community-centric approaches in CSR projects. It serves as a valuable model for making a positive impact on communities and regions in need.

The Schools of Excellence (SoE) CSR project by Ma'aden represents a commendable paradigm of corporate responsibility with far-reaching implications. This innovative initiative, launched in response to the pressing need for educational and skills development in Saudi Arabia's Northern Borders Region, embodies best practices for impactful CSR endeavours.

Through strategic collaboration and partnership with the Ministry of Education, Ma'aden Waad al Shamal Phosphate Company, and educational operators, the SoE has made significant strides in raising the educational standards in a previously underserved region. By focusing on STEM education, providing upgraded facilities, and adopting a student-centric approach, it addresses critical regional challenges while fostering a culture of excellence.

Key success factors include transparent governance through the Advisory Committee, continuous monitoring and evaluation, and a robust communication strategy ensuring stakeholders' engagement and alignment with the project's objectives.

This project underscores the value of addressing local needs, fostering technical skills, and supporting national development goals, as outlined in Vision 2030. The SoE serves as a beacon of hope for Northern Borders youth and stands as a testament to the transformative power of CSR initiatives when driven by commitment, collaboration, and adaptability. It demonstrates the potential to uplift communities and elevate regions with limited opportunities, ultimately contributing to a brighter future for generations to come.

