

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
الإجتماعية للمؤسسات
Arabia CSR Network®

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



Arabia CSR Network 2022®

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PRESIDENT & CEO'S NOTE



Habiba Al Mar'ashi

The window is closing!

The world is unequivocally off-track to reach the Paris Agreement goals and research shows that global temperatures are likely to catapult up to 2.8°C by the end of the century. The stakes could not be higher: One million plant and animal species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades. Efforts to address poverty and hunger have experienced a setback too with the onset of armed conflicts, notably the Russia-Ukraine war. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is in grave precariousness due to multiple, cascading and intersecting crises.

Despite increasing efforts to mitigate the worst effects of climate change, greenhouse gas emissions reached an all-time high of 58 gigatonnes CO₂ eq in 2022. Many countries have been hit by unprecedented disasters, such as the historic floods in Pakistan that inundated one-third of the country, devastating heatwaves and droughts recorded in the UK, Europe and China, locusts swarming and decimating crops across parts of the Middle East and Africa, catastrophic hurricane leaving millions displaced in the US, heatwaves in Antarctica that saw temperatures rise up to 40°C above average and a record ice-melt in the Arctic. The complete list is lengthy and overwhelming. World Economic Forum reports that the year witnessed 10 climate-related disasters causing more than \$3 billion worth of damage each, let alone the count of human fatalities.

Whilst a number of SDGs have been negatively impacted, the converse is also true. There are plenty of achievements worth celebrating. The year 2022 will be remembered as one of the most important years for environmental multilateralism. Rounding off a busy year of COP activity, we saw the development of a 'Loss and Damage Fund' at COP27 in favour of small island states and other disaster-prone regions, the adoption of crucial proposals at CITES CoP19 to regulate and prevent wildlife trade, and of course the landmark decisions reached at COP15 in the form of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Leading progress has been made with regards to renewable energy. Sustainable transport has also topped the agenda, with cities adapting for cyclists, countries clamping down on short-haul flights, and zero emissions innovations gathering momentum.

Citing the Middle East, experts believe it is at the cusp of a green renaissance. This is pretty clear from its commitments to achieve net-zero targets but also from the anticipated transformation of major industries like con-

struction, agriculture, tourism and steel. Today, most investors in the region consider CSR as a sign of ethical corporate behaviour that minimises risk.

For businesses, CSR is no longer an optional choice, but a necessary commitment. As we continue to adapt to the impact of more than two years of the pandemic, new CSR trends are emerging and exerting a strong influence over the corporate environment.

I feel elated to present to you the 2022 edition of the Arabia CSR Network's Annual Report. Freed from the shackles of the pandemic, we forged ahead in the year strongly to deliver a positive impact through our training and workshop sessions aligned with global standards.

The 15th cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards proudly spanned out to attract 111 registrations from 12 MENA countries. The enhancement reported in the quality of applications in 2022 as compared to the previous years gratified me immensely. My belief has strengthened even more in the significance of these awards in infusing CSR and sustainability into an organisation's culture.

I would like to congratulate the winners of 2022 once again and passionately look forward to their continued participation in 2023 and the years to come. Throughout the year, the Network was zealously represented at national, regional and global forums that fostered the agenda of sustainability and corporate social responsibility. Last but not the least, we were able to roll out six panel discussions in 2022 in collaboration with our esteemed partners to amplify the narrative of a sustainable world.

We look forward to step into the new year with optimism, the Network is ambitious about the plethora of opportunities that lie ahead amid the rising wave of COP28 to be organised at the Expo 2020 - Dubai during November-December of 2023. We have planned our events to revolve around CSR and sustainability in a manner that will leverage the background of COP28 in maximising the positive impact that can be delivered around the region this year.

The UNEP Executive Director said at the 15th Convention of Biological Diversity in Montréal in December 2022, "Success will be measured by our rapid and consistent progress in implementing what we have agreed to." Although there is a lot to be worried about when it comes to climate and nature crises, I believe that it's not all doom and gloom.

People using their skills to push for a better future haven't given up hope, so neither should we!





INTRODUCTION

Arabia CSR Network was incorporated in 2004 with the objective to cultivate an atmosphere of mutual learning around corporate social responsibility and sustainability in the Arab world.

It was realised that business as usual was harming the planet. Using business as a force for good had the potential to save it. CSR had the capability to make an entity more competitive, lower financing costs, and increase overall economic value. Between humanitarian projects, environmental projects, and companies that go above and beyond to support their employees, there are many, diverse corporate social responsibility trends. It is the way through which an organisation achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives while at the same time addressing the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders.

Later, with the introduction of Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations, the theme of sustainability also acquired a special place in the comprehensive vision of the Network.

Over the span of 18 years, ACSRN has engaged a myriad of for-profit and not-for-profit, private and government entities in the Arab World and beyond through different mediums.

Training sessions and workshops organised by the Network based on globally-recognised standards and frameworks have gained the institution huge credibility in the eyes of a diversity of stakeholders across the Middle East and North Africa region. It is important to state here that the Network has been the 1st entity in the region to facilitate training courses accredited with esteemed institutions like the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) based in the Netherlands and the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) based in the Philippines.

The prestigious Arabia CSR Awards which are methodically reviewed and distributed annually by the Network have also developed an aura that attracts detailed evidence-based applications from enthusiastic organisations spread all over the MENA region.

Thought-provoking panel discussions curated by ACSRN by inviting distinguished experts as panellists have been illuminating the potential change-makers of society to quicken the momentum of the contemporary world's transformation on a par with the desired sustainability norms.

In addition to in-house, the Arabia CSR Network represented by its Founder & CEO participates in dozens of external events to enhance the impact manifolds. These events are quite diverse in terms of their format (discussions, meetings, conferences, summits, forums, launches etc.) and scale (global, regional and national).

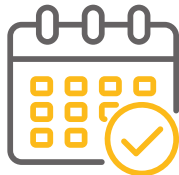
Since the beginning, research, documentation and publication have been the areas of strength of ACSRN. A dedicated content creation team of the Network releases a variety of reports, CSR best practice case studies, monthly newsletters, training modules, social media messages, opinion pieces etc.

The CSR best practices are compiled in a publication in-house annually. It is an excellent resource for academia, professionals and organisations who are determined to learn about trending success stories of social responsibility and sustainability for incorporation into their scope of work.

This report presents an elaborate but justified account of the Arabia CSR Network's journey in 2022. We hope you will enjoy going through it and let us continue Building Partnerships for a Sustainable Future.



PROFILE & REPORT PARAMETERS



Frequency

This Report is Published Annually



Previous Report

Arabia CSR Network Annual Report 2021

The Arabia CSR Network is the Arab Region's most prominent multi-stakeholder network on CSR and sustainability. Formed in 2004 within the Emirates Environmental Group, the network became an independent entity in 2009. It engages public and private organisations in the adoption of CSR and sustainability as a strategic value-creation tool.

Through a slew of year-round activities, the Network promotes CSR and sustainability as a culture amongst organisations present in the Arab Region. Its services are targeted at enhancing organisational capacity and individual competence, formulation of sustainability and CSR strategies and initiatives, evaluating current CSR and sustainability trends, practices and performance, increasing the uptake of sustainability reporting, providing advisory support and external assurance for sustainability reports, highlighting regional best practices and exemplars through a Pan-Arab awards system and bringing together global and local perspectives and insights in a forum.

About this Report

Scope and Boundary:

This report provides a description of the programmes, activities, events and initiatives that the Arabia CSR Network was engaged in during the year 2022. This report is not restricted to any specific boundary since the Arabia CSR Network engages with international, regional and local organisations on sustainability and CSR issues.

Our banner slogan "Building Partnerships for a Sustainable Future" reflects our mission to work with all sectors in effective collaboration to promote sustainable development across our Region.

We believe that partnerships are the vehicle of sustainable economic growth and societal development, and bring value to all.

We have partnerships with both local and international entities whereby we aim to localise international standards and best practices and help address regional challenges and risks.

Our focus is also on setting sustainability priorities for the region and exploring opportunities at the national level.

We promote global principles and frameworks that support CSR and sustainability such as the UN Global Compact, the GRI Standards, the EFQM Excellence Model, the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Principles of the Alliance of Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) among others.

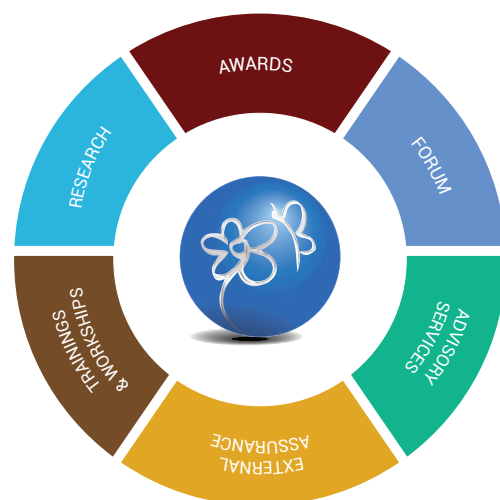
Our operation is built on a can-do attitude and we are always looking for better and more sustainable ways of doing things.

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This report highlights ACSRN's activities across the six areas





Trainings and Workshops

Arabia CSR Network has dedicated a great deal of effort to helping organisations understand the scope and boundaries of sustainability issues within their activities and operations. The Network has partnered with international giants in Asia & Europe to bring to the audience in the MENA Region a set of impactful, certified trainings comparable with the best of its kind globally. The Network has been offering since 2006, specialised trainings that focus on key concepts and requirements of CSR and sustainability good practices. These equip participants to move from the fundamental to the advanced and finally, to the strategic level in CSR and sustainability. Over and above this, the Network has also developed training modules to help entities produce sustainability reports.



Research

Arabia CSR Network is uniquely positioned to study, analyse and interpret CSR and sustainability-related trends and developments occurring in the Arab Region over time. Through trainings, advisory services, research, awards and forum, and 3rd party assurance, the Network has been able to identify regional and local good practices that address environmental, social and governance challenges. This knowledge is imparted through several means and through social media platforms. Arabia CSR Best Practices is an annual publication that upholds the Network's credibility in the areas of research and analytics. The publication profiles the finalists of each cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards and provides a good look into their CSR and sustainability strategies, policies, processes and performance, and also details lessons learnt and key challenges addressed.



Awards

The Arabia CSR Awards is known as the Sustainability Benchmark of the Arab Region, with a reputation as the leading knowledge and recognition platform for CSR and sustainability across the MENA Region. It is designed to allow the unification of international standards and frameworks with local practices, the Awards have helped hundreds of applicants to develop best practices in environmental, social and governance areas. The awards have evolved from 3 categories in 2008 and are now available in 15 categories that combine both size and sector-centered categorisation. With strong rigour-based criteria and stringent evaluation methodology, winning the awards is an enriching experience. The applications are judged by independent tri-lingual jurors (Arabic, English and French). Applicants get a score report with detailed feedback. Each cycle of the awards is validated by DNV, a leading assurance provider and the awards ceremony is conducted as a carbon-neutral event.



Forum

The Arabia Corporate Social Responsibility Forum (Arabia CSR Forum) is another focus area that is highly recognised as a strong intellectual platform and a source of education, capacity development and exchange of experience and expertise. The biennial platform's objective is to initiate conversations on the latest trends and developments in CSR and sustainability among various sectors regionally and globally. Another key objective is to showcase good practices from the Arab Region that align with global trends. The forum facilitates rich discussions on the challenges, priorities, opportunities and imperatives for the world and the Arab Region in particular, geared to find solutions to the many common problems and regional challenges.



Advisory Services

The network provides advisory services to public and private organisations practising in the region to help them identify stakeholders and map them, develop material issues and prioritise them, develop sustainability and CSR strategies, define policies, goals and targets, develop road maps and action plans to publish sustainability reports compliant with International Standards. It also conducts CSR Gap Analysis and SWOTs to help organisations understand the level of maturity of their sustainability practices and what can be done to improve them further. Through stakeholder engagement and materiality determination, the Network guides organisations to identify their non-financial impacts, which is effective in developing a strategy that strengthens business interests by addressing societal needs and expectations.



External Assurance

Arabia CSR Network applies the GRI Standards, the AA1000 assurance standards, the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact and other relevant tools to scrutinise and validate sustainability disclosures. External assurance is a critical component in strengthening a report's credibility and value; and the Network, based on its expertise in developing reporting capacity, provides top-level services. It validates the claims made by reporting organisations about their economic, environmental and social performance and aids decision-making among investors, clients, consumers and partners. It also verifies the content, quality and focus of the information and data incorporated in reports and provides recommendations for improvement to entities in meeting stakeholder expectations and disclosure contents for their reports etc.



TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

Empowering candidates skillfully through practical training sessions and workshops is an indispensable part of capacity-building laid explicitly under Sustainable Development Goal #17. Arabia CSR Network, being the pioneer and torchbearer of CSR and sustainability integration practices in the Arab world, regularly conducts training and workshop programmes in the domains of sustainability, corporate social responsibility and ESG issues.

In 2022, ASCRN delivered **6** training sessions and **4** workshops to upgrade the skill set of participants. It is worthwhile to mention that our association as a training partner of GRI concluded in January 2022.

ASCRN has been regularly and diligently designing and developing its training and workshop programmes since 2006 to level up with the ever-changing landscape of business excellence, strategic leadership, material assessment, social value creation, global interdependence and multi-stakeholder inclusion.

GRI Standards Training

After having imparted GRI Standards certified training to numerous professionals since 2011, The Arabia CSR Network gave a brilliant start to the year by conducting one more such training session from the **18th – 20th of January**. It was the **64th** and the last session organised by ACSRN that equipped 7 candidates with valuable knowledge and skills in synthesising sustainability reports.

The key segment of the session was the final assessment round where participants were asked to evaluate two GRI Standards compliant reports issued from the region. Overall, the programme clarified several of their misconceptions about sustainability practices and assessment methodologies.

Arabia CSR Network feels honoured in proclaiming that during its entire period of collaboration with the institution of GRI Standards, it successfully conducted 64 training sessions in English and Arabic, thereby impacting more than **450** professionals across diverse industries. This was commendable and a needed & welcomed progress in the direction of capacity building.

Sustainability Reporting Training

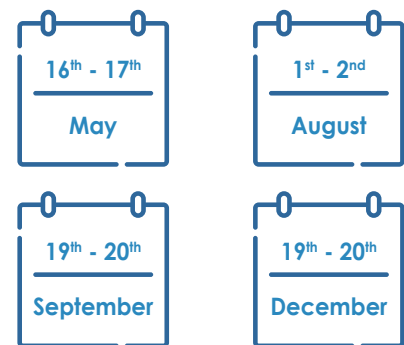
Organisations all over the globe have started displaying their serious alignment with the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals over the past years in the form of publications called sustainability and ESG reports. Although this practice of measuring environmental, social and governance-related impact has resulted in a paradigm shift, a huge gap still persists between the desired and the acquired skill set of professionals for carrying out this task effectively. A well-structured process often seems to be missing.

To bridge this cleft, Arabia CSR Network conducts focused short-term training programmes that equip professionals and upgrade their skills in the domain of sustainability reporting and strategising. The training imparted is on par with the global standards of ESG reporting methodologies.

Sustainability reporting or non-financial reporting has emerged lately as an innovative and pioneering system for certain organisations globally in seeking recognition plus investment. Their successful case studies have inspired tons of passionate CEOs, risk management officers, operations managers, consultants, researchers, content writers, data analysts and ESG enthusiasts to strengthen their grip on it too.

In the year 2022, **4** training sessions were successfully organised which received the participation of **19** attendees. An open discussion approach was adopted as the format of the training sessions which offered the participants enough opportunities to share and learn best-case practices. Moreover, practical exercises associated with the reporting process enriched their experience.

Arabia CSR Network has immense hope that astonishing results will be visible in the coming years while these trained individuals in the professional world move ahead to measure, display and plan the non-financial performance of their respective organisations concerning environmental commitment, social responsibility and corporate governance structure.



Sustainability Reporting Training

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 Arabia CSR Network

Around the world, thousands of organisations report annually to disclose their performance in environmental, social and governance (ESG) areas, and demonstrate the value created by these activities. There are various standards and frameworks that guide organisations towards creating an impactful report describing their non-financial value creation efforts and its results and outcomes.

ACSRN, one of the premier training and advisory service providers with 19 years of expertise in developing and conducting close to a hundreds of successful CSR and Sustainability training sessions, is conducting a 2-Day Training Course on Sustainability Reporting.

The training module, developed wholly by ACSRN, will be delivered through lectures aided by slide presentations, discussions, group exercises and case studies.

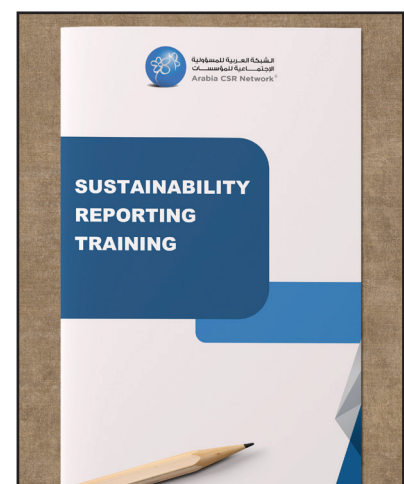
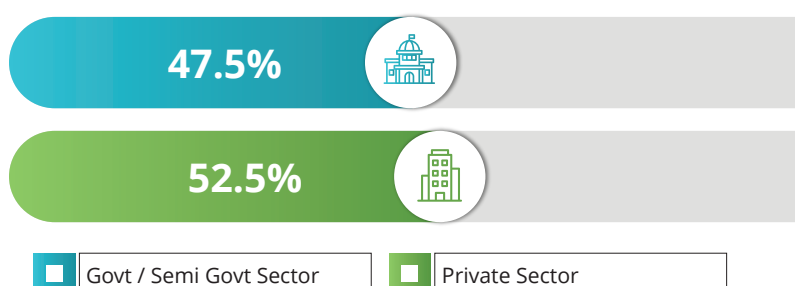
Training Outline

- A two-day training module with 5 sessions on each day
- Coffee breaks and lunch on each day
- Certification at end of course on day 2 of the training

Content/Segments

Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session 1: Why is Sustainability Important? Session 2: How Can a Sustainability Report Help? Session 3: Sustainability Reporting Cycle Session 4: A strategic Approach to Sustainability Reporting Session 5: Role of Stakeholders 	Day 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session 6: Prioritising Sustainability Topics Session 7: Performance Indicators Session 8: Report Checklist Session 9: The Essential Next Steps Session 10: End of Course Report Evaluation Exercise
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Participants by Sector



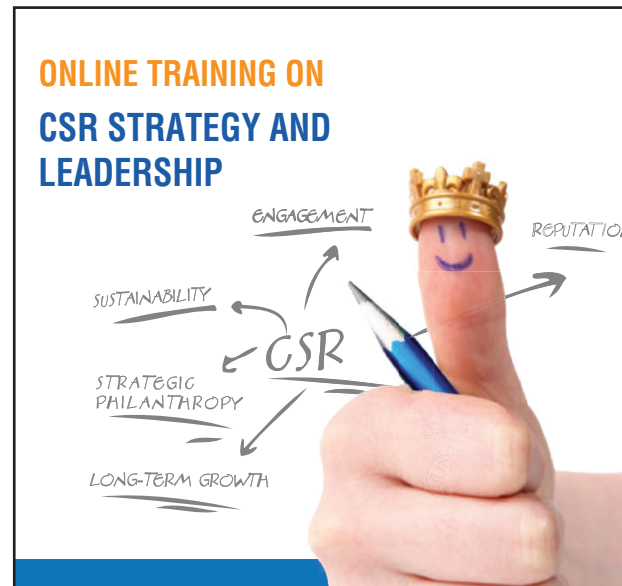
CSR Strategy and Leadership Training

Impressed by the results of 2021, ACS-RN delivered a **3-day** CSR Strategy & Leadership training in 2022 from **25th – 27th October** for managers and leaders to acquire insights and critical perspectives on companies' CSR strategies and the knowledge to implement them.



The training broadly highlighted the reasons why every company/organisation should integrate CSR into their core business operations, use of different approaches to CSR, how to define and devise a CSR strategy, the upcoming trends and, whether or not these can fit into the entity's profile.

It was meaningful to executives involved in strategic and operational functions, senior and middle management involved in corporate governance or change management, HR personnel at all levels, corporate lawyers aiming to improve their understanding of the trends relating to corporate responsibility and, all personnel involved in communications, business strategy, supplier and community relations, sustainability, governmental affairs etc.

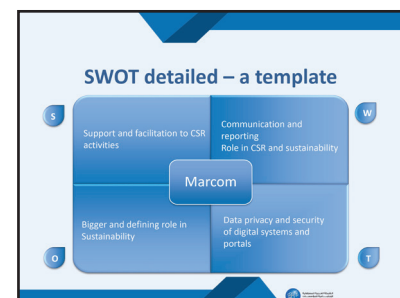
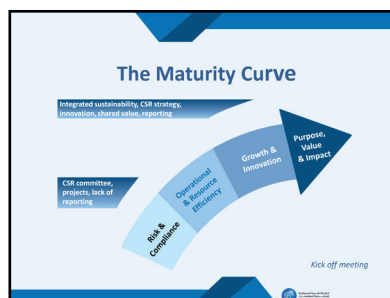
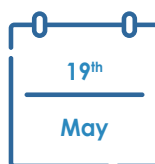


Gap Analysis Workshop

Arabia CSR Network realises the importance of workshops as a crucial medium for the assimilation of sustainability practices into the professional and personal journeys of organisations and individuals respectively. Hence, to trickle down the comprehensive vision and objectives of Agenda 2030 effectively, two gap analysis workshops were delivered by the Arabia CSR Network on **19th May & 28th October**.

To be precise, the workshops revolved around the methodologies to identify sustainability gaps or loopholes within the systems, processes, activities and behaviour of an organisation and its members. Additionally, they also encompassed the strategic alterations and innovations that can be adopted to gradually shift towards more

sustainable operations. For effective learning during the one-day workshops, the participants were engaged in a SWOT exercise based on the process flow approach.

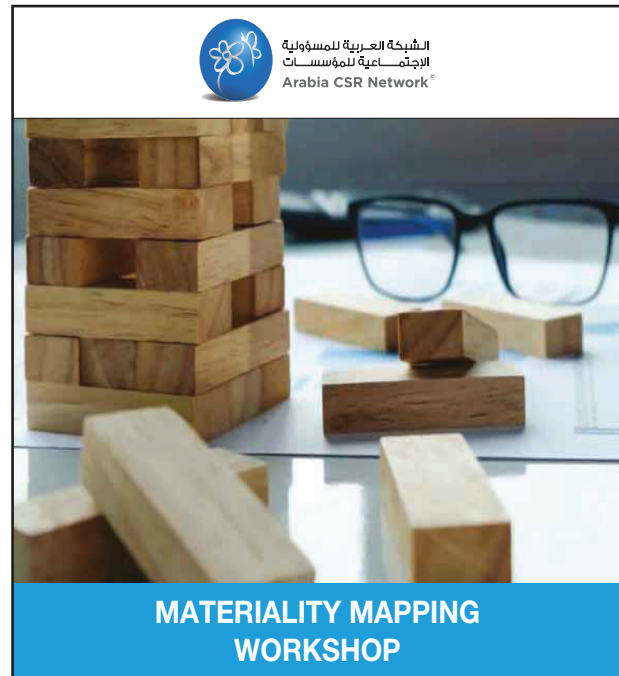


Materiality Mapping Workshop

The material factors an entity may face can vary widely by industry and geography. For example, though governance factors — such as shareholder rights, board composition, and executive compensation — are generally applicable across sectors and industries, not all environmental or social factors are equally material for all entities.

Hence, it is indispensable to identify an organisation's most material risks and opportunities because one can use the resulting insights to better address these issues in strategic planning and reporting. In the one-day workshop conducted by ACSRN on **4th August**, ACSRN explored why material mapping is important and how to conduct one for any company/organisation.

ACSRN believes that such an exercise will make businesses more resilient, encourage more informed decision-making, and save costs through sustainable partnerships.



Stakeholder Engagement Workshop

Strong stakeholder relationships are key to continued growth, solving complex challenges, and ensuring organisational successes.

So, it is inevitable to build trusted relationships through stakeholder analysis and mapping as well as develop action plans that focus on proactive communication strategies.

To elaborate on the same, a virtual workshop was organised on **15th September**. The key learning points of the workshop were as follows:



1 Identify opportunities and strategies to increase trust with specific stakeholders

2 Create a plan to deepen understanding of each stakeholder's needs and capabilities

3 Understand the challenges and opportunities presented by complex stakeholder networks

4 Uncover and visualise priorities and the stakeholder ecosystem that entities are working in

5 Segment and prioritise stakeholder groups using tried and tested methods

6 Establish success criteria for engagement

7 Explore communication styles to facilitate two-way dialogue



ARABIA CSR AWARDS

Arabia CSR Network, being the champion of educating, promoting and raising the banner of corporate social responsibility and sustainability through dozens of channels in the Arab region has been hosting the Arabia CSR Awards annually since 2008. The gala event acts as a grand opportunity to celebrate the magnificent initiatives of national and regional players in the spheres of CSR and sustainability and simultaneously to learn from each other's innovative approaches and success stories. It is worthwhile to state that the entire process from registration to evaluation is kept paperless to lead by example.

What adds to the credibility and reputation of this awards system is that globally recognised frameworks have been enshrined in its judging criteria such as the UN Global Compact Ten Principles, the GRI Standards, the European EFQM business excellence model, the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GSID).



Press Launch of the 15th Cycle of Arabia CSR Awards

In a short span of 15 years, The Arabia CSR Awards has earned wide applause and has become the sustainability barometer of the Arab Region. The Awards have netted valuable backing from local, regional, international and global institutions down the years. Basking in the magnificence success of the last 14 cycles, Arabia CSR Network launched the 15th cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards in a hybrid press ceremony on the **12th January** at the Stella Di Mare Hotel – Dubai Marina.

The press launch informed the attendees of the new additions to the categories and the continuous enhancement of the questionnaires to be on par with the latest international developments in the field of CSR and sustainability. Light was shed on the uniqueness of the Arabia CSR Awards and the wide recognition that it enjoys across the Arab Region and globally as one of the most rigorous award schemes.

"The Arabia CSR Awards aim to help organisations, big and small, government and private, showcase the latest achievements of CSR and Sustainability within their establishments and across their value chain. The 'Green Oscars' of the Arab region, as the awards are called, have helped to raise the standard of CSR and Sustainability practices and benchmark them to global principles, frameworks and best practices." – quoted at the press conference by the Network's Founder, President and CEO.

The press conference was joined by representatives from winners of 2021 cycle, namely China State Construction Engineering Corporation Middle East (L.L.C), Dubai Police and Zurich International Life who shared their experience and the challenges that they faced to come up with a winning application and the rich learning experience that they gained in the process.



Arabia CSR Awards Clinic 2022

With the intention of making the enthusiastic candidates walk through the entire application process for the acclaimed Arabia CSR Awards, an online clinic was organised by the Arabia CSR Network on **7th April**. The Founder, President & CEO of ACSRN explained how the awards system is kept unbiased, transparent and objective. Simultaneously, she also threw some light on the international significance and repute that these accolades have gained over the years.

Later, the session was summarised with vital pieces of information like selection criteria, application draft methodology, available submission methods, and useful tips and information to strengthen the application given by previous winning entities both from the government and the private sectors. With regard to the content of the application, contestants were advised to provide evidence-backed responses, avoid duplications, focus on innovations that caused disruption, state worthwhile collaborations, and display alignment with sustainable development goals.

Arabia CSR Awards Gala Event



In the quest of inching closer to a sustainable future, the Arabia CSR Network organised the 15th cycle of the much-celebrated annual event to felicitate the CSR and sustainability champions of the MENA region on **5th October** at Hyatt Regency Dubai Creek Heights. It was conducted under the patronage of H.E. Eng. Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Department of Civil Aviation of RAK and Member of the Government of Ras Al Khaimah's Executive Council.

The Arabia CSR Awards received **111** registrations from **12** countries under **15** categories, popularly known as the "Green Oscars of the Middle East". Based on a meticulous examination of the documents submitted by the contenders, the jury finalised a list of **31** awardees who were felicitated under **11** categories. The jury also ensured to quench each participant's desire for information with detailed comments and recommendations given in the form of a jury feedback report.

ACSRN appreciates all the government, semi-government and private institutions that collaborated to make the awards ceremony of 2022 an extraordinary accomplishment. Reward and recognition is arguably the most effective way of leaping towards a humongous goal. Now more than ever, it is important that we place a great deal of intention on appreciating and rewarding leaders and organisations in a way that boosts their morale to repeat the same endeavour with more fervour, commitment and consistency.

The Network was grateful to have received the generous support of the following entities: Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (Platinum Sponsor), Tristar Group (Gold Sponsor), Al Sayer Group (Silver Sponsor), McDonald's UAE (Silver Sponsor), ASDA'A BCW (Official Communications Partner), Climate Control Middle East (Media Partner), DNV (Assurance Provider) and Emirates Environmental Group (Environmental Partner). The event was a carbon-neutral event courtesy of Farnek.



Under the Patronage of
H.E. Engineer, Sheikh Salem
Bin Sultan Bin Saqr Al-Qasimi
Chairman of the Ras Al Khaimah Civil Aviation Department



Arabia CSR Awards 2022

Winners List 2022










Winners	Country	Organisation Name
Small Business Category		
Winner	UAE	Acer
1 st Runner Up	UAE	Transworld Group
2 nd Runner Up	UAE	Cyrus Group
Medium Business Category		
Winner	UAE	CANPACK Middle East One Person Company LLC (FDI)
1 st Runner Up	UAE	CROWN Emirates Co. Ltd.
2 nd Runner Up	UAE	TotalEnergies
Large Business Category		
Winner	Bahrain	Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC)
1 st Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	Accenture Middle East
1 st Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	Tristar
2 nd Runner Up	KSA	Saudi Telecom Company (STC)
Public Sector Category - Large		
Winner	UAE	Dubai Electricity & Water Authority
1 st Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	Public Prosecution - Dubai
1 st Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	Roads and Transport Authority - RTA
2 nd Runner Up	UAE	General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs
Social Enterprise Category		
Winner	Sudan	SALAM Social Enterprise
Energy Sector Category		
Winner	Oman	Petroleum Development Oman (PDO)
1 st Runner Up	UAE	ENGIE - International Power S.A. (Dubai Branch)
2 nd Runner Up (Tie)	Oman	OQ
2 nd Runner Up (Tie)	KSA	Northern Area Well Completion Operations
Hospitality Sector Category		
Winner	UAE	Holiday Inn Dubai - Al Barsha
Financial Services Category		
Winner	Morocco	Bank of Africa BMCE Group
1 st Runner Up	UAE	Zurich International Life
2 nd Runner Up	KSA	Riyad Bank
Construction Sector Category		
Winner	UAE	China State Construction Engineering Corporation (Middle East L.L.C.)
Healthcare Sector Category		
Winner	UAE	Aster DM Healthcare

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Arabia CSR Awards 2022



Winners List 2022

Winners	Country	Organisation Name
Partnerships & Collaborations Category		
Winner (Tie)	UAE	Breastfeeding Friends Association
Winner (Tie)	UAE	Aster DM Healthcare
1 st Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	Accenture Middle East
1 st Runner Up (Tie)	Bahrain	Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC)
2 nd Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	DP World UAE Region
2 nd Runner Up (Tie)	UAE	Public Prosecution - Dubai
<div> <div> Platinum Sponsor  </div> <div> Gold Sponsor  </div> <div> Silver Sponsors   </div> <div> Environmental Partner  </div> <div> Official Communications Partner  </div> <div> Assurance Provider  </div> <div> Media Partner  </div> <div> Carbon Neutral event courtesy of  </div> </div>		





Winner - Social Enterprise Category - SALAM Social Enterprise



Winner - Energy Sector Category - Petroleum Development Oman (PDO)



Winner - Hospitality Sector Category - Holiday Inn Dubai - Al Barsha



Winner - Financial Services Category - Bank of Africa BMCE Group



Winner - Construction Category
China State Construction Engineering Corporation Middle East (LLC)



Winner - Healthcare Sector Category - Aster DM Healthcare



Winner - Partnerships & Collaborations Category
Aster DM Healthcare



Winner - Partnerships & Collaborations Category
Breastfeeding Friends Association



Platinum Sponsor - Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC)



Gold Sponsor - Tristar Group



Silver Sponsor - Al Sayer Group



Silver Sponsor - McDonald's UAE



SUMMARY OF WINNERS

ACSRN compiles an annual booklet to highlight the winners of the Arabia CSR Awards and their case studies of superb alignment with corporate social responsibility and sustainability. These booklets are distributed each year at the awards function with an agenda to disperse the brilliant stories to each corner of the Arab region via the participants of the Awards Gala Dinner.

The Winner Booklet also serves as an outstanding reference point for any researcher, sustainability enthusiast and policymaker across the globe to dive deep into the already implemented practices and latest trends.

Profiles of **31** organisations belonging to **6** Arab nations were featured in the Winners Booklet of the 15th cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards which commendably managed to distribute awards in **11** categories collectively.

Dubai Electricity & Water Authority Winner - Public Sector Category Large

With a massive manpower of more than 11,000 employees, Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA) is the body responsible to meet the demand for two crucial basic necessities - water and electricity in Dubai. A stakeholders' happiness strategy formulated on the frameworks of globally-acclaimed standards like GRI and SA8000 lies at the core of DEWA's business operations. DEWA's commitment to the personal and professional well-being of its staff can be gauged from its 330 CSR programmes and 129,636 hours of employee volunteering.

An exceptional accomplishment of the organisation is getting ISO: 20400:2017 certified in the year 2021. This internationally-renowned certification is furnished to those institutions that display outstanding sustainable purchasing practices and deliver sustainable outcomes through their supply chain mechanisms. Over the past decade, DEWA has emerged as a very promising organisation leaping in harmony with the Sustainable Development Goals, Dubai's 8 Principles and 50-Year charter.

Public Prosecution - Dubai 1st Runner-Up - Public Sector Category Large

Founded in 1922, the Public Prosecution - Dubai has decided to base its vision and mission on sustainability by adopting the BS 8900:2013 international standard for sustainable management. Keeping stakeholders satisfied is a highly cherished parameter for the institution and it seems to be acing the charts with whopping scores of 88% in stakeholder satisfaction and 100% in complainants' satisfaction.

The various out-of-the-box initiatives taken up by the Public Prosecution - Dubai like "The Home Prosecution", "One-Day Case", "Smart Sponsorship" and "Nibras Programme" proclaim the amalgamation of social, economic and environmental sustainability with the ethos of the long-standing institution. Dozens of proactive steps testify to the alignment of the organisation's operations with sustainability like the issuance of necessary documents to vulnerable sections of society, focus on occupational health safety, notifying new employees about their rights, duties and work standards etc.

Roads and Transport Authority - RTA 1st Runner-Up - Public Sector Category Large

RTA's goals revolve around maintaining synergy with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, UAE Vision 2021 and Dubai Plan 2021. Its major contributions lie in the fields of sustainable economic growth, sustainable well-being and happiness and sustainable mobility. RTA's case study of the digitalisation of customer services has been quite impressive and the world is eagerly looking forward to the developments of RTA's revised artificial intelligence strategy.

The organisation has made a gigantic contribution to the sector of environmental sustainability through its energy

and green economy projects, effective waste management practices, solar power and smart building initiatives, electric public buses, hydrogen-fueled/electric-powered taxis, power-saving street lights, automation of services etc.

It is worthwhile to state that RTA publishes a sustainability report compliant with GRI Standards. It also bags the title of being the first government body to formulate a green economy framework and also the first to put into place a Happiness Strategy.

General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs - Dubai 2nd Runner-Up - Public Sector Category Large

Incorporated in 1977, the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) - Dubai has streamlined its strategies in accordance with the UN SDGs and uses the Sustainability Maturity Matrix annually. Additionally, it is accredited to global sustainability standards like Environment ISO14001, Institutional Sustainability System BS8900, Social Responsibility ISO26000, Combating Corruption ISO37001 etc. The credit to compile the 1st comprehensive implementation guide for governance also goes to GDRFA - Dubai.

Stakeholder satisfaction is counted among the top-most priorities of the institution and hence regular staff meetings to discuss their issues, opinion surveys, periodic questionnaires, Electronic Administrative Operations Management System (ARIS) and performance reports are integral parts of the entity's work culture. Perhaps, the most groundbreaking innovation of GDRFA - Dubai is the development of the first-of-its-kind employee training platform.

Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company Winner - Large Business Category

Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) is a global manufacturer of fertilisers and petrochemicals with products being ammonia, methanol and urea. GPIC's contribution towards sustainable development is reflected by its projects in the areas of biodiversity, STEM knowledge among the youth, greening of operations and climate change mitigation. They took special care of their staff during and post the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Brilliant steps were taken by GPIC for energy savings and reduction of carbon footprint, for instance, carbon recovery and the use of LEDs. The most astonishing success of the firm was discarding zero hazardous waste in landfills since 2021. GPIC has also been the trailblazer in the region to join the UN Global Compact and sign up for the Women Empowerment Principles and Food & Agriculture Business Principles.

Accenture Middle East 1st Runner Up - Large Business Category

It is quite stupendous to imagine a large entity like Accenture with a global workforce of 710,000 and a client base in 120+ countries delivering impeccably on sustainability

goals. Over time, the organisation has immersed itself in addressing vital issues like climate change, zero-carbon economy, human rights, diversity and inclusion, mental and physical well-being of employees and equality for all.

Apart from enriching customer experiences through their leading digital, cloud and security services, Accenture has used technology to its advantage in the context of sustainability. Smart building systems, robotics, digitalisation, cloud computing and other high-end products & services enable the firm to deliver a large-scale positive impact in the social and environmental spheres. With the objective of equipping more and more people to deal with the complex challenges of the modern era, Accenture launches various innovation-related programmes like the "Ideas Accelerator Programme" and "Social Innovators Training Programme".

Tristar

1st Runner Up - Large Business Category

Tristar has made its name in the sector of energy logistics business especially serving the oil and gas industry and is headquartered in Dubai. It has given a high priority to sustainable development goals in its business operations by addressing material issues like occupational health and safety, forced child labour, GHG emissions, and local community and environmental compliance.

In addition to organising impactful road safety awareness activities to mobilise communities, Tristar has successfully harnessed technology to improve the driver safety of their fleet by incorporating an artificially intelligent In-Vehicle-Monitoring System (IVMS). Other promising projects of the firm include the use of carbon capture technologies, the launch of a Green Road Initiative, the introduction of hybrid cars in the corporate fleet, the replication of solar rooftop projects in various Tristar facilities, the adoption of double stacking vehicles, the expansion of organic farming, no usage of single-use plastic and the implementation of a paperless business transaction policy in their offices worldwide.

Saudi Telecom Company

2nd Runner Up - Large Business Category

Saudi Telecom Company (STC) is a credible Saudi-based ICT firm that provides a variety of services including telecommunication, IT, financial technology, digital media, cyber-security and other advanced digital solutions.

The alignment of STC with UN SDGs and Saudi Vision 2030 is evident from the technical and capacity-building support it offered to small and medium enterprises during the struggling phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organisation's commitment to the Paris Agreement 2015 and the UN Global Compact drives it to achieve the ambitious goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. STC's structured sustainability policy is engrained deeply in its vision, mission and values. As a result, numerous splendid initiatives have been taken by STC such as the inte-

gration of a solar photovoltaic network with the existing infrastructure of the nation, knowledge exchange with non-profits, volunteering opportunities for staff etc.

CANPACK Middle East One Person Company LLC (FDI)

Winner - Medium Business Category

Building a huge staff of 8,000 within a span of 3 decades, CANPACK has emerged as a pioneer in the niche of beverage packaging manufacturing and its branch in the Middle East has become a frontrunner private firm executing inspirational sustainable development practices. CANPACK's corporate pillars encompass aspects of human rights, health & safety, and the environment.

All of the materials used to create CANPACK products are 100% recyclable. It has been progressively thinking in the direction of reducing the quantity of raw materials required in the production process to minimise the impact of carbon emissions. It is also devoted to social responsibility through its community engagement programmes with non-profit organisations.

CROWN Emirates Co. Ltd.

1st Runner Up - Medium Business Category

CROWN Emirates Co. Ltd. through its subsidiaries, Crown Holdings, Inc. is a major global provider of rigid, transit and protective packaging materials, equipment, and services to a wide range of end markets. Crown has adopted a comprehensive action plan with the title 'Twentyby30' with an intention to bring about reforms in the following areas over the passage of 10 years - regulatory and supply chain processes, employee safety, diversity and inclusion, workforce skill upgradation etc. A special body comprising 3 directors nominated by the Board of Directors of Crown is formulated known as "Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee" (NCGC). It proactively and consistently scrutinises the ESG practices of the organisation. Crown lays special emphasis on implementing sustainable water management and product procurement strategies by cultivating the atmosphere of innovative designs, decreased wastage and ethical sourcing in the company.

TotalEnergies

2nd Runner Up - Medium Business Category

TotalEnergies is one of the firms whose core business of producing fuels, natural gas and electricity directly exacerbates the menace of climate change. However, the company seems to be pretty optimistic about the agenda of prioritising sustainable development and hence has laudably succeeded in offsetting GHG emissions through the use of latest technologies, waste recycling and reuse initiatives, and reduction in diesel consumption.

TotalEnergies' sincere outlook towards safeguarding the environment is evident from the activities like discouragement of single-use plastics in the office premises and plantation drives powered by employee-community en-

agement programmes. Moreover, the company publishes an annual sustainability report in accordance with the parameters set by reputed institutions like GRI, SASB and World Economic Forum.

Acer

Winner - Small Business Category

Acer UAE is part of Acer International, undoubtedly ranking among the world's top ICT companies with its stupendous coverage of 160+ countries. A striking feature of Acer's approach towards sustainability is the presence of a Corporate Sustainability Committee (CSC) that is solely responsible for the examination and enunciation of CSR-related practices in the company's policy, strategy and operations.

Employee satisfaction holds a significant place in Acer's sustainability agenda. Hence, management meetings to discuss staff complaints, employee engagement surveys, anti-harassment surveys, gender equality provisions, and non-discrimination rules are a normal part of day-to-day affairs. From the point of view of community engagement, Acer immerses itself in a broad range of projects, for instance, tree planting campaigns, volunteering at animal shelters, distribution of computers to underprivileged kids, distribution of clothes etc.

Transworld Group

1st Runner Up - Small Business Category

Transworld strives to provide exceptional shipping and logistics services while parallelly infusing the principles of corporate social responsibility and sustainability with 4 of its central pillars namely Marine stewardship of the environment, Health, Food & water security, Gender equity & inclusion and Education, arts & civic education. The staff enthusiastically participates in beach cleanup drives, plastic and paper recycling campaigns and other environmental projects. Orientation sessions are organised for the employees to elaborate on the synergy between the company's goals and sustainable development goals.

Another admirable practice of Transworld is the regular conduct of SDG gap analysis and materiality assessment which helps the firm gauge its position relative to the KPIs contributing to the sustainable development goals. Concurrently, the GRI standards are followed to visualise risks and opportunities, plan reforms and carve the organisation's future in harmony with social and environmental upliftment.

Cyrus Group

2nd Runner Up - Small Business Category

Cyrus Group of Companies is a cluster of multiple organisations that has gained a foothold in diverse industries ranging from production logistics and quality management to transportation and storage facilities. The Group's commitment to UNSDGs is demonstrated by its membership in Dubai Chamber Sustainability Network, Cambridge Cleantech, SME Cleantech Hub and Nordic

Circular Hotspot. The "Green Procurement Programme" policy adopted by Cyrus Group aligns its vision with UAE's strategies for decarbonisation and net zero goals to pave the way to the top of the sustainable countries' list. The company's non-financial reports are generated in accordance with the renowned standards of UN Global Compact, GRI, Ecovadis and Dubai Chamber of Commerce Eco-Label. Workshops, training and awareness sessions are planned periodically to keep the staff on their toes for quick adaptation to evolving CSR and sustainability policies in the organisation.

Bank of Africa BMCE Group

Winner - Financial Services Category

With a dream to make Africa the continent of the 21st Century, the Bank of Africa BMCE has accelerated its endeavour over the past years in the areas of sustainability and corporate social responsibility. BMCE follows a dual materiality method of report generation wherein the sustainability factors affecting the growth of the organisation are taken into account and simultaneously the banking activities' effect on social and environmental subjects is measured as well.

It is worthwhile to mention that BMCE contributed financially to support the declining state of small and medium-sized enterprises during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also stood tall in impacting livelihoods by innovating products to suit customer requirements for their long-term benefit. The bank's plans of action are guided by the UN's Principles for Responsible Banking and UNEP FI's guidelines.

Zurich International Life

1st Runner Up - Financial Services Category

Zurich is an insurance provider with a scale of operations extending to 200+ countries. It manifests ESG integration into its business practices to achieve the target of net zero emissions by 2050 for social, economic and environmental upliftment. The organisation conducts meticulous materiality assessments to figure out the key material issues with the help of stakeholders, risk management experts and sustainability advisors.

Zurich's contribution to promoting young people of determination and sponsoring classrooms at Al Noor Centre is quite praiseworthy. Globally, the firm has promoted educational programmes for women and children in Nepal and has worked in support of the COVID-19 UN vaccination programme to supply vaccines to the poorer regions of the world. It also distributed 207 tons of food and essentials to Ukraine, supporting more than 5,000 people per month.

Riyad Bank

2nd Runner Up - Financial Services Category

Riyad Bank is one of the largest financial institutions in the Middle East whose mission is to inject the economy with sustainable financial products and services. The bank synchronises impactful corporate social responsibility

practices based on the 17 UNSDGs and the Saudi Kingdom's 2030 Vision, with its business strategy and operations. In 2021, Riyad Bank expended USD 750 Million on ESG projects, a hefty chunk of it going to environmental projects.

Maintaining a fair and respectful workplace is a prominent factor in the organisation's dedication to sustainability. The presence of a CSR Committee in the bank reflects their sincerity towards global issues.

The specialised committee provides guidance to the long-term CSR strategy, sets the standards and targets, determines new initiatives, and reviews ongoing programmes. It has expanded its work with smaller businesses by adding 30 dedicated SME centres spread across the KSA.

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) Winner - Energy Sector Category

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) is the predominant oil and gas exploration and production company located in the Sultanate of Oman. It contributes the largest proportion of crude oil and natural gas in the country. Since PDO has made an ambitious goal to fulfil 30% of its energy demand from renewable sources by 2025, it lays a special focus on the development of innovative renewable energy solutions. It has recently released a comprehensive roadmap to decarbonise its operations until 2050.

PDO approved during the past two years 74 big sustainable projects. The 'Climate Change and Sustainability Manager' in the organisation dedicatedly works to explore opportunities for 'Green Financing' for the projects. Annual social responsibility programmes like the national initiative to plant 10 million trees consume a decent portion of the institution's budget. PDO's special emphasis on the education and training of its employees resulted in 264+ technical and non-technical training courses being offered to the staff in 2020 & 2021.

ENGIE - International Power S.A. (Dubai Branch) 1st Runner Up - Energy Sector Category

ENGIE's objective is to foster an environment where reduced energy consumption and environmentally-friendly solutions are given prime importance. With its humongous workforce of 170,000, it was able to avoid 26MT of CO₂ EQ emissions in 2021. Due to ENGIE's persistent efforts, 7 million beneficiaries have gained access to renewable energy sources since 2018.

ENGIE has laid a lot of emphasis on supply chain sustainability by ensuring that suppliers' commitments to carbon neutrality are aligned with ENGIE's objectives, monitoring the CO₂ production cost and working with stakeholders to increase purchased captured CO₂ and define a Sustainable Procurement roadmap for AMEA. ENGIE has also been actively engaged in bringing access to clean energy, potable water, education, and local employment opportunities within the reach of many.

OQ

2nd Runner Up - Energy Sector Category

OQ SAOC is a public sector firm of the Sultanate of Oman that deals in the exploration, production, marketing and distribution of fuels and chemicals in 70+ countries. Sustainability has been engrained as an uncompromisable value in OQ's operations to strengthen its position as a leading local and global energy company. OQ's association with societal issues and community development has been noticeable with a balanced allocation of the budget to national and local community projects.

To fulfil the sustainable energy agenda, OQ joined hands with renowned international partners and developed 4 large green hydrogen projects in the country. OQ's splendid supply-chain reforms are conspicuous in the form of a supply screening process for ESG inclusive of human rights issues. The organisation ran support and awareness programmes to help SMEs develop their ESG policies. To ensure environmental upgradation in the country; OQ collaborated with the Environment Authority in Oman in developing the Oman Environmental Strategy.

Northern Area Well Completion Operations Department

2nd Runner Up - Energy Sector Category

Northern Area Well Completion Operations Department (NAWCOD) is involved in conducting well services and completion activities for Aramco Oil and Gas wells in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. NAWCOD has been conducting yearly evaluations of its Environmental Management Systems, Environmental Protection programmes, Enterprise Risks, Circular Economy, and Corporate Social Responsibility plans. NAWCOD has regularly engaged with local non-profit organisations to ascertain its annual plan for CSR activities. One of the CSR examples of NAWCOD's activities during the COVID-19 pandemic was to support school students in remote areas by providing them with laptops so that they could continue with their online learning and avoid disruption of their education.

Perhaps the most remarkable achievement of NAWCOD has been to execute 'The Zero Flaring' project in 2020. In this project, all wells' treatment operations involving flow-back and flaring of hydrocarbons into the atmosphere were stopped and replaced by NAWCOD's ZDT (Zero Flaring Technologies) which resulted in zero flaring.

Holiday Inn Dubai - Al Barsha Winner - Hospitality Sector Category

Holiday Inn Dubai - Al Barsha (HIAB) generates sustainability reports by evaluating the work and performance done on 9 SDGs on a 3-monthly basis. HIAB employees are provided frequent training and orientation sessions and are regularly involved in various projects with the community like Clean-Up UAE, Earth Hour, UAE Green Festival etc. The employees are enthusiastically engaged in promoting regional initiatives like "Say No to Plastic", "Reuse Linen", and "Use Biodegradable Toiletries".

The hotel follows strong SOPs for waste management (segregation, reduction, reuse & recycling), water & energy usage, efficiency and health & safety standards. Stringent F&B procedures are in place like restrictions on serving poorly farmed seafood and replacing plastic with biodegradable materials wherever possible such as straws. The company has carefully crafted HR and whistleblowing procedures, and grievance-redressal mechanisms.

Aster DM Healthcare **Winner - Healthcare Sector Category**

Aster DM Healthcare provides healthcare services through its vast network of hospitals, clinics, diagnostic labs and pharmacies. Aster has prioritised environmental risk management and has also laid emphasis on:

- Energy efficiency by following the ISO 50001 and Green Building standards
- Water management through regular water audits retrofits and recheck
- Materials' efficiency by having in place an environment-friendly purchase policy
- Biodiversity by promoting and developing natural habitats in the regions of their operations

Aster has systematically organised numerous medical camps through the Aster Volunteer Mobile Medical Clinics (AVMMS) programme. Aster Volunteers have also displayed their high regard for social sustainability by raising support for the Fazza International Championship for people of determination. Other local initiatives comprise the Women's Wellness Campaign Webinar, the vaccination drives at some of their facilities; countless blood donation camps and hunger eradication programmes.

China State Construction Engineering Corporation (Middle East L.L.C) **Winner - Construction Sector Category**

China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) is a Chinese construction and investment giant operating in 100+ countries and regions around the globe. It deals in a diversity of fields including real estate, infrastructure, comprehensive urban construction, etc.

CSCEC is accredited to have successfully executed 100+ mega projects including the prestigious Palm Jumeirah in Dubai. The company considers its success a direct outcome of its sustainability policy, which is heavily influenced by global frameworks and standards such as the SDGs and the GRI.

CSCEC has been deeply committed to improving the global construction industry; by enhancing people's well-being. The organisation led from the front to protect people's lives and the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic. By the end of 2020, CSCEC successfully managed to retain more than 12,000 employees. Additionally, an impressive step of providing over 5 million masks, 40 thousand bottles of disinfectant, and 30 thousand pieces

of protective clothing was taken to ensure their safety and health.

SALAM Social Enterprise **Winner - Social Enterprise Category**

Salam Social Enterprise (Salam Factory) is a platform that aspires to revolutionise the trend of community development and women's empowerment in Sudan. It was set up with the objective of supporting the women of Sudan to become financially independent by engaging them in producing local face masks and other community products. Salam has opened up opportunities to provide women from vulnerable segments with a platform for continuous learning and engaging in productive job opportunities. In order to address the gender skills gap, skills were imparted to women in segments such as tailoring and production of bags, face masks and sanitary pads.

Women constitute 80% of the workforce in Salam's factory. The manufacturing of low-cost sanitary pads has been instrumental for young girls and women who previously had no access to these basic facilities. Salam has smartly introduced a model that has brought dual benefits: an end to the financial hardships and lack of job opportunities faced by underprivileged Sudanese women; and a choice for the public to buy sustainable and environment-friendly products.

Breastfeeding Friends Association **Winner - Partnerships and Collaborations Category**

Recognising the importance of breastfeeding in the physical and psychological health of mothers and children, the Breastfeeding Friends Association was established in 1999 by a group of breastfeeding advocates.

The association launches numerous impactful initiatives and programmes. One of them is the "Breastfeeding Guides Programme" which is a sustainable annual developmental awareness programme; focusing on several aspects, including breastfeeding and the social, health-related, psychological and religious care of mothers and children. It also imparts communication skills to counselors to equip them in providing support and suggestions to mothers during pregnancy and lactation, instilling an awareness of the importance of breastfeeding and the harm and risks of using breast milk substitutes. The programme is available to all nationalities and was successfully transformed into a digital platform during the pandemic.

Aster DM Healthcare **Winner - Partnerships and Collaborations Category**

Aster DM Healthcare is a patient-centric quality healthcare facility across the Middle East and Asia Pacific region. By developing a diverse network of state-of-art hospitals, clinics and pharmacies, Aster covers the complete life cycle of healthcare from primary to quaternary care. Through its multi-faceted partnerships for various pro-

grammes, Aster has become the first preference as an end-to-end healthcare service provider in the eyes of a large customer base.

Aster Volunteers Mobile Medical Services (AVMMS) is an awesome channel for delivering quality healthcare through partnerships with the local community, medical colleges, and regulatory authorities to financially weaker sections of society in remote areas. This initiative has positively impacted almost half a million lives since its commencement 10 years ago. The brand has also formed Aster's Sick Kids Foundation to support the medical treatment of children from needy families. Relevant workshops and training sessions are carried out for skill development which motivates all partners to continuously learn, develop and enhance their stakeholder experiences.

Accenture Middle East 1st Runner Up - Partnerships and Collaborations Category

Accenture is a globally-renowned professional services company with exceptional capabilities in digital, cloud and security. Accenture ME had partnered with Expo 2020 Dubai thereby utilising the opportunity to extend its technological expertise. The Expo 2020 provided a platform where Accenture ME and the Al Ghurair Foundation could come together to enter into an agreement to support the Arab Youth Up-skilling project.

The firm also collaborated with:

- Al Noor Centre to sponsor and support students
- Al Ghurair Foundation to support Arab Youth Upskilling, and in co-producing a white paper on bridging the employability gap
- The Big Heart Foundation Sharjah for sponsoring underprivileged children
- Al Manzil Center for supporting tuition fees of students

The company regularly promotes communication with its partners through various channels including direct interactions, newsletters, emails, announcements and reports. For its social projects, Accenture and its partners have put down clear KPIs for assessment.

Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) 1st Runner Up - Partnerships and Collaborations Category

Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) is the only petrochemical-producing company headquartered in the Kingdom of Bahrain; it sells its products both locally and globally. In 2004, GPIC in association with the Ministry of Education (MoE) in the Kingdom of Bahrain launched its CSR programme. GPIC and the Student Affairs Department - MoE in Bahrain also implement the 'Schools Environmental Research Programme' (SERP) which is a platform aimed at supporting students from government and private Schools in Bahrain.

Under the GPIC Environmental Research Award, the company extends sponsorship support to selected sustainability-related programmes of research and the top 3 are awarded annually. The programme, since its inception, has received 1,178 projects. There are 443 beneficiary schools, and 2,700+ students as project beneficiaries. The project partnership has been successfully sustained through regular communication among key stakeholders and project partners. Project update meetings, goals settings, reviews, appraisals and reporting are done on a regular basis.

DP World UAE Region 2nd Runner Up - Partnerships and Collaborations Category

DP World is a multinational logistics company based in the UAE. It specialises in cargo logistics, port terminal operations, maritime services and free trade zones. DP World and the famous Jane Goodall Institute agreed to a 3-year partnership in 2021 to encourage and promote the expansion of the transnational philanthropic and environmental programme for the youth, called 'Roots and Shoots'. It has been supporting environmental conservation, the creation of useful resources relating to the marine ecosystem and strengthening STEM and logistical skills, important requirements for the maritime and logistics industries. The project has 140+ Roots and Shoots groups in the UAE. These have included school groups, college groups, university groups, community groups, family groups and youth groups, and approximately 120,000+ students are engaged. Across the globe, 700,000+ young people are involved in Roots and Shoots and DP World's resources will be shared among all groups.

Public Prosecution - Dubai 2nd Runner Up - Partnerships and Collaborations Category

A bold administrative step titled "Awaser" was taken in 2012, which empowered the Public Prosecution - Dubai to recycle or donate the confiscated items associated with crimes. This turned out to be the most favourable utilisation of criminal resources and emerged as an international best-case practice since the donations were directly reaching the needy through state-approved charities. Besides addressing poverty, it also contributed to environmental sustainability by preventing GHGs from arising out of the destruction of seized items. Later, the programme was globalised in partnership with the Emirates Red Crescent Society.

Another applaudable programme was the "Management of Seizures", approved in the year 2021. It was purposefully aligned with community initiatives, for instance, giving donations of usable office furniture to charitable schools and organisations. Astonishingly, 6,093 computers and accessories were donated. The PP - Dubai also undertook the recycling of damaged papers and expired ink cartridges with private companies and the recycling of non-degradable items such as plastic and oils.



CSR EVENTS & CORPORATE OUTREACH

The role of multi-stakeholder partnerships and outreach in realising our far-flung but inspiring goals of Agenda 2030 cannot be emphasised enough as evident from Sustainable Development Goal #17. Representation and networking at the national, regional and global levels have not only empowered the Arabia CSR Network to elevate the standard, scale and impact of its programmes and activities. Rather, they have offered ample opportunities to convey the Network's ideas to an influential community of lawmakers, executives, activists and a myriad of social influencers.

ACSRN ensured its presence at numerous events and platforms in 2022 to eagerly share its evidence-based perspectives on the most pressing issues and sustainability challenges facing the world in general and CSR in particular. The topics covered revolved around climate change, economic sustainability, workers' welfare, net zero carbon, technological disruptions, sustainable infrastructural transformations, capacity development, renewable energy, women empowerment, gender equality, financing for sustainable development etc.

The Network has a firm belief that rich discussions and their valuable conclusions can reshape how we live and interact with the physical as well as social environment.

National, Regional & International Engagements

NATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

World Majlis in Expo 2020

ACSRN President & CEO joined the World Majlis as a panel speaker under the topic "Healthier World, Healthier People: Designing Spaces that Heal our Planet" which was held at the Terra Auditorium in Expo 2020 Dubai, on **30th January**. She was invited by H.E. Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General of Expo 2020 Dubai.

With an emphasis on innovation, technology and local knowledge, the conversations focused on areas where architecture can offer answers for cities and communities, how design can assist in developing resilient places to live in harmony with the natural world, and the greatest problems in designing and building spaces that cater to people's welfare while also being beneficial for the environment.



Judging the Sharjah Excellence Award Programme

The President & CEO of ACSRN also joined another important award programme as a jury member on the panel of the Sharjah Excellence Award. The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) hosted a gala reception to appreciate the excellence of business enterprises. The prestigious awards were distributed in nine categories



to recognise the productive, creative, innovative and sustainable achievements of private and public sector organisations in the Emirate of Sharjah.

The SCCI Chairman proclaimed that Sharjah Excellence Awards over time have proved to have fostered the environment of investment and growth in alignment with the vision, aspirations and goals of the Sharjah government. As a consequence, the institution would continue to nurture this programme and in fact, plan to launch more of such incredible initiatives that carry the potential to boost Sharjah's economy.

Tristar Leadership Summit 2022

The Founder, President, and CEO of ACSRN attended the Tristar Group Leadership Summit 2022 on **10th June** and served as the event's chief guest. She made a special presentation on the topic of "Sustainability & Environment" and discussed Net Zero in depth. The Founder & CEO of Tristar Group, and ACSRN President also introduced the 10th Tristar Sustainability Report for 2021 during the summit. Tristar is today the largest privately-owned liquid logistics firm in the Middle East. At the end of the summit, the staff were recognised for their devotion and dedication to the Group that has contributed to Tristar's success.



Two Minute Interview Series

On **15th June** via its social media channels, Gulf Intelligence featured the Founder, President & CEO of ACSRN, in their interview series titled "The Two Minute Warning International Feature Interview Series." Exclusive interviews with top figures in the sustainability and energy fields are held to delve further into what is the largest change to the world's energy markets in a century.

"Playing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Correctly Enabled Companies to Thrive during Crisis" was the subject of her speech. She discussed CSR, the responsiveness of the entities in implementing their ESGs, the major issues that businesses frequently bring up or the barriers to their adoption of ESG frameworks, among other topics, throughout the interview.

Century Financial on CSR and Sustainability



"Sustainability & U", a new effort from Century Financial advocates for collaborative real-world action by educating stakeholders on sustainable practices that have an influence on the economic, environmental and social situations. It also supports governance that promotes a robust global economy.

ACSRN Founder, President & CEO had the pleasure of inaugurating the initiative on **6th July** as a Chief Guest.

Century Financial has been encouraging Millennials and Gen Z to appreciate and invest in businesses that promote the SDGs. They even have an incentive programme for their employees to be driven to participate in sustainability programmes and events.

The employee is rewarded for participation with Century Coins, a rewards programme that allows employees to redeem the coins for vouchers that can be used to purchase food, fashion and more.

Emirati Women's Day – Saluting the 21st Century multitaskers



The 7th year celebration of "Emirati Women's" day was virtually organised on **28th August** by Century Financial and attended by eminent Emirati women personalities who have emerged as role models of many over the past years due to their incredible success stories. The event was marked by an inspiring panel discussion on how women have successfully altered the long-standing stereotype revolving around their success and participation in crucial sectors. The theme was "Inspiring Reality... Sustainable Future".

President of ACSRN was a panellist, she emphasised the importance of self-discovery and perseverance for a woman to embark on the journey to success. To conclude, all the women leaders present at the forum ac-

knowledged the existence sometimes of a glass ceiling which can obstruct passionate young women to leap equally to a man and at the same token concurred the fact that creativity and dedication give everyone unimaginable power to overcome all hurdles including society's narrow perception as well.

The ICC-UAE and Business Councils Meeting

ACSRN was represented by its President at the International Chamber of Commerce - UAE and Business Councils Meeting conducted at the Dubai Chambers on **16th September**. The roundtable dialogue was initiated with the intention to figure out how ICC-UAE can further support the interest of businesses and remove trade barriers. The forum was considered quite beneficial in accomplishing the objective of raising awareness about the activities and benefits offered by the ICC-UAE.

The participants got clarity about how to leverage the resources of ICC-UAE to maximise their business efficiency in terms of streamlining logistics and global supply chain operations.



National Dialogue for Climate Ambition (NDCA)

- 1st session – **17th May**
- 3rd session – **28th July**
- 4th session – **29th August**

It is a no-brainer that the active participation and commitment of private enterprises towards the reduction of greenhouse emissions is inevitable to achieve the highly ambitious goal of net zero by 2050. Keeping that in mind, NDCA launched by the MOCCAE held sector-wise discussions periodically from May to September 2022 targeting crucial GHG-emitting industries like cement, transport, energy, manufacturing etc. Three of the crucial sessions were attended by the President and CEO of ACSRN.

The assembly featured a variety of discussions on topics such as global perspectives on financing for sustainable development, the difficulties and lessons learned in achieving net zero, the laws and other enablers required between public and private institutions, the generation of sustainability reports, bringing about supply chain transformations and mentorship of small UAE firms etc.

It is impressive to note that the 4th NDCA succeeded in getting the approval of 20+ relevant entities operating in various spheres to sign a NET ZERO pledge.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Engagement with Dignitaries

Founder, President and CEO of Arabia CSR Network proactively took a step forward and met in the last quarter of the year, celebrated personalities from outside the United Arab Emirates, to widen the horizon of Arabia CSR Awards and the impact of sustainability practices. Eminent personalities included the Consul General of the Republic of Egypt, The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon.

During the meetings, she expressed the objective of regional collaboration to spread the influence of Arabia CSR Awards and promote a culture of appreciating responsible corporate practices being adopted widely in the Arab World.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

UNHCR Philanthropy Circle

ACSRN attended on **11th January** the Philanthropy Circle event that was organised by its corporate member - Accenture in collaboration with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. The event was held at the Partners Hub in Expo 2020, Dubai.

An interactive forum was held to discuss the findings of the research on the Middle East region's philanthropic landscape as well as the leaders of the circle's goals and methods for effecting change. With a more diversified workforce in the future, Accenture & UNHCR have a great opportunity to create a greater impact by including more refugees and immigrants.

Public briefing of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development in the Global Economic Context

ACSRN attended virtually on **9th February** the public briefing of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development in the Global Economic Context. The event was organised by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). The purpose of the briefing was to address the Addis-Ababa Agenda's implementation status, additional Financing for Development results, and strategies for carrying out the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In addition, while taking into account the national and regional elements, the meeting discussed how to follow up on progress, cover implementation gaps and put constructive recommendations for remedial actions.

Working Breakfast - "Sustainable Strategies of the Private Sector"

ACSRN attended on **26th February** a working breakfast organised by the Embassy of Switzerland to coincide with the visits of the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Director General of the Swiss Development Corporation. ACSRN's President was invited to the event by H.E. the Ambassador of Switzerland to the United Arab Emirates and Kingdom of Bahrain.

Participants discussed how nations might preserve and protect nature in their COVID-19 recovery programmes to rebuild in a more equitable, environmentally friendly, and natural way. The need for public-private engagement in the region's journey of economic and social change was also highlighted.

The Sustainable Urban Development Conference

Arabia CSR Network supported EEG and Global Urban Development (GUD) in convening a mega-international conference titled – The Sustainable Urban Development Conference on **16th March** at Expo 2020, Dubai.

The conference shed light on the characteristics of the building sector, its impact on energy, environmental quality, economic and social status, and the underlying opportunities and challenges in the future. The gathering also examined the potential avenues towards a partial or full de-carbonisation of the sector.

The conference focused on the theme "The Future of Housing Innovations for Developing Affordable and Sustainable Communities" and invited global experts to share their insights. The forum accomplished its objective to create awareness about the future of housing in the Arab world and internationally. It also recognised innovative projects and sustainable housing programmes that have delivered positive changes in the building sector.



UN SDG Investment Fair

ACSRN virtually attended the UN SDG Investment Fair that was organised by UN DESA on **26th – 28th April**, with the topic of the fair being "Domestic and International Private Business and Finance." It was discussed that it is crucial to recognise that the private sector includes a wide range of diverse actors when attempting to understand their role in financing sustainable development.

These actors range from single households and international migrants to multinational corporations, from direct investors to financial intermediaries like banks and pension funds.

The objective of the fair was to support high-impact sustainable development initiatives in developing and frontier markets.

Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-hosted the 9th Annual Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development, which was held in a hybrid format from **23rd – 25th May**, and focused on methods to solve problems with human security in light of environmental deterioration and climate change.

The ACSRN President & CEO attended and spoke on the 2nd day at a closed session under the topic "Research and dialogue on environmental security in the Gulf." Discussions at the meeting focused on the potential for regional cooperation on water desalination development projects, the potential for creating regional environmental standards for water desalination, and policy discussions on harmonising food security plans.



Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice

ACSRN President was felicitated with the highly celebrated Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice on **30th June** in Abu Dhabi by the Harmony Foundation in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Motherhood and Child under the kind patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak (Mother of the Nation).

The accolade has a long history of enhancing the already glorious reputation of several luminaries around the globe including the UAE. The institutions unanimously chose the President of ACSRN to be a highly worthy candidate for the award owing to her philanthropic contributions, unceasingly intense advocacy for environmental protection and visionary programmes for short and long-term sustainable changes across the Arab region.



ICGN Global Stewardship Awards 2022 – Honouring asset managers at their best

The ICGN Global Stewardship Awards is a medium to appreciate excellence in creating a transparent model of investor stewardship.

Six nominees were finalised out of the list of asset managers who successfully managed more than GBP 60bn of assets while concurrently offering a good insight into their implementation policies and CSR practices, for others to follow. The Founder, President & CEO of ACSRN joined 5 reputed dignitaries from all over the world to adjudicate this prestigious awards.

'Urban Thinkers Campus' at the UN-Habitat

ACSRN President & CEO was delighted to join virtually as a speaker at the United Nations Habitat - Urban Thinkers Campus to address the audience on the topic "New Technologies, Materials, and Methods for Affordable and Sustainable Construction and Development" on **11th November**. The panel comprised experts from the fields of housing and urban development from all parts of the world.

In her presentation, she laid stress on the existing housing policies in UAE and the contribution of governing bodies in encouraging eco-friendly infrastructural practices.

GRI's 1st Regional Virtual Café

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) organised the first Regional Virtual Café of 2022 for all GRI Community members, which ACSRN attended on **31st May**. Making CSR and sustainability reporting a normal practice for all businesses and organisations in the region has been a goal of ACSRN, the first GRI-accredited training partner (2011–2022) in the Arabic-speaking Middle East countries. The Regional Virtual Café afforded the members an opportunity to interact and discuss regional CSR and sustainability issues.

CEBC ENGAGEMENT

Building Blocks for Developing an ESCO Market in Lebanon

Lebanon's power supply has become chaotic with diesel generators polluting urban areas and causing detrimental health impacts. However, the country possesses vast, untapped renewable energy potential that can be harnessed to solve these issues.

To that end, the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC) and the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) published a white paper titled "Building Blocks for Developing an ESCO Market in Lebanon" through a webinar on **5th September** where ACSRN also participated.

The paper suggested that improving energy efficiency and transitioning to renewable sources are crucial first steps. The paper provided building blocks for establishing an ESCO market in Lebanon, analysing the best practices and trends in the international and Arab spheres. The recommendations focused on institutional, legal, policy, technical and financial aspects.

GSID ALLIANCE ENGAGEMENTS

1. GISSD Strategy Group

The GISSD Strategy Group held a virtual meeting on **8th – 9th March**, ACSRN President as a board member of the GISSD Alliance attended the two-day event. The GISSD Alliance Co-Chair and the Lead of the new GISSD Engagement Group provided crucial interventions at the conference that focused on GISSD's outreach and engagement initiatives. Since its founding, the GISSD Alliance has created standards and technologies that are intended to move trillions of dollars to close the financial gap and implement the UN's 2030 Agenda. The goal of the GISSD Alliance is to work on proliferating sustainable investment with realistic deadlines, objectives, and strategies in order to create a sustainable, net zero, resilient, and equitable society.

2. GISSD Work-stream on SDG alignment

ACSRN President and CEO also attended a meeting of a new work-stream on Aligning Investment with Sustainable Development that took place on **7th April** in order to direct investments to the nations and industries that are most in need. The GISSD Alliance is striving to identify investment barriers, create a pipeline of projects that are ready for investment, and create new platforms and scalable instruments. There were two sub-groups inside the new work stream. Building upon the notion of sustainable development investing (SDI), the first sub-group concentrated on increasing the alignment of investment portfolios and investment products with the SDGs. The second sub-group expanded on the sector-specific SDG indicators developed by the GISSD and evaluated the methodology used to measure the effect of businesses on sustainable development.

3. GISSD Alliance Spotlight Session

ACSRN participated in 2 GISSD (Global Investors for Sustainable Development) Spotlight Sessions from **April 26th – 28th**. The aim of these sessions was to explore ways to increase private financing for sustainable development and to optimise the impact of investments in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By attending these sessions, Arabia CSR Network was able to share its expertise and learn from others in the field, further contributing to the mission of advancing sustainable development through strategic investments.

4. GISSD Work-stream on SDG-related Reporting/Metrics

- In her continuous engagement as a member of the board of GISSD, the Founder, President, and CEO of ACSRN attended on **1st June** a virtual meeting that discussed the new GISSD Work-stream on SDG-related Reporting/Metrics. The UN GISSD Alliance concluded a report in October 2021 aimed at advancing sector-specific, SDG-related metrics. The report includes metrics that are key to enabling a better measurement of contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by companies active in a particular sector. The meeting shed light on the CFO Coalition-GISSD partnership and the ongoing collaboration with partners to customize the presentation of the metrics. The participants also discussed pertinent insights on the measures that are particular to each industry.
- During the CFO coalition with GISSD alliance meeting, sector-specific measures were discussed in alignment with the SDGs to aid businesses in setting their goals. The meeting attended by Arabia CSR Network was held virtually on **15th September** and focused on acknowledging the two exposure drafts released by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB). These drafts provide investors with a means to evaluate risks and opportunities related to sustainability and offer both qualitative and quantitative metrics. By recognising these drafts, businesses will be better equipped to make informed decisions and take actionable steps towards achieving sustainability targets, while also providing investors with the data needed to assess a company's sustainability performance.

5. GISSD Strategy Meeting

A meeting of the GISSD Strategy Group of the UN SDG Alliance took place in London from **21st - 22nd June**. ACSRN President and CEO joined the discussion to find out how the GISSD Members should adapt to a fast-shifting global environment and what contributions the Alliance might make to help the SDGs be implemented more successfully. During the occasion, the ICGN - GISSD Model Mandate was also unveiled.

6. 4th Annual (GISSD) Alliance Meeting

The last engagement of GISSD for the year 2022 was the board meeting of members of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISSD) Alliance under the leadership and presence of the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and other top executives at the UN Headquarters in New York on **12th October**. The objective was to finalise a roadmap to trickle-down long-term investments in developing countries and consequently enable them to increase the pace of delivering on Agenda 2030.

7. COP27 Side Events – GISSD Alliance Meet

Founder, President, and CEO of Arabia CSR Network virtually attended 2 important events at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on **9th November**. The events were specifically designed to encourage public and private investment in climate action, with a particular focus on meeting the targets set by the Paris Agreement. As a passionate advocate for sustainable development, ACSRN has played a vital role in promoting innovative financing solutions, such as blended financing, to accelerate progress towards a greener future. By sharing their expertise and insights at the event, the delegates helped to catalyze action among stakeholders and drive momentum towards achieving a more sustainable world.



Panel Discussions

Arabia CSR Network joined in organising a series of thought-provoking panel discussions in the year 2022 in association with Emirates Environmental Group and supported by Emirates Green Building Council, Clean Energy Business Council, Swiss Business Council and World Packaging Organisation. The 6 panels addressed closely several UNSDG Goals: #3, #6, #11, #13, #14, #15, and #17.

1. Greening the Concrete Jungles: Towards Urban Afforestation and Vertical Farming

The 1st panel discussion took place virtually on **22nd February** under the title "Greening the Concrete Jungles: Towards Urban Afforestation and Vertical Farming." The discussion addressed some important questions: How feasible is it to implement urban afforestation in the current urban scenario? Are climate-controlled vertical farms a solution to food security in areas where crops are difficult to cultivate? What kinds of barriers currently prevail in terms of making the country food secure and sustainable?

The panellists emphasised that urban afforestation and vertical farming can enhance environmental cohesion, counter fragmentation and deal with climate change as well as environmental degradation and loss of agricultural land.

They also help modern cities that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through the establishment of useful new ecological, social and economic hubs in addition to serving as a basis for food production.

Panellists

- **Ms. Olivia Nielsen** - Associate Principal, Miyamoto International
- **Dr. Moohammed Wasim Yahia** - Assistant Professor, Architecture Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, University of Sharjah
- **Mr. Henrique Pereira** - Chief Executive Officer, Taka Solutions



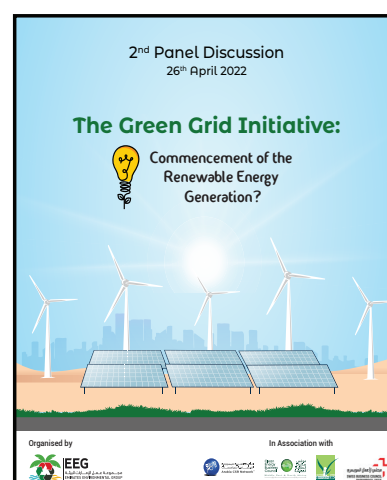
2. The Green Grid Initiative: Commencement of the Renewable Energy Generation?

The 2nd panel discussion took place virtually on **26th April** under the theme "The Green Grid Initiative: Commencement of the Renewable Energy Generation" The session was headed by Engr. Faisal Ali Rashid, the Senior Director of Dubai Supreme Council of Energy. The introduction of Green Grids will encourage investment in renewable energy sources and maximise the utilisation of resources like finances, technology and human capital. A number of UNSDGs, including poverty reduction and support for tackling water, sanitation, food, and other socioeconomic concerns, were highlighted which would benefit from the ensuing economic benefits.

The discussion addressed several key questions such as; how can power grids be brought to one standard when countries have different capacities? What would be the cost-optimal, low carbon solution to integrate into the green grid? What is the UAE Clean Energy Strategy Target for 2030 – 2050?

Panellists

- **Eng. Faisal Ali Rashid (Head of Session)** – Senior Director, Dubai Supreme Council of Energy
- **Dr. Raidan AlSaqqaf** - Economist, United Nations Office in Abu Dhabi, UAE
- **Dr. Ahmed Awan** - Assistant Professor, College of Engineering and IT, Ajman University
- **Mr. Carlos Travesedo** - Energy Policy Executive Director, Department of Energy (DoE), Abu Dhabi
- **Mr. Gopin Korah Mani** - Country Director, TotalEnergies Renewables DG, Middle East
- **Mr. Christoph Frenkel** - Project Leader, Thuringian Renewable Energy Network (ThEEN)



3. The Battle Against Climate Change: The True Reality

The 3rd panel discussion took place on **16th June** under the theme "The Battle against Climate Change: The True Reality" with the goal of bringing together stakeholders from different sectors to understand the actions taken to address climate challenges and solutions throughout the years in mitigating climate change.

The discussion dealt with the actual progress that had been made toward sustainable measures. It also discussed the effects of major sectors' activities on climate change, the measures taken to address the problem, the time needed to achieve sustainable economic models, the difficulties of change, the important stakeholders who need to change, the need to implement policies, the financial requirements for adaptation, and other actions that must be taken at the global, regional, local, and individual levels.

Panellists

- **Mr. Bart Boesmans** - Chief Technology Officer, ACWA Power
- **Mr. Tarek Alkhoury** - Regional Coordinator, Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production, UNEP West Asia
- **Ms. Duha Almulla** - Head of Environmental Affairs Section – Green Development and Environmental Affairs Department, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
- **Mr. Andrew Mackenzie** - Senior Lecturer in Marketing and Head of Institute of Sustainable Development, Middlesex University Dubai



4. Taking Packaging: Full Circle

The 4th panel discussion took place in a hybrid mode on the **22nd August** under the theme "Taking Packaging: Full Circle." The panel discussed current developments, laws, and best practices as well as approaches to increase sustainability in the packaging industry.

Prominent stakeholders from this wide industry were brought together to brainstorm about how they can perform in a more circular way to help make the transition to a prosperous, sustainable, and low carbon economy while also contributing to achieving the UAE's Green Agenda 2030 and the UN SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production Practices.

The discussion gathered 5 panellists to address questions like:

- How can manufacturers switch to more sustainable and recyclable practices with an emphasis on minimal, durable and sustainable packaging?
- Should governments worldwide demand that packaging manufacturers and relevant entities spread all around the globe research, propose, design and change to alternatives and solutions that are environmentally friendly and more sustainable?

Panellists

- **Ms. Nerida Kelton** - Vice President, Sustainability & Save Food, World Packaging Organisation
- **Ms. Samah Mohamed Al Hajeri** - Director of Co-operatives & Strategic Reserve, Ministry of Economy UAE
- **Mr. Jamil Haddad** - Head of Sustainability and Business Development, Al Bayader International
- **Mr. Abdul Rasheed** - Regional Sales Manager, Taghleef Industries
- **Mr. Santosh Kumar** - Manager, Quality Control and R&D, Falcon Pack



5. Achieving Net Zero: Spotlighting Urban Sprawls

The 5th panel discussion was organised on **20th October** in a hybrid format under the theme of “Achieving Net Zero: Spotlighting Urban Sprawls”. Mr. Saeed Al Abbar, CEO of AESG acted as the head of the session and did justice to the role by steering the discussion through multiple sustainable development goals relevant to the topic of the day.

Distinguished panellists were invited from renowned organisations to deliberate on the idea of ‘Net Zero’, howsoever appealing it may sound, is countered frequently by geopolitical clashes, economic restrictions, social mindsets and technological limitations.

The panellists agreed that it should be dissected based on sectors and categorised. The panel discussion encapsulated concepts like the innovative building types that favour sustainability, construction materials, energy consumption, and carbon offsetting capabilities amongst other aspects of sustainability.

Panellists

- **Mr. Saeed Al Abbar (Head of Session)** - CEO, AESG
- **Dr. Ioannis Spanos** - Director of Sustainability, KEO
- **Mr. Issa Azar** - CEO, Smart Automation Energy
- **Mr. Muhamad Rehan Razzak** - Executive Vice President, Finance, Siemens Middle East
- **Mr. Sanjeev Coelho** - Senior Associate, HOK



6. Role of Retrofitting Remodelling: Existing Built Environments

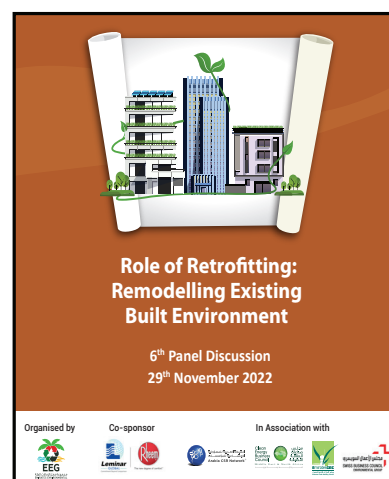
The 6th panel discussion was held on **29th November** under the theme “Role of Retrofitting Remodeling: Existing Built Environments”. It was headed by Mr. Issa Azar, CEO of Smart Automation Energy. Retrofitting in construction, architecture and renovation is the process of improving existing buildings rather than rebuilding or building additionally. By changing the existing buildings in relation to materials, build quality and energy usage, the efficiency of operations will massively improve leading to more sustainable built environments.

Although the retrofit industry has been flourishing and aiding in the sustainable development agenda, it often finds itself surrounded by obstacles on the ground. To discuss the intricacies related to its financial benefits and challenges, the esteemed panel of experts put forward their arguments.

The session culminated in valuable outputs from the panellists namely: touching on various types of retrofits that can be implemented, impacts of retrofits on the economy, society and environment, relevant policies in the United Arab Emirates, aid from financial institutions and case studies of impressive retrofit execution in other countries. It was levelled further by the rich questions and opinions of the participants.

Panellists

- **Mr. Issa Azar (Head of Session)** - CEO, Smart Automation Energy
- **Mr. Khaled Bushnaq** - CEO Energy Management Services
- **Mr. Henrique Pereira** - CEO of Taka Solutions
- **Eng. Mozah Mohamed Al Nuami** - Director of Productivity and Demand at the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
- **Srinivasan Rangan** - Director of Marketing and Product Management, RMEA Manufacturing LLC





KPI's, AIMS & OBJECTIVES

ACSRN believes that using Key Performance Indicators, or KPIs is the best strategy for measuring the successes and failures of an organisation. They are the critical indicators of progress towards an intended result.

KPIs provide a focus for strategic and operational improvement, create an analytical basis for decision-making and help focus attention on what matters most. While recording and tracking KPIs, we also have a greater opportunity to spot patterns and trends within data. These patterns can be useful in various circumstances.

Our performance in 2022 and targets for 2023 have been jotted down in the forthcoming table using KPIs.

Key Performance Indicators (Quantitative - T and Qualitative - L)		Targets in 2022	Target Met
1	To demonstrate commitment to the global sustainable development agenda	Arabia CSR Network intends to engage at least 10 international speakers to take part in its various programmes, i.e. trainings, workshops, panel discussions, Awards and Forum. It will aim to participate in at least 5 international CSR events in 2022.	Yes
2	To contribute to the national initiative for sustainable development in the UAE	ACSRN will target the inclusion of at least 15 government organisations in its annual plan of activities including meetings, advisory services, panel discussions, trainings, workshops, forum and awards. For the Awards, ACSRN will aim to get 10 public sector organisations to come on board; as for collaborative activities, 8 is the target in 2022.	Yes
3	To position the UAE as a leader in Business Excellence and CSR in the Region	ACSRN will continue to strive for excellence and position the UAE and the Arab Region as sustainability leaders. The target is to showcase 14 examples of CSR best practices from the UAE through Best Practice Case Studies publication, monthly e-newsletters, trainings, presentations, Arabia CSR Awards launch, winners' booklet, and social media platforms. ACSRN will seek to present 15 cases from other Arab countries through these platforms.	Yes
4	To promote the voluntary adoption of CSR policies and practices among businesses in the Region	ACSRN aims to organise a minimum of 10 events in 2022 that promote CSR and sustainability on a voluntary basis by entities in the Arab Region. The aim is also to participate in at least 5 activities organised by the Networks members or partners. Additionally, ACSRN will try to participate as speakers or contribute to a minimum of 10 platforms on the issues of CSR and sustainability.	Yes
5	To showcase examples of CSR best practices undertaken by corporate enterprises and public sector organisations	Amongst ACSRN's main focus areas is building the capacities of members and other stakeholders, and guiding them towards the publication of sustainability reports. The target in 2022 will be to encourage and support at least 8 organisations to start or continue publishing the reports through ACSRN's advisory services and certified trainings & workshops. Examples of CSR activities showcasing best practices will continue to be presented through the digital and printed publications, website and social media platforms, and programmes organised by ACSRN through the press launch, the awards clinic as well as external workshops, panel discussions and presentations.	Yes
6	To identify benchmarks and key indicators of sustainable growth	ACSRN will continue to highlight international benchmarks and indicators of sustainable growth, through the Awards, Forum, Best Practice Publication, Social Media platforms etc. We will also implement the upgraded benchmarks and indicators developed by relevant entities, such as GRI, AA1000, EFQM, 17 UN SDGs and GISD as applicable, as well as the UNGC 10 Principles. The aim is to stay updated on the local, regional and global trends and developments related to corporate responsibility and sustainable development.	Yes
7	To develop a national database of CSR case studies to boost research into CSR implementation	ACSRN will work on compiling and presenting CSR case studies from the UAE and other Arab countries. Towards this, the 12 th edition of the annual Arabia CSR Best Practice Case Studies publication, will feature a group 15 of the finalists of the 14 th cycle of Arabia CSR Awards which would add considerable value towards achieving this target. These case studies will also be featured in the monthly e-newsletters of 2022 as well as a brief mention on our social media, as has been the long-standing practice.	Yes
8	To develop a network for liaison and partnerships with entities that are engaged in CSR programmes at national, regional and global levels	With the uncertainties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and its continuing impacts on the economy and society, ACSRN will continue to harness its resources to contribute to resilience building and recovery. ACSRN will proactively seek out effective partnerships and collaboration with national, regional and global entities working on this front. Additionally and in alignment with UN SDG #17 Partnership for the Goals, ACSRN will continue to further collaborative efforts that will also help advance the Arabia CSR Network's goals and objectives.	Ongoing

Aims and Objectives of the Arabia CSR Network		Targets in 2023
1	To demonstrate commitment to the global sustainable development agenda	Arabia CSR Network will aim to engage 12 international speakers to take part in its various programmes, i.e. trainings, workshops, panel discussions, Awards and Forum. And participate in at least 6 international CSR events in 2023.
2	To contribute to the national initiative for sustainable development in the UAE	ACSRN will try to engage at least 16 government organisations in its annual activities in the year 2023 including meetings, advisory services, panel discussions, trainings, workshops, forum and awards. ACSRN will aim to get 10 public sector organisations each to come on board for both the Awards and the Forum; the target for public and private collaborative activities in 2023 is 10 .
3	To position the UAE as a leader in Business Excellence and CSR in the region	It is our aspiration to help position the UAE and the Arab Region as sustainability leaders. Therefore, the target is to showcase a minimum of 15 examples of CSR best practices from the UAE across different channels and platforms; - the monthly e-newsletters, trainings, best practice case study publications, presentations, Arabia CSR Awards clinic, winners' booklet, Arabia CSR Forum and social media platforms. ACSRN will also try to present 15 best cases from other Arab countries through these platforms.
4	To promote the voluntary adoption of CSR policies and practices among businesses in the region	In 2023, our aim is to organise a minimum of 12 events that will exhibit CSR and sustainability efforts undertaken on a voluntary basis by various entities in the Arab Region. The aim is also to participate in at least 6 activities organised by the Network's members or partners. Additionally, ACSRN will also try to participate as speakers or contributors in a minimum of 11 platforms advocating CSR and sustainability.
5	To showcase examples of CSR best practices undertaken by corporate enterprises & public sector organisations	We have always focussed on capacity development and skill building with respect to our members and other stakeholders, and catalysing sustainability reports to disclose their efforts and achievements. Towards this, we will actively encourage and support at least 10 organisations in 2023 to undertake or continue to publish sustainability reports, by providing advisory services and certified trainings & workshops. As mentioned earlier, examples of CSR activities showcasing best practices will continue to be presented through digital and printed publications, website and social media platforms, and programmes organised by ACSRN through the press conference, the awards clinic as well as external workshops, panel discussions and presentations.
6	To identify benchmarks and key indicators of sustainable growth	We will continue to highlight and present international and local benchmarks and indicators of sustainable growth, through the Awards, Forum, Best Practices Publication, Social Media platforms etc. We will also advocate for the adoption of upgraded benchmarks and indicators developed by relevant entities, such as GRI, AA1000, EFQM, 17 UN SDGs, UNGC Ten Principles, GSD indicators, as well as Green Building standards and ratings, accredited management standards, mandates developed globally and locally. The aim is to stay updated on the local, regional and global trends and developments related to corporate responsibility and sustainable development.
7	To develop a national database of CSR case studies to boost research into CSR implementation	In our bid to showcase and record the maturity of corporate level CSR and sustainability practice, we will continue to compile and share CSR case studies from the UAE and other Arab countries. Towards this, The 13 th edition of the annual Arabia CSR Best Practice Case Studies will feature the finalists and winners of the 15 th Arabia CSR Awards 2022, The cases will also be featured in the monthly e-newsletters of 2023 as well as on our social media platforms.
8	To develop a network for liaison and partnerships with entities that are engaged in CSR programmes at national, regional and global levels	Building partnerships for a sustainable present and future is our core remit. In spite of the abatement of the COVID-19 situation, it is still not a smooth sailing journey in the post-pandemic times. However, our constant strive to forge partnerships for sustainable development will continue to push us to forge new partnerships and strengthen existing ones. We will aim for collaboration and partnering as one of our main outreach efforts, targeting national, regional and global entities working on this front.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ARABIA CSR NETWORK

1. To demonstrate commitment to the global sustainable development agenda		
Achievements in 2020	Achievements in 2021	Achievements in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of speakers: 60 in 2020, ACSRN organised 20 events which roped in 6 international speakers and 3 regional speakers, while the rest were national speakers. Number of speaking engagements: ACSRN participated in 43 activities/ events, out of which 20 were organised by ACSRN itself and 23 were organised with other stakeholders that include members, associates and partners. ACSRN participated in 8 international events, 21 regional events and 11 national events in form of conferences, seminars, roundtables, talks, panel discussions, meetings, signing of agreements and adjudication of 1 award initiative. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the ACSRN activities in the Q1 and Q2 of 2020 were greatly impacted. However, the Network transitioned to virtual platforms to provide the trainings and workshops. Additionally, it also used the opportunities of online conferences, meetings and webinars to benefit from national, regional and international platforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of speakers engaged in 2021 - 50; 28 local, 11 regional and 11 international Number of speaking engagements; participated in 70 activities/ events, out of which 21 were organised by ACSRN itself and 49 were organised with other stakeholders that include members, associates and partners. ACSRN participated in 37 international events, 4 regional events and 8 national events in the form of conferences, seminars, roundtables, talks, panel discussions, meetings, etc. In spite of the outbreak of COVID-19, the ACSRN activities in all quarters of 2021 continued in full scale as the Network transitioned to virtual platforms for all its programmes and events. ACSRN continued to deliver effective and high-quality trainings and workshops. It delivered 12 sessions in 2021, including 10 full training sessions of 3 days each, and 2 one-day workshops. Additionally, it also used the opportunities of online conferences, meetings and webinars to benefit from national, regional and international platforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN successfully gathered speakers for its various activities. Total number of speakers engaged in 2022 - 74; 45 local, 1 regional and 28 international. Number of speaking engagements - ACSRN participated in a total of 48 events. 23 of which were organised by ACSRN, while 25 were organised by other stakeholders that included members, associates and partners. ACSRN took an active part in 18 international, 2 regional and 10 national events, which included conferences, seminars, roundtables, talks, panel discussions, meetings, etc. ACSRN continued its activities with a mixture of virtual, in-person and hybrid platforms. ACSRN was able to deliver 10 training and workshop sessions. These included 6 training sessions and 4 workshops. ACSRN capitalised on opportunities that presented themselves through online conferences, meetings and webinars that were conducted at the national, regional and international levels.
2. To contribute to the national initiative for sustainable development in the UAE		
Achievements in 2020	Achievements in 2021	Achievements in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2020, 40% of ACSRN corporate members were from government and semi-government sectors. A total of 13 entities from government/public sector participated in its events, including trainings and workshops. The number of government/public sector institutions participating in Arabia CSR Awards was 21. The number of events conducted in collaboration with other organisations was 23. These included panel discussions, press conferences and meetings that were in-line with the UAE National Strategy and the UAE Vision 2021. ACSRN also presented key updates and progress of private and government entities in the UAE in its monthly newsletter to keep its regional and international readers, particularly the corporate sector afresh with the recent sustainability trends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2021, 30% of ACSRN corporate members were from government and semi-government sectors. A total of 10 entities from government/public sector participated in events, including trainings and workshops organised by the Network. The number of government/public sector institutions participating in Arabia CSR Awards was 17 and 40 in the Arabia CSR Forum. ACSRN also presented key updates and progress of private and government entities in the UAE in its monthly newsletter to keep its regional and international readers, particularly the corporate sector afresh with the latest sustainability trends. The Annual Report 2020 and Best Practices 2020 also served the same purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12% of ACSRN corporate members were from government and semi-government sectors in the UAE. These organisations were at the forefront of implementing sustainability initiatives. In the events and activities organised by ACSRN including trainings and workshops, 9 entities from the public sector took an active part. The number of government/public sector institutions participating in the Arabia CSR Awards was 11. ACSRN strategically used communication to engage stakeholders and raise awareness about local priorities, strategies and mandates. 12 monthly newsletters were shared with public and private entities in the UAE, showcasing sustainability efforts and achievements, providing insights on the latest trends and best practices.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ARABIA CSR NETWORK

3. To position the UAE as a leader in Business Excellence and CSR in the Region		
Achievements in 2020	Achievements in 2021	Achievements in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN has been consistently encouraging entities from all Arab countries to engage in its various platforms. In 2020, ACSRN worked tirelessly to engage with entities in the region and to receive participation in trainings, workshops and awards. The Network also partnered with a couple of Arab countries (Jordan, South Sudan) for the media outreach of the Awards. Identifying virtual engagements as a huge opportunity, ACSRN participated in various conferences and meetings that welcomed speakers and attendees from other parts of the Arab Region such as KSA, Jordan, Kuwait and Sudan. Despite the challenges amid COVID-19, ACSRN received applications from a total of 9 Arab countries. ACSRN also featured the sustainability initiatives of its corporate members in the monthly e-newsletter and on its different social media platforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN has been consistently encouraging entities from all Arab countries to engage in its various platforms. In 2021, ACSRN worked tirelessly to engage with entities in the region and to receive participation in trainings, workshops and awards. Throughout the year, ACSRN engaged with 100 entities in its training programmes, it also engaged with 2 government entities to work on CSR and sustainability strategies and reports. The Network also partnered with 2 entities (Chambers of Commerce of Kuwait and Oman) for the 2021 Awards, a good deal of progress to further the reach of the awards and forge fruitful partnerships. Identifying virtual engagements is a huge opportunity, ACSRN participated in 49 conferences and meetings, exceeding the 2020 total. Despite the challenges amid COVID-19, ACSRN received applications from a total of 9 Arab countries, representing 31 sectors. ACSRN duly highlighted the sustainability initiatives of its corporate members in the monthly e-newsletters and across its different social media platforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN lead CSR and sustainability in the Arab region by engaging entities from all countries. This involved a heavy focus on outreach, resulting in 102 entities participating in ACSRN's training, workshops and awards. 2 government organisations received sustainability strategy and report services. ACSRN cemented a successful partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of Bahrain and Oman for the 2022 Awards. ACSRN utilised the power of digital avenues to participate in 30 conferences, events, forums and meetings during the year, organised by different entities. In the 2022 cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards, ACSRN received applications from organisations belonging to 12 Arab countries which were above the previous cycle's tally of 9 countries. They represented 29 sectors. Showcasing the commitments of its corporate members, ACSRN shed light on their sustainability efforts and results thereof in the monthly e-newsletters, best practice case studies as well as social media platforms.
4. To promote the voluntary adoption of CSR policies and practices among businesses in the Region		
Achievements in 2020	Achievements in 2021	Achievements in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN organised 20 events including trainings, workshops, a press conference, Awards clinic and Awards Gala event as well as several online engagements. ACSRN got opportunities to speak and moderate some of the events held virtually on the national, regional and global level. In-house trainings and workshops were provided by ACSRN to key government entities in the UAE and beyond, such as; Dubai Health Authority and Telecommunication Regulatory Authority and others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN organised and co-organised 20 events in 2021 including trainings, workshops, panel discussions, the Awards press launch, clinic and Gala event as well as the Arabia CSR Forum, in addition to several online engagements. ACSRN got opportunities to speak and moderate more than 10 events held virtually on the national, regional and global levels. In-house trainings and workshops were provided by ACSRN to key government entities in the UAE such as; Dubai Health Authority, Ajman Municipality and TDGRA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to drive the adoption of CSR and sustainability in the Region, ACSRN conducted 20 events. These were in the form of trainings, workshops, panel discussions, the Awards press launch, the Awards clinic and awarding ceremony. The events were conducted in hybrid modes. ACSRN also took part in 21 events, being invited to speak in conferences, Seminars & Forums or moderate panel discussions. These events were either national or regional or global in scope both physical and virtual. ACSRN delivered a set of highly effective in-house trainings and workshops to the following: Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services, Ports, Customs & Free Zone Corporation, Human Resources Department RAK, DEWA and Sharjah Municipality and others.



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ARABIA CSR NETWORK

5. To showcase examples of CSR best practices undertaken by corporate enterprises and public sector organisations		
Achievements in 2020	Achievements in 2021	Achievements in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the 1st certified training partner to Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) since 2011 and the only one to offer these trainings in Arabic, ACSRN completed a total of 55 sessions of GRI Standards training by the end of 2020. The network conducted in 2020 a set of CSR-certified trainings and workshops in English and Arabic. These trainings gave equal opportunities to the sustainability amateurs and professionals across the Arab Region to build and enhance their knowledge and skills about CSR and sustainability. A total of 25 organisations and 41 participants benefited from the series of professional and certified trainings that the ACSRN offered in 2020. The trainings and workshops offered by ACSRN featured various case studies of best practices and also discussed sustainability reports and projects from national, regional and international entities to provide contextual best practices to the participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the 1st certified training partner of Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) in the Middle East since 2011 and the only one to offer these trainings in Arabic, ACSRN completed a total of 63 sessions of GRI Standards training by the end of 2021. All the training modules contain a set of CSR best practices from various sectors. The network conducted 5 CSR-certified trainings and workshops in English and Arabic in 2021. These trainings gave equal opportunities to the sustainability professionals across the Arab Region to build and enhance their knowledge and skills about CSR and sustainability. A total of 24 organisations and 35 participants benefited from the series of professional and certified trainings that the ACSRN offered in 2021. The trainings and workshops offered by ACSRN featured various case studies of best practices and also discussed sustainability reports and projects from national, regional and international entities to provide contextual best practices to the participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN, as the ME region's 1st certified training partner of Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) since 2011 concluded the partnership in January 2022 having completed 64 GRI-certified sessions and offering the top-rated training module in both English and Arabic. The training modules included examples of best practices, which were contributed by ACSRN, in collaboration with the GRI. ACSRN also conducted 10 CSR-certified trainings and workshops. It benefitted the organisations willing to learn and improve and also showcased the best practices of entities from the region, bringing their efforts and achievements to light. Exceeding the previous years tallies, 26 organisations and 40 participants gained tremendously from these trainings in 2022. All ACSRN trainings and workshops served to highlight best practices in CSR & Sustainability. The Sustainability reports and projects from national, regional and international entities were likewise reviewed and discussed during the sessions to further help participants to contextualise sustainability material issues to their region, countries and their organisations.
6. To identify benchmarks and key indicators of sustainable growth		
Achievements in 2020	Achievements in 2021	Achievements in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN's flagship project, the Arabia CSR Awards is founded on international benchmarks and criteria that are informed by Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), EFQM, UNGC Ten Principles and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. ACSRN updates its training materials with the most up-to-date data and recent reports for references. As a conscious effort, the Network also keeps itself equipped with the latest and ongoing consultations and deliberations that take place nationally, regionally and globally. Thereby, it disseminates key information and tools to the wide network of organisations it is associated with. The Arabia CSR Awards in 2020 introduced a new category for the automotive sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN's flagship project, the Arabia CSR Awards is founded on international benchmarks and criteria that are informed by Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), EFQM, UNGC Ten Principles and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is also informed by the work of the GISD Alliance, that is developing a set of integrated metrics and indicators for reporting. ACSRN continued to update all training materials with the most up-to-date data and recent reports and relevant references. The Network participated in the latest and ongoing consultations and deliberations that took place nationally, regionally and globally. Through such platforms, it disseminated key information and tools to the gamut of organisations that it associated with. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN recognises the importance of regional, local and international benchmarks for sustainable development. The Arabia CSR Awards is widely regarded as the Arab region's sustainability benchmark, based on international criteria including GRI Standards, EFQM, UNGC 10 Principles, and the 17 UN SDGs. ACSRN also reflects the work of the GISD Alliance, a global initiative rolled out by the UN S.G. and dedicated to the SDGs and Agenda 2030, developing integrated metrics and indicators for reporting. ACSRN undertook a thorough review and updated all training and workshop modules and the awards application criteria in order to ensure their ongoing relevance, accuracy and timely presentation of emerging benchmarks, key indicators and relevant references. The Network participated in the latest and ongoing consultations and deliberations that took place nationally, regionally and globally. Thus, ACSRN successfully disseminated key information and shared data with the relevant stakeholders.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ARABIA CSR NETWORK

7. To develop a national database of CSR case studies to boost research into CSR implementation		
Achievements in 2020	Achievements in 2021	Achievements in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the last 10 years, ACSRN has been publishing an excellent research publication known as the 'Arabia CSR Best Practices' to offer key success stories of entities in the Arab Region. The winners of its annual Arabia CSR Awards are featured in this book, which facilitates the core purpose of the Awards, i.e. Learn, Share, Inspire. The ACSRN published the Winners Booklet to spotlight the 20 winners of the 13th cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards. It was distributed at the Awards Gala to shed light on the great initiatives and innovations of the winning entities. In 2020, the 10th edition of the "Arabia CSR Best Practice" publication featuring 15 astounding cases from the winners of 12th cycle of Arabia CSR Awards was published. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN has consistently for the past 11 years, published a research publication known as the 'Arabia CSR Best Practices' to highlight key success stories of entities in the Arab Region. The winners of the annual Arabia CSR Awards are featured in this book, which facilitates the core purpose of the Awards, i.e. Learn, Share, Inspire. ACSRN published the Winners Booklet to spotlight the 40 finalists of the 14th cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards, which was distributed during the Awards Gala on 4th October. In 2021, ACSRN published the 11th edition of the "Arabia CSR Best Practice" book featuring 12 astounding cases from the winners of the 13th cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN compiles case studies and best practices to support research and study. The annual publication, (Arabia CSR Best Practices), highlights success stories of entities in the Arab Region, featuring winners and finalists of each cycle of the Arabia CSR awards with detailed narratives. This has helped create rich databases for various countries in the region, including the UAE which is useful to researchers and practitioners. ACSRN has published the (Arabia CSR Best Practices) for 12 years, providing first-hand information and data to contribute to this effort. 15 finalists of the 14th Arabia CSR Awards were featured in the Arabia CSR Best Practices book, which was published and distributed at various events. The publication was also advertised on the website and social media platforms of ACSRN.
8. To develop a network for liaison and partnerships with entities that are engaged in CSR programmes at national, regional and global levels		
Achievements in 2020	Achievements in 2021	Achievements in 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN strongly supports the UN Sustainable Development Goal no. 17 – Partnership for the Goals and hence, plays instrumental role in building partnerships for sustainable development in pursuant to its motto: Building partnerships for a Sustainable Future. The Network engaged thoroughly with leading groups and organisations in the year 2020. These included Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, United Nations of Environment Programme (UNEP), Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC), Global Urban Development (GUD), Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC), UAE SDG Forum, etc. ACSRN join hands with Ajman Tourism to collaborate in recycling and capacity building programmes ACSRN entered a contract with DHA to help develop their sustainability and CSR strategy, build capacity, identify and map stakeholders and publish a sustainability report accordingly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN continued to support the UN Sustainable Development Goal #17 – Partnership for the Goals and played an instrumental role in catalysing partnerships for sustainable development in alignment with its motto: Building partnerships for a Sustainable Future. The Network engaged with leading entities including groups and organisations in the year 2021. These included UN Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, IRENA, UNICEF, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDESA, OECD, GRI, Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development (IATF), WorldGBC, Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC), Global Urban Development (GUD), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Royal Danish Consulate in the UAE, Chambers of Commerce of Dubai, Kuwait and Oman, Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) and Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC). In 2021, ACSRN concluded an agreement with Ajman Municipality to help develop their sustainability and CSR strategy, build capacity, identify and map stakeholders and publish a sustainability report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACSRN prioritises partnerships for sustainable development and actively supports various local, regional, and global programmes. The network pursues UN SDG #17 and has successfully convened public and private entities from the Arabian Gulf, Levant and North Africa, thus promoting cross-country and cross-sector participation. ACSRN collaborated with a range of groups and organisations including the UN Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDESA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency), GRI, WorldGBC, Global Urban Development, UN-Habitat, CEBC, International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN), World Packaging Organisation, Swiss Business Council, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UAE Ministry of Climate Change & Environment (MOCCAE), UAE Ministry of Economy, Gulf Intelligence, International Chamber of Commerce UAE (ICC-UAE), the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI), Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) and several European and Arab Embassies. ACSRN continued to implement its agreement with Ajman Municipality, thereby developing its sustainability and CSR strategy, and helping to produce its sustainability report for publishing.



CONCLUSION

The year 2022 turned out to be an impressive year from the point of view of trainings and workshops. The institution successfully equipped professionals throughout the year to figure out the loopholes in their existing systems and then seamlessly integrate the principles of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues for the greater good of the society and the respective entities.

The year also witnessed the 15th cycle of the Arabia CSR Awards commencing with the press launch in January and culminating with the awards distribution ceremony in October. More than 100 registrations were received from various parts of the Arab region to claim the winners' spots in 15 categories. The jury invested time in reviewing, comparing and finally selecting the deserving candidates for the accolades. Undoubtedly, the competition was tough and the efforts being put in by many contenders with regard to sustainable initiatives in their respective organisations were impressive.

A succinct account of all winners and their success stories has been enclosed in this annual report. However, if the reader wishes to gather thorough data about the subject, then a detailed version of it titled 'Winners Booklet 2022' can be obtained by contacting the ACSRN office.

To maximise the impact of ACSRN's aims and objectives over the year, and to become a partaker in high-level decision-making across the sustainability landscape, the Arabia CSR Network participated actively in global events of eminent institutions like the UNEP, UNHCR, UNDESA, UN-Habitat, GRI, WorldGBC, CEBC, World Packaging Organisation, Swiss Business Council, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ICGN etc.

The engagement was also reported in regional and national events of prominence like ICC-UAE & Business Councils Meeting, World Majlis, National Dialogue on Climate Ambition, Sharjah Excellence Award Programme, The Sustainable Urban Development Conference, Two Minute Interview Series etc.

Admitting the fact that hybrid is the new normal, training sessions, workshops, press launches and CSR Award functions of the Network were delivered via both online and offline mediums, taking special care to provide enough opportunities for interaction and engagement to the virtual participants.

With the objective of fostering a sustainability-conscious corporate environment and developing a class of passionate change-makers in society, six panel discussions were rolled out this year. These discussions gathered representatives from multifarious private and public sector entities to listen to and interact with distinguished speakers of national, regional and global prominence. Crucial topics encapsulating various SDGs were thoroughly covered during the sessions such as urban afforestation, vertical farming, green grids, sustainable product packaging, climate adaptation, net zero, retrofitting etc.

While recapitulating the activities covered in the report, it appears legitimate to claim that the Arabia CSR Network accomplished another significant milestone to propagate CSR and sustainability in the MENA region as indispensable ways for organisations to achieve a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives while at the same time address the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders.

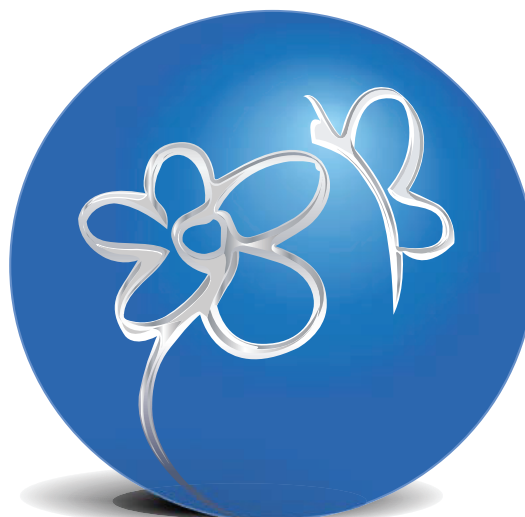
We are immensely grateful to everyone who supported us in any manner in 2022. This includes patrons, partners, members, sponsors, experts, panellists, jury, participants, volunteers, subscribers, readers and last but not least fervent well-wishers. It is substantial to recall what the legendary Kofi Annan preached - "More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together."

The upcoming year will carry a myriad of possibilities from the perspective of the Network owing to the already hyped congregation of world leaders happening at COP28 in Dubai during November-December 2023. We have planned our activities meticulously to ensure that various stakeholders in the region get sensitised to the sustainability narrative by the start of COP28.

To get a better insight, you may have a quick glimpse at ACSRN's planner for the year 2023 present at the end of this report.

PS: If you are looking for any piece of advice or training to incorporate CSR and sustainable practices in your organisation, feel free to reach out to us at admin@arabiacsrnnetwork.com

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PLANNER FOR THE YEAR 2023


JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p> Thursday, 23rd January Press Launch of 16th Cycle of Arabia CSR Awards</p> <p> Wednesday, 25th – Thursday 26th January Sustainability Reporting Training</p> <p> Friday 27th January Materiality Mapping Workshop</p>	<p> Tuesday, 7th – Thursday, 9th February CSR Fundamentals Training</p> <p> Monday, 20th – Wednesday, 22nd February CSR Advanced Training</p>	<p> Monday, 6th – Tuesday, 7th March Sustainability Reporting Training</p> <p> Thursday, 9th March Stakeholder Engagement Workshop</p> <p> Monday, 13th – Wednesday, 15th March CSR Fundamentals Training</p> <p>Thursday, 23rd March – Thursday, 20th April Ramadan</p>	<p> Thursday, 6th April Awards Clinic</p>	<p> Monday, 15th – Tuesday, 16th May Sustainability Reporting Training</p> <p> Thursday, 18th May Gap Analysis Workshop</p>	<p> Tuesday, 20th – Wednesday, 21st June Sustainability Reporting Training</p> <p> Friday, 30th June Deadline for submission of applications</p>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p> Tuesday, 25th – Thursday, 27th July CSR Strategy & Leadership Training</p> <p> In-house Training</p>	<p> Tuesday, 1st – Wednesday, 2nd August Sustainability Reporting Training</p> <p> Thursday, 3rd August Materiality Mapping Workshop</p>	<p> In-house Training</p> <p> Monday, 11th – Tuesday, 12th September Sustainability Reporting Training</p> <p> Thursday, 14th September Stakeholder Engagement Workshop</p>	<p> Tuesday, 3rd – Wednesday, 4th October Awards Forum & Gala Event</p> <p> Thursday, 10th – Tuesday, 12th October CSR Strategy & Leadership Training</p> <p> Thursday, 26th October Gap Analysis Workshop</p>	<p> Wednesday, 1st – Thursday, 2nd November Sustainability Reporting Training</p> <p> Tuesday, 14th – Thursday, 16th November CSR Advanced Training</p>	<p> Monday, 18th – Tuesday, 19th December Sustainability Reporting Training</p>

Important dates:


1st January = New Year
 23rd March - 20th April = Ramadan
 21st April - 23rd = Eid Al Fitr
 27th June = Arafat Day
 28th - 30th June = Eid Al Adha
 19th July = Hijri New Year
 29th September = Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
 1st December = Martyr's Day
 2nd - 3rd December = National Day

 CSR Trainings
  Workshops
  Sustainability Reporting Trainings
  ACSR Awards & Forum
  Arabia CSR Best Practices Publication
  In-house Trainings

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