



مجموعة أبو ظبي للإستدامة  
ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

## SUSTAINABILITY JOURNAL

Quarter 1, 2017

**As the iconic Emirates Palace hotel in Abu Dhabi lights up our skyline, it is hard to imagine how such a massive and awe inspiring hotel could possibly embrace sustainability.**

**Holger Schroth, General Manager, shares how the Emirates Palace has found innovative ways to embed sustainable practices in its daily operations.**

**In this issue, articles from Energy Institute, UN Global Compact and much more!**



مجموعة أبوظبي للإستدامة  
ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY GROUP



## ADSG HIWAR: ENERGY EFFICIENCY TRAINING WORKSHOP

Date 27 September 2017  
Time 12:30pm to 3:00pm  
Venue The Auditorium  
Al Mamoura Building (A), Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Please confirm your registration at [adsgevents@adsg.ae](mailto:adsgevents@adsg.ae)



This practical and interactive session will be delivered by the Energy Institute (EI), who are currently working in partnership with the Environment Agency to run a training programme in energy efficiency among the Environment Agency and other entities. It will introduce key energy efficiency concepts and provide attendees with practical guidance towards effectively managing energy within their organisations, helping to save energy, reduce operational costs and carbon emissions, comply with international standards and meet environmental goals.

### AGENDA

- 12:30 pm Registration and Networking
- 1:00 pm Welcome, Introduction of Hiwar session goals
- 1:10 pm Introduction to Energy Management
- 1:15 pm Managing energy efficiency training
- 2:15 pm Behaviour change workshop
- 2:45 pm Q&A and Closing remarks
- 3:00 pm Networking

### TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- Setting an energy policy: Learn how to influence your organisation effectively using an energy efficiency policy, including how to leverage buy-in from senior management
- Conducting an energy audit: Get tips on how to conduct a simple walk-round energy audit, including what to look for and how to document and present your findings
- Identifying energy saving opportunities: Which opportunities get the most bang for your buck? Often the highest payback can be achieved from easy wins – learn how to identify the most cost-effective solutions.
- Meeting international standards: Hear about how to use international standards to drive operational excellence in energy efficiency.
- Engaging staff in energy efficiency: Take part in an interactive exercise designed to showcase the value of staff awareness in energy and how energy behaviours can be changed.

Welcome to the first issue of our Sustainability eJournal for 2017. In this issue, we are delighted to showcase an interview with Mr. Holger Schroth, General Manager, Emirates Palace. As they recently joined the ADSG membership, this is an excellent opportunity for all members to get to know the Emirates Palace better and from a sustainability angle.

Furthermore, this issue provides insights into the inner workings of our partner the UN Global Compact, with

an additional article on the Sustainable Development Goals, and news from the Energy Institute. We also bring you updates from the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership awards and Forum held earlier in the year. We look forward to receiving your contributions

With best wishes,

**Sandra Anani**  
Sustainability & Communications Consultant



[www.adsg.ae](http://www.adsg.ae)

### ADSG Communications Team

Al Mamoura Building A,  
Abu Dhabi  
United Arab Emirates

Telephone: +971 (0)2 – 6934644

**Sandra Anani**  
Sustainability & Communications Consultant  
[communication@adsg.ae](mailto:communication@adsg.ae)

**Rasha Sawaby**  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
[rasha.sawaby@adsg.ae](mailto:rasha.sawaby@adsg.ae)

**Alina Lobo**  
Specialist- Training & Capacity Building  
[alina.lobo@adsg.ae](mailto:alina.lobo@adsg.ae)

The opinions and views expressed in the ADSG Sustainability eJournal do not necessarily reflect the ADSG's policy or position. Special thanks to the members of ADSG for providing information, pictures and support in the production of this Journal.

Photography provided by ADSG, EAD, Department of Municipal Affairs and Transport, CDP and Natural Capital Coalition.

Supported by



## Contents

- 03 Editor's Note
- 05 Director's Note
- 06 ADSG Interview with Holger Schroth, General Manager at Emirates Palace
- 10 ADSG Sustainability Calendar 2017
- 12 Introduction to the United Nations Global Compact
- 14 The Sustainable Development Goals - with challenges there come solutions
- 16 Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group Announced 2017 Sustainable Business Leadership Awards Winners and Launches 'Year of Giving' Category
- 19 2017 Sustainable Business Leadership Award Winners
- 20 Managing and Measuring Your Impact to Secure a Profitable and Sustainable Future - Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2017
- 23 Forum Feedback
- 24 The one key thing I learned @ the Forum
- 25 The key thing I will change as result of the Forum
- 26 Energy Institute HSE Forum



## ADSG Members' Quarterly Meeting Save the Date!

ADSG members are invited to attend the Members' Quarterly Meeting to be updated on our latest achievements and upcoming projects. This will also be an opportunity for members to share their sustainability updates.

To register, please send an email to [adsgevents@adsg.ae](mailto:adsgevents@adsg.ae)

Date: Wednesday, 27th September 2017

Time: 8:30 – 12:00 am

Venue: Al Hur (A), Al Mamoura building (A), Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD)

### Meeting Agenda

08:30 - 09:00 Registration & Networking

09:00 - 09:05 Opening note & Agenda

09:05 - 10:30 ADSG Updates

10:30 - 12:00 Knowledge sharing session

12:00 Networking coffee and ADSG Hiwar registration



مجموعة أبوظبي للاستدامة  
ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY GROUP



مجموعة أبوظبي للاستدامة  
ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

## Celebrating nine years of leadership in sustainability

Welcome to our journal's first issue of 2017. This issue is being published in time to celebrate and mark the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG) since being established by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) in 2008.

To commemorate this occasion, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our member organisations, your esteemed leadership and each representative over the last nine years for your continued support of the group.

This issue, I would like to thank Mr Holger Schroth, General Manager of Emirates Palace as we bring you our special feature interview this issue with him. Emirates Palace is an iconic structure in Abu Dhabi, and their efforts to embed sustainable practices in their daily operations will be an inspiring read for everyone.

A commitment to support a reduction in energy consumption within the Emirate has long been a goal of ADSG, and we plan to achieve this by combine training, knowledge sharing and awareness events. One of the first steps in this direction has been planning for collaborative projects with the Energy Institute. This year we were delighted to support their Middle East HSE Forum 2017 which took place in Dubai and was a great success. In this issue of the journal, the Energy Institute has given us an insight into the forum's key highlights and also provided us with guidelines to begin our energy management journey.

As you will know, earlier this year we organised the 3rd Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards and Forum 2017, where over 200 sustainability thought leaders and practitioners gathered over three days to discuss topics and issues of interest and recognise sustainability best practice in the region.

The Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum, held under the theme of 'Managing and Measuring Your Impact to Secure a Profitable and Sustainable Future' was a huge success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the speakers, members and partners, especially the EAD leadership for their continuous support and our sponsors Dolphin Energy and Etihad without whom this event would not have taken place.

Furthermore, the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group Awards which recognised sustainability best practice, brought together businesses across multiple industries who are at the forefront of

sustainability management and leadership in the GCC region. It was an excellent opportunity to mark the commitment and efforts of these organisations and to celebrate those who have assessed their sustainability impact and are working towards a profitable and sustainable future. I would like to extend my congratulations to all of our award winners.

We have some exciting activities and projects coming in the next few months. We look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming ADSG Members Quarterly Meeting in September which will provide more information on our updates, projects and achievements including the capacity building and flagship programmes which will be launched later this year. Following the quarterly meeting, the ADSG Hiwar takes place as an interactive Energy Efficiency Workshop facilitated by the Energy Institute where attendees can get practical guidance on how to manage energy consumption within their organisations.

In the coming months, we will also focus on the United Arab Emirates' efforts towards sustainable development, specifically to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I am pleased to share with you all, an events calendar we have developed which encompasses international, regional and local events for 2017/2018 keeping the sustainability professional in mind which I am sure you will find useful.

To our wider network of stakeholders, partners and colleagues we would like to extend an invitation to attend the upcoming Hiwar session which will take place in September with a focus on energy efficiency.

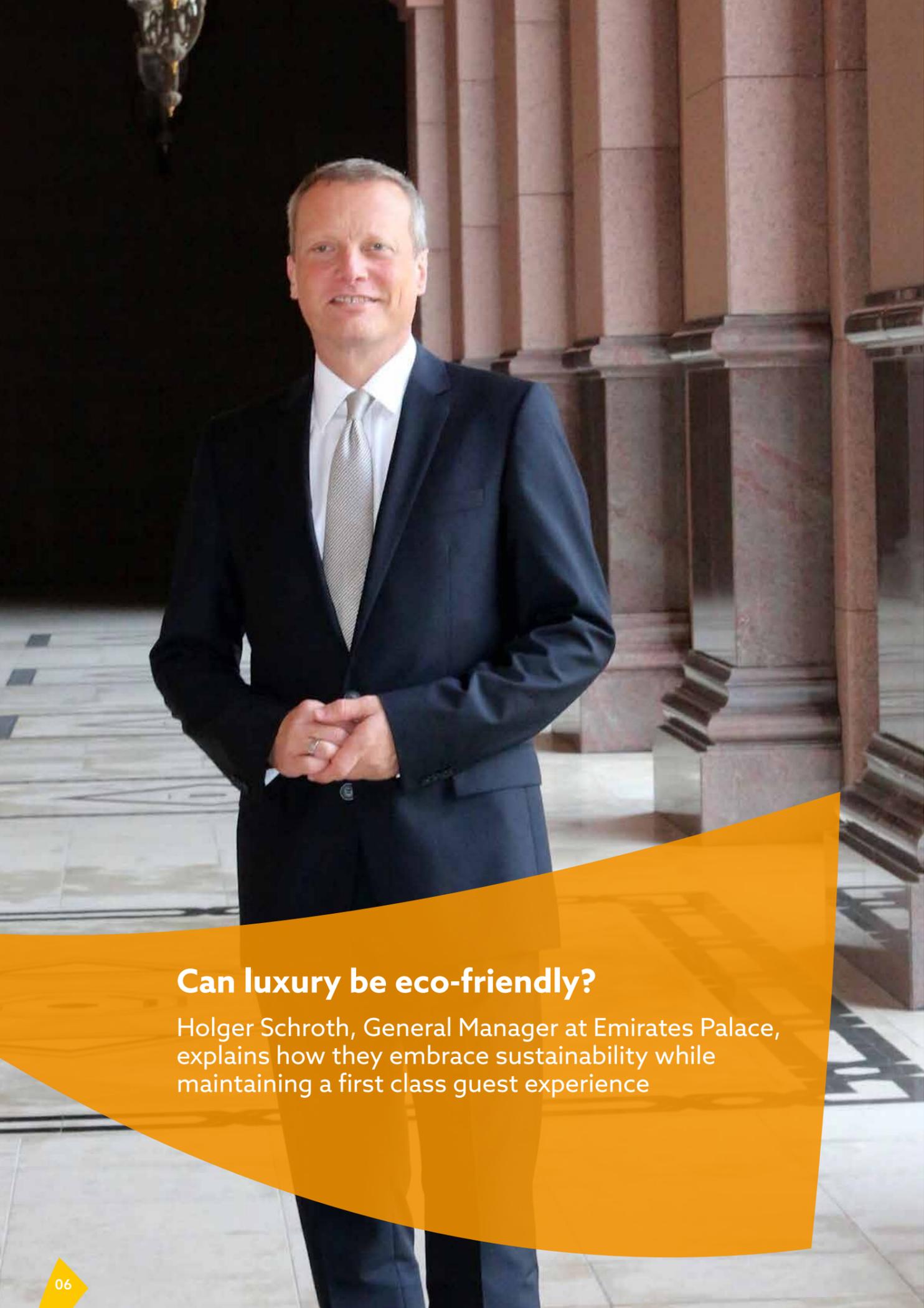
With your support, I can proudly say that we have made substantial progress in the last nine years, and I look forward to us achieving even more in the years to come.



هدى الحوقاني

Huda Al Houqani,  
ADSG Director

Comment from  
ADSG Director



## Can luxury be eco-friendly?

Holger Schroth, General Manager at Emirates Palace, explains how they embrace sustainability while maintaining a first class guest experience



Emirates Palace offers the quintessence of award-winning 5-star luxury hospitality and authentic local experiences.

As the iconic Emirates Palace hotel in Abu Dhabi lights up the night sky, it is hard to imagine how such a massive and awe inspiring hotel could possibly embrace sustainability. However, Holger Schroth, General Manager, says that despite the grand exterior and opulent facilities, the Emirates Palace has found innovative ways to embed sustainable practices in its daily operations. When he became General Manager in June 2013, Schroth was determined to not only maintain a thriving business, but to also make it greener.

He has observed the massive growth in tourism in Abu Dhabi, which is now a well-established part of the national economy. The tourism industry will prove even more important in a post-oil economy, so there are plans for further development. However, as the role of tourism is enhanced, so too is the need for sustainability, and Schroth understands that the hospitality sector has a responsibility to set a good example and lead the way.

In recent years there have been a number of sustainability trends emerge in the industry. Hotels like Emirates Palace are now addressing environmental issues in the supply chain, piloting new energy management technology, and setting

**“As a world citizen and for ethical reasons, I believe that it is important to conserve our world’s natural resources. Sustainable practices also save money, so as the General Manager of an enormous hotel, I am delighted that we can do good things for the world and budget at the same time”**

targets to reduce water, waste and energy consumption. The local communities are also benefiting, through charitable partnerships formed by the hotels and the career and development opportunities they provide.

Schroth discussed his views on sustainability, the challenges we face and how the Emirates Palace has become a more sustainable hotel.

### **Q1- Why does sustainability matter to you personally?**

As a world citizen and for ethical reasons, I believe that it is important to conserve our world’s natural resources. Sustainable practices also save money, so as the General Manager of an enormous hotel, I am delighted that we can do good things for the world and budget at the same time.



Emirates Palace is grand in both its design and myriad of offerings.

**Q2- What changes have you seen in business attitudes towards managing and being accountable for sustainability?**

Emirates Palace and the entire UAE exist in a desert so we have a vested interest in conserving water and energy, perhaps more than our western counterparts. The movement towards sustainability is growing slowly, but we are a young country, so that's not unusual.

**Q3- What role does society as a whole play in sustainable transformation and how do you think attitudes have changed over your career?**

Corporations can lead the way, but society must also play its part with regards to sustainability. An increasing number of people realise the need to protect the natural environment and our communities, so I am confident that we will see

sustainability continue to grow globally.

**Q4- What are your sustainability challenges within the next couple of years?**

Emirates Palace is a 12 year old structure, so our biggest challenge is ensuring that our facilities are energy efficient and up-to-date with the latest sustainability technology.

**Q5- How do you think the relationship between organisations, society and the environment has changed over the last decade?**

I believe that most people consider global warming to be one of earth's most pressing concerns. It is up to all of us to make changes to our lifestyles, so that we can reduce our negative impact on the environment and create a better future for the planet.

**Q6- What role do you think sustainability reporting has played?**

The reporting tools and standards have helped raise awareness of threats to sustainability, so it is much easier for me to make a case for increased funding for sustainability professionals, efforts and better technology.

**Q7- Can you share with us your top three sustainability campaigns? What were they, what did they promote and how did you measure their success?**

Our top three sustainability campaigns are our food waste and waste management, outdoor environment improvement, and the creation of our turtle rehabilitation facility. Our new food waste and waste management system minimises food and general waste

through appropriate menu planning, segregation, distribution, storage, and suppliers return policy and management systems.

We have been working on the improvement of our outdoor environment by utilising the 8,000 trees on our premises, which cleanse our air. In addition, we have created a turtle rehabilitation facility to help our most indigenous neighbours and the critically endangered hawksbill and loggerhead and green sea turtles that live in our bay. Our staff are trained to spot sea turtles in need, rescue them, get them the medical attention they require and then release them back into our waters. All three initiatives contribute to a better indoor and outdoor climate for our guests, workforce and fellow citizens.

**Q8- Where do you see corporate accountability for sustainability performance heading over the next few years?**

As the General Manager of Emirates Palace, my job is to ensure that our building services operate efficiently and cost effectively. I am accountable for whether my building saves money and energy or over expends it. It is an imperative part of my mandate to cut our carbon footprint and to save my owning company money by decreasing our energy costs.

**Holger Schroth - General Manager at the Emirates Palace**

With a long and distinguished career in hospitality, Holger Schroth holds a wealth of international experience and an affinity for the UAE to Abu Dhabi's landmark property. Since 2013, he manages the Emirates Palace, a symbol of exemplary luxury, but more importantly, a symbol of Emirati hospitality.

Prior to his appointment at Emirates Palace, Holger Schroth spent three years with the Siam Kempinski Hotel Bangkok, where he oversaw the much-anticipated opening of the hotel and held a dual role as General Manager and Area Director of South East Asia. In close to three decades of outstanding service in the hotel industry, his sterling career has included various executive positions at Kempinski hotels in Germany, China, Hong Kong, Spain, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates, having served as General Manager for Hotel Kempinski Mall of the Emirates Dubai from 2008 to 2010.

Managing and having worked in some of the most iconic Kempinski Hotels around the world such as the Hotel Adlon Berlin which is sometimes referred to as the State guesthouse of Germany, where in his time 63 official state visits were held, the Beijing Lufthansa Center in Beijing China, the Taschenbergpalais in Dresden Germany and now at Emirates Palace where since his arrival in May 2013 more than 100 official state visits were hosted, makes Holger Schroth a true professional in regards to Government visits and the hosting of large events. Having worked in the UAE previously from 2008 to 2011 and having extensively travelled, both for business and leisure throughout the GCC countries makes him very familiar with this region.



Our staff are trained to spot sea turtles in need and get them the medical attention they require and then release them back into our waters.

# ADSG Sustainability Calendar 2017

The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group events calendar has been developed with the sustainability professional in mind. The calendar showcases a forecast of upcoming international, regional and local events, important dates and scheduled meetings for the coming 12 months. We welcome your feedback, if you have events to share with us we can update the calendar and recirculate the calendar at a later date.

<b>9-10</b> AUG 2017 Intl. Conference on Air Quality & Env't. Sustainability	<b>31</b> AUG 2017 Arafat Day	<b>1-3</b> SEP 2017 Eid Al Adha	<b>5-7</b> SEP 2017 5th International Conference on Sustainable Development				
<b>12-16</b> SEP 2017 Abu Dhabi International Hunting & Equestrian Exhibition (ADIHEX)		<b>22</b> SEP 2017 Hijri New Year	<b>26</b> SEP 2017 Arabia CSR GRI Standard Training English	<b>27</b> SEP 2017 ADSG Hiwar on Energy and Members Quarterly meeting	<b>27-28</b> SEP 2017 GRI Standard Training English		
<b>28</b> SEP 2017 ADSG Journal Published	<b>30-31</b> OCT 2017 Arab Future Cities Summit				<b>30</b> NOV 2017 Martyr's Day / Prophets Birthday	<b>2</b> DEC 2017 National Day	
<b>11-12</b> DEC 2017 World Congress on Sustainable Technologies	<b>12</b> DEC 2017 Circle of Practice Board Meeting	<b>12</b> DEC 2017 ADSG Journal Published	<b>12</b> DEC 2017 World Congress on Sustainable Technologies	<b>18</b> DEC 2017 ADSG Hiwar on Natural Capital Protocol	<b>1</b> JAN 2018 New Year's Day	<b>10</b> JAN 2018 ADSG Journal Published	<b>13</b> JAN 2018 Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW)
<b>14</b> JAN 2018 Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW)	<b>15</b> JAN 2018 1. ADSW 2. World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 3. International Water Summit	<b>16</b> JAN 2018 1. ADSW 2. World Future Energy Summit (WFES) 3. International Water Summit	<b>17</b> JAN 2018 1. ADSW 2. WFES 3. Intl Conf. on Env't, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability	<b>18</b> JAN 2018 1. ADSW 2. Intl Conf. on Env't, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability	<b>19</b> JAN 2018 Intl Conf. on Env't, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability	<b>24-25</b> JAN 2018 EDIE Sustainability Leaders' Forum	<b>15</b> FEB 2018 World Sustainable Dev. Summit
<b>16</b> FEB 2018 World Sustainable Dev. Summit	<b>17</b> FEB 2018 World Sustainable Dev. Summit	<b>20</b> FEB 2018 Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2018 Awards & Gala Dinner	<b>21</b> FEB 2018 Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2018 Day 1 + Members Quarterly Meeting	<b>22</b> FEB 2018 Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2018 Day 2	<b>1-3</b> MAR 2018 World Sustainable Energy Days		<b>4</b> APR 2018 GLOBE series
<b>5</b> APR 2018 GLOBE series	<b>13</b> APR 2018 Israa Al Miraj	<b>19-20</b> APR 2018 Global Bioeconomy Summit		<b>30</b> APR 2018 Members Quarterly Meeting	<b>16</b> MAY 2018 Ramadan Begins	<b>15</b> JUN 2018 Eid Al Fitr	

# Introduction to the United Nations Global Compact



Year Of Giving Panel Discussion

The United Nations Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative upholding ten principles in the categories of human rights, labour rights, environmental stewardship and anticorruption. The UNGC was announced by Secretary General Kofi Annan in 1999 in an address at the World Economic Forum.

'I propose that you, the business leaders ... and we the United Nations, initiate a global compact of shared values and principles, which will give a human face to the global market.' Secretary General Kofi Annan

UNGC's vision is to mobilize a global movement of responsible companies and stakeholders to create the world we want:

- Operate responsibly; embed the Ten Principles deep into businesses strategy and operations
- Take bold, innovative action in support of the SDGs
- Advocate & inspire others to join the movement

With the release of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 the UN Global Compact was nominated to be a voice for the global goals within the private sector and hence were then integrated into UNGC's long term vision. The SDGs are a set of goals adopted by countries to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

'Business is a vital partner

in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Companies can contribute through their core activities, and we ask companies everywhere to assess their impact, set ambitious goals and communicate transparently about the results'. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

UNGC has successfully spread its message worldwide through the establishment of 'Local Networks' helping to deliver tangible and impactful business actions on the ground. Local Networks bring all of the unique aspects of the global initiative to the local context. Local Networks are multi-stakeholder, inclusive, action-oriented and excellent for networking with corporate executives, government officials, academics and sustainability leaders.

The UNGC UAE Local Network, is dedicated to the global mission and committed to offering local UAE participants an effective value proposition. The UAE Local Network has created a balance between utilizing global resources to build capacity, offer advisory and develop taskforces locally.

The UAE Local Network is hosted by the Dubai Land Department with the guidance of a passionate board of diverse organizations and under the leadership of Mr. Mahmoud Al Burai, MENA Local Network Representative and CEO Dubai Real Estate Institute. Companies represented on the UAE Local Network Board include, American University of Sharjah, Majid Al Futtaim, Chalhoub Group, dU, Pearl Initiative, NRS International,

CTG Global, MENA Properties, and the CEO Network.

Benefits of Local Network participation - Convene, Connect and Take Action

## 1. Induction, training and Communication on Progress (COP):

Briefing and training activities are provided on implementing the UN Global Compact ten principles, SDGs and how companies can have a strategic approach to corporate sustainability. Members also receive trainings in preparing their annual COP.

## 2. Convening platform; Taskforces:

The network provides high-impact collective action through taskforces that bring together diverse companies to address various facets of the sustainable development goals and ten principles. Each taskforce allows companies to learn from each other and develop innovative solutions. Currently taskforces under the Local Network include:

- Academic Advisory: Bringing together universities and students for awareness and action around corporate sustainability
- Women Empowerment: Promoting the Women Empowerment Principles, giving corporate leadership an opportunity to analyze their current initiatives through a gender lens. <http://www.weprinciples.org/>
- The Year of Giving: Demonstrating the variety of ways

to support this year offering a white paper on corporate volunteering and a corporate volunteering program.

- Anticorruption: Demonstrating the practical integration of the principles under anticorruption

**3. UNGC Youth Program:**  
*'You have unlimited power, unlimited authority, legitimate prerogative to raise your voice. You have unlimited power, unlimited authority, legitimate prerogative to raise your voice. Make your governors, mayors, national assembly members - even professors and business communities - make them accountable.'*

Words to youth from Secretary General Ban Ki Moon



The people who are going to be the most affected by the decisions being made are the young people and, as a result, they should be the ones leading on this; hence the UNGC UAE Local Network has established the UNGC Youth Program. Through the program, UNGC offers a youth ambassador program which brings together an elite group of youth promoting the SDGs through innovative projects and who advocate for responsible business. These members of the youth have also been trained in communication - on - progress reporting writing and can support companies in their own efforts. UNGC youth clubs have also been established across universities enjoying membership of +100 students across three different universities. UNGC youth ambassadors are listed [here](#).

## 4. UAE SDG Pioneers Award:

The UAE Local Network will celebrate businesses who are doing an exceptional job of taking action to advance the Global Goals through the Awards. Companies do not need to be UNGC participants to apply. Awards will be announced in October. Please click on the following link to apply <http://ungcuae.org/award-nomination/>

## 5. Participation in Network Governance:

This can include being elected to the Steering Committee or taking the lead on Local Network taskforces,



Mr. Mahmoud El Burai - UNGC MENA Representative giving the opening speech.

which brings varied stakeholders onto one platform.

## 6. Flagship Annual Events:

Making Global Goals Local Business - HQ  
Convenes annually in April/May as the Global Compact brings businesses and Local Networks together with UN partners, Government and civil society to make progress towards the global goals. Making Global Goals Local Business - Argentina is planned for Buenos Aires in spring 2018.

Global Compact Leaders Summit - HQ  
The UN Global Compact Leaders Summit gathers global leaders to inspire true leadership for the SDGs; present highlights of UN General Assembly week; and chart the way ahead for increased public-private collaboration to create the world we want.

UN Private Sector Forum - HQ  
Held every September alongside the UN General Assembly, this high-level interactive Forum provides a platform for the private sector to announce long-term goals and partnerships that will make an important contribution towards achieving sustainable development for all.

UNGC UAE Anniversary - Local Network  
Every year the UNGC hosts an event in May to celebrate its establishment in the UAE. The event demonstrates local best practices, innovative partnerships and global insights surrounding the ten principles and the sustainable development goals.

## 7. Publications and Electronic Communication:

These vehicles create an opportunity for stakeholders to share their best practices to a larger global and local audience.

**UNGC and the SDGs**  
BUSINESS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs = FIND OPPORTUNITY + ACT RESPONSIBLY

The UN Global Compact asks companies to first do business responsibly using the 10 principles as its foundation and then pursue opportunities to solve societal challenges through business innovation and collaboration - with the lens of the SDGs.

## Businesses Integrating the SDGs with Global - Local UNGC Support:

SDG Reporting: The Communication - on Progress is a key component of your commitment to the UN Global Compact, an annual report that needs to be submitted to continue participation. UNGC has included additional questions on the SDGs to move towards SDG reporting. The Local Network offers participant companies advisory support on how best to incorporate the SDGs into the reporting process. <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/participation/report/cop>

SDG Compass: A mapping tool with five steps, the SDG Compass provides a road map for companies to embrace the SDGs. The Local Network offers workshops and advisory around the SDG Compass to UAE participants. <https://sdgcompass.org/>

## How to become a UNGC UAE Participant?

1. Submit Letter of Commitment
2. Online Application
3. Submit Communication - on - Progress

[www.unglobalcompact.org/participation](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/participation)

Together, we can Make Global Goals Local Business

# The Sustainable Development Goals - with challenges there come solutions



The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were introduced in 2015 by 193 UN member states, as a means to tackle climate change, inequality and extreme poverty by 2030. Achieving the goals is a significant challenge, but through national strategies, business innovation and investment, effective monitoring of progress and accountability, the UN is confident that the 17 goals and 169 targets can be met (see table 1 below).

The SDG Index creates for the first time a measure of the SDG starting point for 2015 at the country level. It can help countries to identify priorities for action, understand the key implementation challenges and identify the gaps that must be closed in order to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The SDG Index also allows for

comparison with the region and with other counterparts at similar levels of overall economic development, and with the entire world, including the best and worst performers. Please click [here](#) for more information.

Governments and businesses across the world are taking positive steps, such as responsible sourcing and production and investing in renewable energy. However, their actions also have to be measured to ensure the SDG targets are being met. To simplify this process, the UN and organisations supporting the SDGs have provided some tools and resources.

The [SDG Compass](#), launched in 2015, helps companies understand why the SDGs are relevant to them and how they can effectively define

priorities, set goals and approach integrated sustainability reporting. The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) also provides a useful toolkit for governments and businesses to report on the economic, environmental, and social aspect of their activities, products, and services. Other resources available include the SDG Industry Matrix, UN Global Compact's Ten Principles, Conflict Free Sourcing Initiative and Ethical Trading Initiative.

The Nordic countries top the list in terms of implementing the goals, according to a performance index produced by Bertelsmann Stiftung and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (see table 2). Their success is partly attributed to effective renewable energy systems, high levels of equality, low unemployment, and sophisticated social services. The number one slot goes to Sweden which is around 84.5% of the way to achieving the SDGs, while Denmark, Norway and Finland are also highly rated.

Sweden's Prime Minister, Stefan Löfven, declared at the United Nations General Assembly that his country would become "one of the first fossil-free welfare states in the world." Sweden is a leader on renewable energy investment in Europe, and the country's shift from oil to district heating in the early 1990's has greatly reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Centralising the way buildings are heated and cooled through a main source means that the central plant can be advanced to use more sustainable and clean forms of fuel.

Many district heating networks also make use of recycled heat from industry energy that would normally go to waste. Sweden also claims that 99% of household waste is recycled and turned into new products, raw materials, or burned and used for gas or heat. Also, bio energy is now bigger than fossil fuel in Sweden, as a proportion of total energy use. In terms of social benefits there is a lot of state support for new parents, outdoor activities and gender equality.

Denmark provides another example of renewable energy best practice



with the news that they are already halfway towards their goal of producing half of its electricity from wind by 2050. Western European countries also appear in the top ten of the Bertelsmann Stiftung and UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network performance index, with Australia and Japan making an appearance in the top 20.

Of the 149 countries assessed, the United States ranks 25th, Russia 47th and China 76th. The developing countries, due to lack of resource, are listed at the bottom of the index. Globally it is expected to cost around £6 trillion annually to reach the SDGs by 2030. At the United Nations annual Financing for Development (FfD) review in May 2017, member states discussed progress made on the SDGs. They highlighted that domestic government resources alone cannot fulfil the 17 goals. Investment from the Private Sector Major investment from the private sector in infrastructure, services and resources is also needed to manage worldwide environmental and societal issues. As part of this, banks and financial institutions need to use their capital to help grow private sector finance.

Many businesses are already operating in ways that do less harm to the environment, because they know this enhances their reputation and offers financial benefits through new innovations. Known as 'impact

investors,' this savvy community are keen to explore how their impact strategies can align with the SDGs. Examples of this work in practice include renewable energy, affordable housing, and access to financial services.

Pursuing financial success while supporting sustainability has become popular with many large global organisations. A report by risk management firm DNV GL looked at 17 companies that have truly embraced the SDGs. These businesses, which include Unilever, Siemens, Marks & Spencer and Danone, have incorporated sustainability into their business growth strategy. They have harnessed new technology and formed useful collaborations as part of their sustainability agenda.

Also, organisations which may have been perceived as having a negative impact on climate change are now keen to show their new environmental initiatives. Examples of this include General Motors work in developing wildlife habitats at 63 facilities to halt biodiversity loss, and Coca Cola's commitment to ensuring replenishment of 94% of the water used in its products.

Furthermore, innovation and emerging technologies are increasingly changing how international organizations are investing to realize the SDGs,

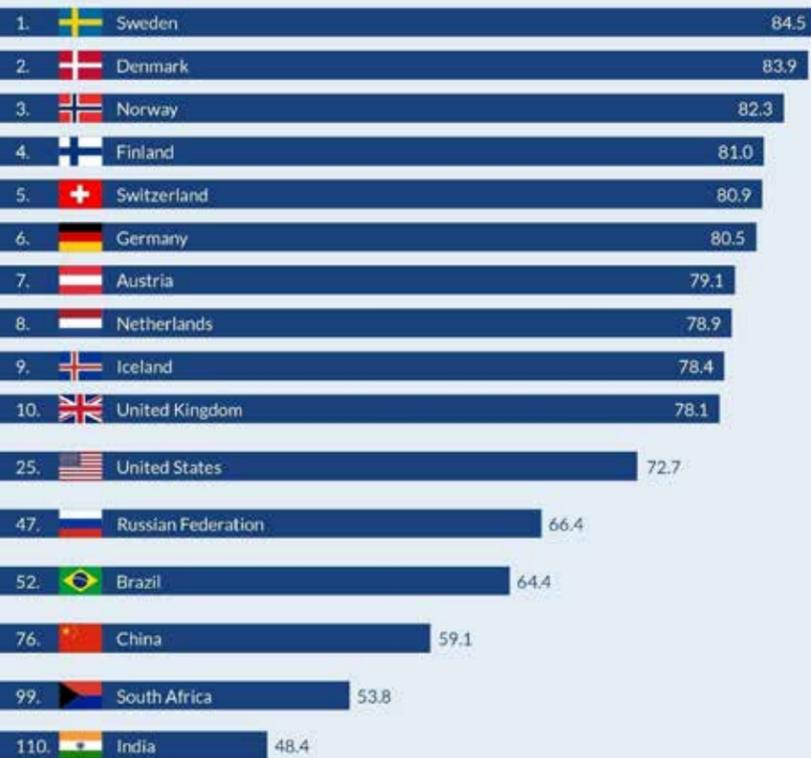
according to a recent report published by the UN Development Program (UNDP) Innovation Facility. The report 'Spark, Scale, Sustain' shares UNDP's approach to innovation, over 40 case studies of innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals in practice and Features on Alternative Finance, Behavioral Insights, Data Innovation and Public Policy Labs. Please click [here](#) to download the report.

In addition, public relations campaigns are being built around the SDG goals, for example, Nike footwear and apparel products are now made of 71% recycled materials and they say they are aiming for zero waste from footwear manufacturing sent to landfills by 2020. They also want to achieve 100% usage of renewable energy at Nike-owned and operated facilities by 2025.

So the days of seeing sustainability as an expense have gone, as companies see sustainable innovation as a growth strategy. These incentives should play a valuable role in advancing the SDGs and ensuring the world operates in a more sustainable way.

**Sandra Anani**  
Sustainability Advisor  
to Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) - Overall Country Rankings



The Scores represent the overall rankings from the SDG-Index (149 country's) for individual countries. 100 is the maximum score.



BertelsmannStiftung

# Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group Announced 2017 Sustainable Business Leadership Awards Winners and Launches 'Year of Giving' Category

Over 200 senior executives and sustainability experts from different organisations in the GCC region attended the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards ceremony on 28th February 2017, which is supported by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) and organized by the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG).

The event, held at the Anantara Eastern Mangroves Hotel, Abu Dhabi, brought together businesses from across multiple industries who are at the forefront of sustainability management and leadership in the GCC region. It focused on raising awareness of the benefits of sustainable management and responsible business growth, and gave special recognition to the companies demonstrating sustainability best practice.

Dr Abdullah Zamzam, EAD's Assistant Secretary General opened the event by stressing that the UAE realizes the need to balance between both economic and sustainable development requirements. He added that in order to achieve this objective we need a strong partnership between the different governmental institutions, which would thus enable both public and private sectors to contribute to protecting the environment and serving the society.

He added, "Over the last few years, Abu Dhabi identified its directives and developed its priorities and targets in the Abu Dhabi Plan and identified the Emirates' vision with regards to development, economic, and social fields, as well as sustaining this growth. EAD has played a main role in developing programs and projects related to the environment in Abu Dhabi".

"This direction enhanced our commitment to protect the environment, and implement sustainability principles. We updated our five-year strategy according to the Abu Dhabi Plan requirements. One of our priorities is to position EAD as an organisation of excellence

and as a leader in environmental sustainability," he noted.

Huda Al Houqani, ADSG's Director said: "Whether you're an expert in sustainability or on the path to learning more, what we all understand is that sustainable practices are essential. This isn't just about the environment and communities; it also makes enormous business sense."

The Sustainable Business Leadership Awards is an award and recognition scheme that is designed to recognise sustainability best practice and to raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable management for organisations. The awards are the region's only independent annual awards for sustainability achievements. There were five categories - Best Sustainability Report, Best Sustainability Initiative, Best Sustainability Communication Programme, Best Sustainability Manager and Best Sustainability Leader.

It was down to an expert panel of judges - Laila Abdullatif, Deputy Director General, Emirates Wildlife Society, Jessica Fries, Executive Chairman, HRH Prince of Wales, Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S), and Dr Jenny Davidson, Director of Learning and Teaching in Corporate and Exec, New Castle Business School - to make the difficult decision on which of the many impressive applicants deserved to win.

Laila Mostafa Abdullatif, Deputy Director General at EWS-WWF, commented, "It is an absolute pleasure to be a member of the prestigious steering committee of the ADSG Business Leadership Awards. Tonight we celebrated organizations who have assessed their sustainability impact and are working towards a profitable and sustainable future, and believe in making an impact".

"Building a future in which people live in harmony with nature is our mission at EWS-WWF. We are

strongly aligned with the Year of Giving and are delighted to see that ADSG is also joining hands with this nation-wide initiative which aims to promote the importance of living in harmony with nature", continued Laila.

At the event, Dolphin Energy was awarded Best Sustainability Report, for the way they effectively presented their environmental, social and economic performance. The Best Sustainability Initiative was given to "Connect to Learn" initiative in Domiz Refugee Camps Iraq, the initiative which is realised through partnership between Asiacell, Ericsson and International Rescue Committee (IRC); and was aimed at providing education to Syrian refugee children affected by the conflict.

Ibrahim Al-Zu'bi is the Head of Sustainability at Majid Al Futtaim-Holding picked up the award for Sustainability Leader of the Year and Geraldine Seguela, Sustainability Manager at Cleveland Clinic - Abu Dhabi was awarded Sustainability Manager of the Year - for their exceptional commitment in implementing sustainable responses to environmental, social and economic challenges. The award for Best Sustainability Communication Programme went Bourouge for their Sustainable Campus Initiative, which is being implemented in partnership with the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi and aims to strengthen and build sustainable leadership capacity amongst the youth.

This year, the awards and the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum were inspired by the UAE Government's 'Year of Giving'. Launched by the President, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the year's focus is centred around three main themes - strengthening social responsibility in the private sector, promoting a spirit of volunteering and strengthening the concept of serving the nation in new generations of Emiratis and expatriates.

The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group

is actively participating through collaboration with the UAE Food Bank and the UAE Red Crescent. Furthermore, in the spirit of the Year of Giving a new sixth category was launched during the event; this award is noncompetitive and is granted by the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group in recognition of organisations that make significant achievements in any of the three 'Year of Giving' themes.

The new award category went to Takatof for their superb volunteering programme. Their work exemplifies the mission of the UAE 'Year of Giving' 2017 that was launched by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE.

Speaking at Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards, Maytha Al Habsi, Deputy CEO at Emirates Foundation said: "We are greatly honored to be receiving this distinguished award from the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership forum and feel a deep sense of gratitude and responsibility towards the vision set forth by the UAE wise leadership aiming at educating and raising the awareness

of our youth about the importance of volunteerism, giving, respect and appreciation of the rich diversity of our country's cultures."

Al Habsi further elaborated: "At the Emirates Foundation, we deploy business based principles through the operations of all our programs, and this has demonstrated that we can create sustainable impact at scale, impact that can change people's lives permanently and not just a one time intervention. Today, more than ever, we believe in the highest potential of our youth and their sense of social responsibility and therefore trust them to deliver on being 'Ambassadors of Giving' for our nation. We are proud of our Takatof youth who demonstrate the highest levels of commitment towards promoting the values, beliefs and most importantly the practices of volunteerism."

As well as acknowledging great acts of sustainability by organisations and individuals, the event also saw Kamelia Zaal, an Emirati landscape designer, stand as the keynote speaker for the evening. Ms Zaal's

accolades include a Silver Gilt Medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May 2015, for her work "The Beauty of Islam."

She spoke about our role as custodians for nature, safeguarding flora and fauna, Islamic values and teachings around looking after our planet. She also discussed the importance of building a sustainable garden that supports wildlife and gives immeasurable pleasure and value to all generations in the UAE.

During her presentation, Kamelia Zaal, Founder and Lead Designer at Kamelia Landscape Design, said "As an Emirati in the field of landscape design, sustainability is part of our heritage however it is necessary for future generations to come to ensure true sustainability is established in our everyday lives and having such awards helps to encourage businesses to affirm their commitment to our community and the UAE as a whole".

Please click [here](#) to read the full report for the ADSG Awards and Gala Dinner Ceremony 2017.



Huda Al Houqani, Director of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group welcomes attendees for the ADSG Awards and Gala Dinner Night 2017.



Volunteers from Takatof, ADSG Award Winners under the newly launched 'Year of Giving' category.



Sustainability professionals gather for the 3rd annual ADSG Awards 2017.



Senior leadership come together to celebrate sustainability best practice in UAE.



Key Note Speaker Tamara Withers, Corporate Sustainability Manager, EWS-WWF.



Dr. Abdulla Zamzam, Assistant Secretary General of Operations at Environment Agency Abu Dhabi opens the ADSG Awards and Gala Dinner.



Key Note Speaker Kamelia Zaal, Emirati Landscape Designer.



H.H Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi closes the gala dinner and awards night.



ADSAG Awards Trophies and Recognition certificates.

## 2017 Sustainable Business Leadership Award Winners



Ibrahim al Zubi Receives Sustainability Leader of the Year Award.



Ericsson Receives Best Sustainability Initiative Award on behalf of Asiacell and International Rescue Committee (IRC).



Geraldine Seguela Receives Sustainability Manager of the Year Award.



Borouge Receives Best Sustainability Communication Programme Award



Dolphin Energy Receives Award for Best Sustainability Report.



Takatof receive recognition award under 'Year of Giving' category.

# Managing and Measuring Your Impact to Secure a Profitable and Sustainable Future - Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2017

The Abu Dhabi Sustainable Leadership Forum, in its third year, offered a platform for discussion and debate across a wide range of current sustainability challenges and opportunities. International thought leaders joined leaders from across the region to debate, share and raise awareness on how global sustainability challenges are being tackled in the GCC region, to showcase areas of best practice and to explore the sustainability journey ahead.

Whilst the conference itself set out a framework for the panel sessions ranging from leadership for sustainability to partnerships and

value creation, the discussions were rich and far reaching and prompted both thought and action. At the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum, over 200 sustainability thought leaders and practitioners gathered to discuss topics and issues material to sustainability and explore how innovation can offer a more sustainable and resilient economy.

Whether through plenaries, discussions or networking events, this Forum is designed to benefit everyone from the private sector to government entities and not-for-profits sector.

The theme this year was 'Managing and Measuring Your Impact to Secure a Profitable Sustainable Future'. We know the world is changing - transparency is driving shareholders and stakeholders' towards organisations that not only demonstrate sustainability leadership and manage their environmental and social impacts effectively, but also innovate to create a new and more stable reality.

This article provides highlights from the event. To read the full report, please click [here](#). The report sets out key discussion points and highlights the key thoughts drawn from the event.



Expert panelists introduce the Natural Capital Protocol.



Panel session on how sustainability considerations can be integrated into the core of business



EAD led Corporate GHG Accounting Breakout session.



Day 2 of the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2017 involved interactive plenary sessions.



Delegates learn about sustainable consumption in the future.



Delegates on Day 1 of the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2017.



Delegates share what they learnt at the AD SG Forum 2017.



Economists Panel Session on Innovation and a Diversifying Sustainable Economy.

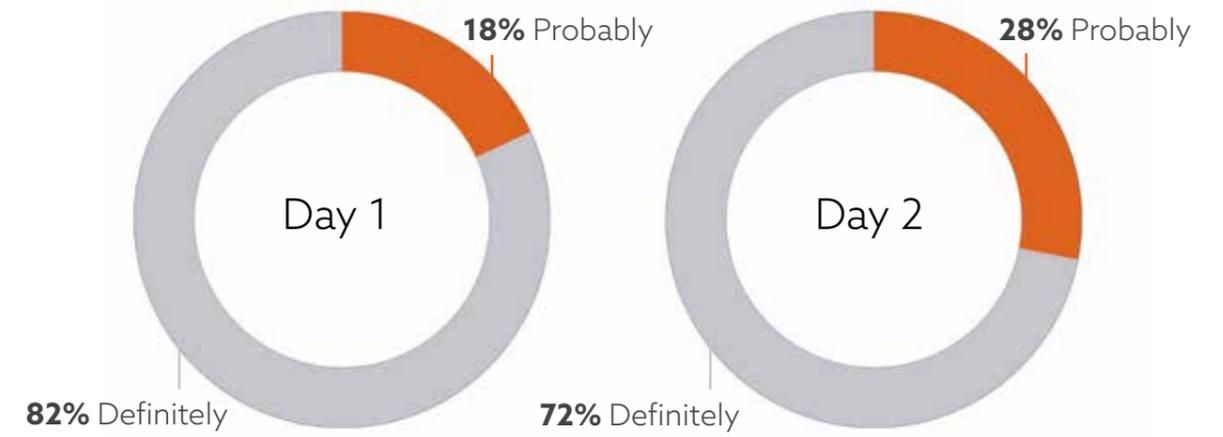


ADSG Award winner Ericsson share details on their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

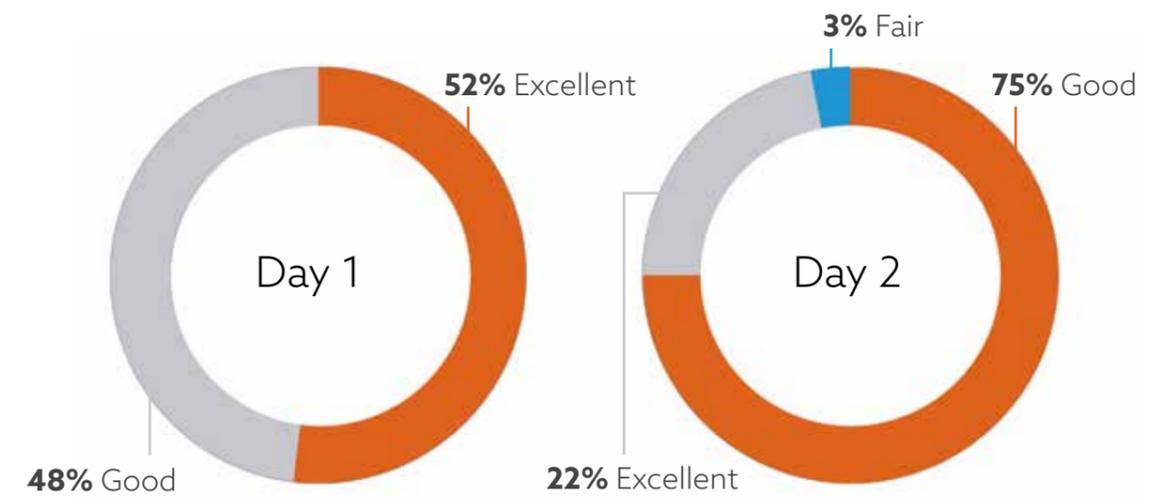


Networking opportunities for delegates.

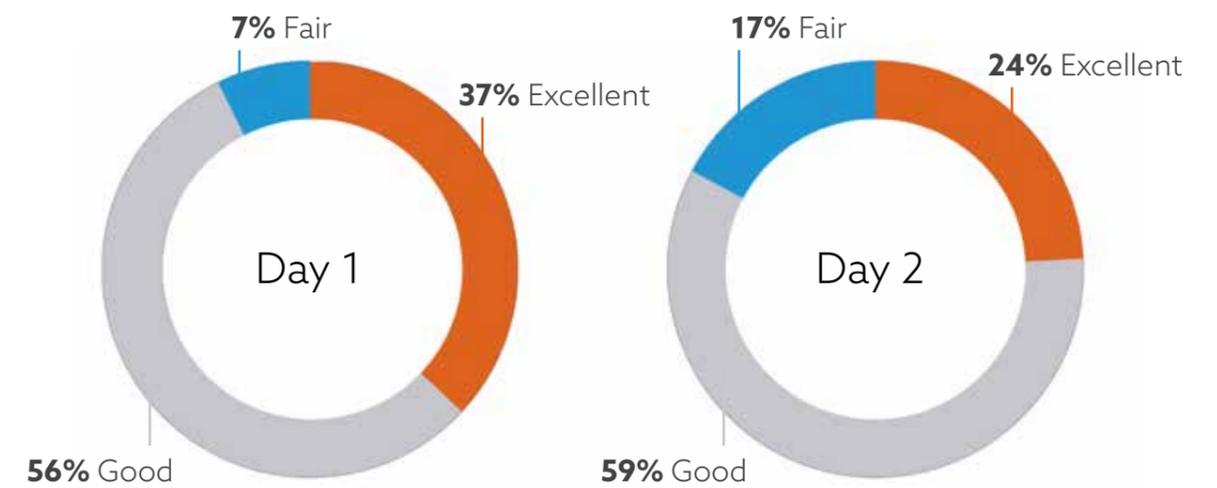
## Would you or a colleague from your company attend a future ADSG Forum?



## Usefulness of the Forum overall:



## Topics covered in the Forum programme:



## The one key thing I learned @ the Forum

## The key thing I will change as result of the Forum

I learned about changing consumer behavior attitude towards sustainable products

I learned about The Natural Coalition

There are lots of opportunities in sustainability

Legalisation and regulations has to be in place to control sustainable economy

We should volunteer in CSR which will help culture, environment and the economy

Our lifestyle can be improved for better sustainability

Integrated Reporting can provide the best value out of a group of authors rather than providing the least common denominator

The value of air emissions is different from their measuring and measurements

Government and public sector collaboration is key to overcome regulation limitations and also gain support

I learned about the importance and difference between air quality emission measurements and the value of air quality. Knowing this difference and articulating it supports effective decision making

My learning on recycling got reinforced

Huge opportunity to reduce carbon footprint through our supply chains

I learned about sustainable economic models and that disconnection between morality and money is unsustainable

Always try to think of new ideas which will contribute to the sustainable development of nations and eventually our future even if it's a small contribution but what matters is to contribute

The event really helped the EAD Air Quality, Noise and Climate Change team gather critical insights and recommendations for closing key gaps in the GHG accounting and reporting proposed process

Build sustainable products into our personal and professional lives, especially environmental, social, economic initiatives

Sustainability should become a part of our culture

More advertising on regulations to make people more aware about sustainability and learn more about the boundaries that limits their behaviors

I will engage with my supply chain partners to reduce their emissions and waste

We all need to consider the Circular Economy (jeans, phones, everything!)

I will promote sustainability concepts among my organisation's suppliers

Must define my organization's Natural Capital

I will promote recycling as well as e waste minimization in my organization

Explore in my organization ways to recycle products and encourage others

Use drones to input pipeline transmission lines specially around steep and high risk areas

All sustainability initiatives show our support towards The Year of Giving



Keynote Address: His Excellency Ahmed Mohamed Alkaabi Assistant Under Secretary, Petroleum, Gas and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Energy and UAE Governor for OPEC shares his view on UAE 2050 Energy strategy and the importance of HSE

**From 16-18 May 2017, the Energy Institute (EI) ran their first Middle East HSE Forum, supported by the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG).**

The HSE Forum brought together research, academia, industry and regulators to deliver essential information from senior speakers and technical experts. Speakers included H.E. Ahmed Mohammed Al Kaabi, Assistant Under-Secretary for the Oil and Gas industry and Mineral Resources at the UAE Ministry of Energy, Ahmad Al Muhairbi, Secretary General of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and Eva Ramos, Director of Policy Analysis and Economics, the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD).

The speakers presented to a full room of over 100 delegates from throughout the Middle East about the journey to sustainability in the region and the HSE challenges and opportunities facing the energy sector. Sessions focussed on vital HSE subjects such as the development and implementation of HSE strategy, identifying and managing hazards, utilising data for HSE management, safety culture, managing health hazards and mitigating environmental impact.

The HSE Forum enabled the sharing of international best practice by allowing presenters and delegates to communicate issues, describe their responses to key challenges, learn from each other and showcase innovative technology solutions and research.

**H.E. Ahmed Al Kaabi shared details of the 2050 energy strategy and discussed the vital role of HSE.**

His Excellency began by describing the Dubai 2050 Energy Strategy and its targets for demand and supply. Although the UAE is a leading oil exporter, steps have been taken at the national level to reduce fossil fuel dependency, with initiatives

such as nuclear and renewable energy for power generation. The strategy is expected to decrease overall power consumption by 40% and save AED 700 billion in energy costs.

The strategy will result in three main achievements: balance supply and demand, meet UAE international commitments with reference to the environment (e.g., emission levels), and ensure a positive economic environment. The supply-demand component of the strategy involves initiatives for power consumption efficiency, diversifying power sources / ensure supply security. The UAE's ambitious goal for its 2050 energy



The speaker panel all share their views on processes aimed at improving energy management that considered energy efficiency and sustainability. Alia Ali Busamra, Manager, Group Sustainability Group, Chief Sustainability Officer, Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC); Mustafa Vahgijpurwala MEI, Energy Specialist, Petrofac; Krishna Murthy, Environmental Solutions and Consultancy; Dr Sunil Manjrekar, Dignitary of ASSE Global Region and CEO of M/s Sanbook Quality Consultancy, UAE

mix is 44% renewables, 38% gas, 6% nuclear and the balance of 12% from clean fossil fuels. The UAE will invest AED 600 billion to meet demand and ensure sustainability of growth in the economy. Equally important is finding new solutions to complement power and transfer systems. So, research, development and innovation will be prioritized and funded.

**Ms. Eva Ramos, discussed the EAD's role in building a sustainable future.**

Ms. Ramos informed the conference about the latest focus on subsidy reform, demand side management plus the use of nuclear and renewable energy sources to enable significant reductions to CO<sup>2</sup> emissions in the UAE. Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) has been supporting the development of core government strategies, action plans and policies to decouple economic growth from environmental impact. Its work includes highlighting the effects of climate change and the need for a policy-driven shift to low carbon plans. The Paris Climate Change Accord, ratified in 2016 by 195 nations, provide a framework for government action in this area. By 2015, more than 160 countries had made plans to reduce emissions, but evidence suggests that there is still a great deal to be done to achieve targets for climate temperature changes.

The UAE is committed to increasing the contribution of clean energy, hoping to supply 27% of its domestic energy needs with clean sources by 2021. Energy and water subsidy reforms are an important step in this



H.E. Ahmad Buti Al Muhairbi, Secretary General, Dubai Supreme Council of Energy who shared the Dubai sustainable energy model that will drive green growth and what is the government's role in driving sustainability to abate climate change challenges

direction.

Ms. Ramos highlighted the urgency of the situation for Abu Dhabi, where more than 74 percent of greenhouse gas emissions come from the energy sector. Any action that can improve energy efficiency and help to decarbonize the energy industry will be welcome.

Solutions include energy efficiency, changing the energy resource mix, reduction in the use of fossil fuels and further subsidy reform. There are great opportunities for investment in this area, and EAD is working with proposals for water usage and helping develop climate change strategies as part of the Abu Dhabi Plan. Innovations include Pioneering and Procarbon, targeting methods for capturing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in mangrove forests and other eco systems. Applications have been piloted in Abu Dhabi and other countries.

EAD is also working closely with Energy Footprint Group to ensure that there is more investment in renewables and energy efficiency, and with Estidama to improve

building efficiency. Strategies from EAD for renewables and demand side management, if implemented, have the potential to reduce emissions from business-as-usual activities to 43% of current levels.

Ms. Ramos also described EAD's initiatives in ground water quality improvement and other ecological concerns, educational programs and the need for operational guidance in addition to policy changes.

**The Energy Institute (EI)**

The EI utilises its 104-year history of energy expertise to support capacity building in the UAE. It does this by connecting energy professionals, providing technical guidance and delivering training to support best operational practice. If you would like more information about how the EI can support you and your team, contact us at:

Trevor Stott-Briggs, Managing Director - Energy Institute Middle East  
(t) +971 (50) 615 6524  
(e) [tstott-briggs@energyinst.org](mailto:tstott-briggs@energyinst.org)  
[www.energyinst.org](http://www.energyinst.org)



Delegates and speakers from across the Middle East and internationally gathered to share global good practice and learning on effective management of health, safety, environment and sustainability at the Energy Institute's Middle East HSE Forum.

Stay in touch with the **ADSG** on the move and keep up to date on the latest news and activities.

Follow us on twitter.  
**@ADSG\_Comms**

