

SUSTAINABILITY E-JOURNAL

مجموعة أبوظبي للاستدامة
ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

منتدى أبوظبي لريادة
الأعمال المستدامة 2023

النمو الإيجابي للطبيعة

Shining the spotlight on
sustainability best practice,
case studies from the Abu
Dhabi Sustainable Business
Leadership Awards 2023

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Highlights from the
8th Annual Abu
Dhabi Sustainable
Business Forum
2023, Nature
Positive Growth

“CDP is evolving its
scoring by expanding our
scope to cover additional
planetary boundaries,
including plastics, land
use, oceans, biodiversity,
food production and
waste, to reflect the
urgent environmental
need for a lowcarbon,
nature-positive transition
by 2030.”



مجموعة أبوظبي للاستدامة
ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

DEXTER GALVIN
CHIEF COMMERCIAL
AND PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER



مجموعة أبوظبي للاستدامة
ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

GREENHOUSE GAS ACCOUNTING FOR YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN



2pm till 3pm UAE Local Time



Microsoft - Teams



Wednesday 17 January 2024



Dexter Galvin
Chief Commercial And
Partnerships Officer, CDP

EVENT OVERVIEW

In today's world, sustainability has become a key concern for businesses worldwide. The CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project) is a powerful tool that helps organisations measure, disclose, manage, and ultimately reduce their environmental impacts. Join us for a one-hour workshop to gain insights from industry experts Dexter Galvin on how to effectively utilize the CDP Disclosure Framework.

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Dear Readers and Stakeholders,

We are incredibly grateful for your active participation in our events and activities throughout 2023. Your presence and engagement have made our events, activities and The Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum and Awards a great success. You will see the fantastic achievements and efforts of the members of the AD SG throughout this issue. As well as an excellent feature interview with Dexter Galvin, Chief Commercial and Partnerships Officer at CDP.

As we usher in 2024, we are excited to present a series of events that will delve into the most pressing topics in the sustainability world. We will commence the year with a series of free webinars in collaboration with The Capitals Coalition with a post COP28 webinar in January as well as the webinar with CDP on greenhouse gas emissions. Both events are highlighted in this issue and we look forward to seeing you there.

Also, please make sure you save the date for our upcoming Quarterly Meeting.

We look forward to an insightful year with sustainability gaining momentum in 2024! As always, we welcome your contributions and feedback to improve the Sustainability eJournal. Please feel free to contact me with any updates.

Wishing you a peaceful and joyous time until our next issue,
Sandra

Sandra Anani
Director, Sustainability to Action

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ABU DHABI SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS
LEADERSHIP FORUM 2023

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The opinions and views expressed in the AD SG Sustainability e-Journal do not necessarily reflect the AD SG's policy or position.

Special thanks to the members of the AD SG, partners and stakeholders for providing information, pictures, graphics and support in the production of this eJournal.

Special thanks to:
Photography provided by AD SG, AD Ports.

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مجموعة أبوظبي للاستدامة
ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

THE CAPITALS COALITION UAE HUB MAJLIS



1:30 pm till 2:30 pm UAE Time



Microsoft - Teams



Friday 29 January 2024



Mark Gough, CEO, Capitals Coalition

EVENT OVERVIEW

Join us for an exclusive online webinar, featuring Mark Gough, CEO, Capitals Coalition, as the keynote speaker. The focus has shifted to explore the post-COP28 outcomes and updates from the World Economic Forum in Davos, taking place in January 2024. This webinar aims to delve into the implications of these global events on sustainable development and the integration of natural, human, social, and produced capitals into decision-making processes. Designed as an informal and interactive session, the event welcomes all participants who share a keen interest in exploring innovative strategies for sustainable development and the integration of natural, human, social and produced capitals into decision making.

What is a Majlis? The term “Majlis” refers to a traditional Arabic gathering or council where people come together to exchange ideas, share perspectives, and engage in meaningful conversations. In the context of this event, the term “Majlis” embodies the spirit of inclusivity, open dialogue, and communal participation.

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Dear esteemed members and partners,

I am delighted to welcome you to the third issue of the AD SG Sustainability e-Journal for 2023.

This issue features the 8th Annual Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum and Awards Report which took place on 3-5 October 2023 at the Anantara Eastern Mangroves, Abu Dhabi. The Forum themed "Nature-Positive Growth," coincides with the UAE Year of Sustainability and the hosting of COP28.

Our responsibility to amplify sustainable practices and drive positive change on a global scale has never been more significant and I believe that embracing a 'Nature Positive' approach creates a fresh, constructive, and inclusive business environment. It provides the opportunity to showcase good governance, contribute to the development of a stable society, and explore a novel economic model for growth. This approach has facilitated collaboration, sparked innovation, and enhanced transparency in our operations.

This year brought us immense joy as we proudly introduced two noteworthy publications that hold great significance for my colleagues, partners, and me. First and foremost, our 15-year anniversary book, titled "Pioneering Sustainability," is a testament to the collective effort and support we've received, including your valuable input. Furthermore, the launch of the Arabic translation of the Integrated Protocol Whitepaper by the Capitals Coalition is a key milestone in our steadfast dedication to advancing global sustainability. This initiative underscores our commitment to inclusivity and the widespread dissemination of essential resources, reflecting our ongoing efforts to contribute to a more sustainable and informed world.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, Dolphin Energy, Aldar and Pyramedia Group, for their generous support, which played a pivotal role in making the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2023 a resounding success. Your commitment to fostering a path toward 'Nature Positive Growth' has truly made a lasting impact. A special note of appreciation goes to our esteemed Speakers and Moderators, whose

insightful contributions and dedication significantly enriched the conference. Your expertise and passion for sustainable initiatives were instrumental in shaping a collective vision for a greener and more sustainable future.

Finally, a huge congratulations to all of the winners of the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards 2023 for their significant efforts and strides in promoting the very best practice, research and innovation in sustainability management practices within the region.

Thank you for your commitment we look forward to continued collaboration in our shared mission for a better, more sustainable future.

Kind Regards,



Huda Al Houqani
Director - Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group,
Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi



A CONVERSATION WITH CDP



DEXTER GALVIN **CHIEF COMMERCIAL AND PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER**

Dexter is CDP's Chief Commercial and Partnerships Officer, leading its mission-led work with investors, companies, cities, states and regions to build a sustainable economy by measuring and acting on their environmental impact.

Since joining CDP in 2008, he has applied his passion for the standardization and harmonization of environmental reporting standards to change the way large companies and governments think about climate change and sustainability. This includes spearheading CDP's world-leading Supply Chain program and developing market-leading products for companies.

A champion for technology's role in helping to solve our environmental crisis, Dexter also sits on the advisory boards for AI for the Planet, Giki and NZDPU.



Give us a brief overview of CDP, how did it start? What challenges did you face on your journey till date, and how did you overcome them?

CDP was founded in 2000, as the Carbon Disclosure Project, with the mission of transforming capital markets to address the climate crisis through the transparent sharing of data. Our vision, then as now, is for a thriving economy that works for people and planet in the long term.

In the early years, most companies did not want to talk about climate change, as it wasn't seen as a direct risk upon a company's financial and operational

holdings. This showed that there was a real lack of information about how business was impacting the environment - the status quo was unbridled growth with few thoughts spared for the future.

Before anything could change, there was a real need for data. From that, the concept of environmental disclosure was born. Over the last two decades, CDP has gathered a vast, standardised and comparable global dataset which covers over half of global market capitalisation. Indeed, today we are seen as the gold standard for environmental reporting.

CDP is evolving its scoring by expanding our scope to cover additional planetary boundaries, including plastics, land use, oceans, biodiversity, food production and waste, to reflect the urgent environmental need for a low-carbon, nature-positive transition by 2030.

What are the biggest challenges for disclosure and how does CDP help organizations to overcome those?

CDP recognizes the challenge that companies face when disclosing, especially for the first time. We understand that reporting is a journey, and that companies are unlikely to be starting off with all the information or the right systems in place.

Undoubtedly, one of the biggest challenges is disclosing on scope 3. Supply chain emissions (upstream Scope 3 emissions) are, on average, 11.4 times greater than a company's direct operational emissions. However, most companies (51% disclosing through CDP) only look at direct emissions and not their wider impact, demonstrating there is certainly a long way to go. CDP's data shows there is hope. Year-on-year, disclosure through CDP improves a company's disclosure on scope 3, with the percentage of companies disclosing at least one scope 3 emission category rising from 27% of first-time disclosers, to 53% of repeat disclosers.

CDP also has an extensive guidance page located on our website, where companies can find support on disclosure and a tailored support program to help overcome the challenges of disclosure.

How important is sustainability for you personally? Did that play any role in your decision to take your position with CDP?

After watching Al Gore's film, An Inconvenient Truth, in 2008, I had something of an environmental Damascus conversion, having previously been involved in carbon intensive time critical logistics (air charters). Once aware of the full scale of the climate crisis - but also the opportunity to help build a sustainable future and economy - I couldn't do anything else. CDP was just starting our supply chain work at the time I joined, and it was a great privilege to help to get this off the ground.

How important is purpose in your organization? Do you see a difference in sustainability performance between organizations that have a defined purpose and those that don't?

Having a defined goal or purpose is critical in improving a company's sustainability performance. Companies that develop climate transition plans are more likely to see a difference in their sustainability performance than those that don't. A climate transition plan is a time-bound action plan that clearly outlines how an organization will achieve its strategy to pivot its existing assets, operations, and entire business model towards a path aligned with the latest and most ambitious climate science recommendations. These ambitions include halving greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and reaching net-zero by 2050 at the latest, thereby limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

Climate transition plans and reporting on forward-looking indicators and metrics will increase investor confidence in organizations' climate-related planning and ability to stay relevant (i.e., profitable) in a net-zero carbon economy - those without a plan risk falling short.

Do you think regulation would help to increase disclosures? If so, how?

CDP has always been supportive of mandatory disclosure. Globally, the transition towards mandatory disclosure is underway and already implemented in some jurisdictions. Most of the incoming regulation and standards, including the ISSB climate standard, European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) and the proposed US climate disclosure rule, are rooted in the recommendations of the TCFD, which CDP aligned with in 2018. Companies already disclosing through CDP have the benefit of being well prepared for incoming regulations, and those which have not yet done so are further incentivized, to be aligned to incoming frameworks and standards.

Mandatory disclosure would create regulatory certainty and a level playing field, which would benefit companies in today's highly competitive business environment, and push those that do not currently disclose voluntarily to do so.

How can disclosure help organizations learn about and take action on the most material environmental, social and governance aspects of their business?

Disclosure increases transparency and drives environmental action for companies, and across their supply chains too, if they engage with them. Measuring and reporting data each year improves awareness within companies of where they are succeeding and also where they are falling short if they already have targets in place.

Disclosing through CDP allows companies to see the material risks they face by not taking action. For example, disclosing through CDP on forests helps companies and investors address their exposure to deforestation and seize opportunities from tackling the issue. The potential financial impact of these risks was an average of \$330 million dollars per disclosing company, despite the average projected costs of mitigating these being just \$17 million dollars per company.

How can organizations in the Gulf region engage with CDP programmes?

COP28 created increased momentum behind, and scrutiny of, corporate environmental action in the region. However, reaching Net Zero will require unprecedented alignment between and among governments, businesses and consumers. In recent years, several countries in MENA have announced net zero ambitions (covering 60% of the region's emissions) while the number of companies disclosing through CDP in the Middle East is increasingly rapidly. For example, in 2022, 61 companies in the UAE responded to CDP's climate change questionnaire. More companies are setting targets to decarbonize in the Middle East, though still only a small proportion.

Companies can engage with CDP by disclosing data across the three areas of water security, climate change and forests. By disclosing, companies will be able to navigate both sides of the risks and opportunity ledger, allowing them to account for stranded assets, supply chain risks and changing regulatory and reporting requirements whilst being poised to seize opportunities gained from taking action.

Companies should also consider joining CDP's Supply Chain program if they would like support in gathering primary scope 3 data from their suppliers, identifying hot spots in their supply chain, engaging with suppliers and reducing their scope 3 emissions.

A brief on CDP:

CDP is a global non-profit that runs the world's environmental disclosure system for companies, cities, states, regions and public authorities. Founded in 2000 and working with more than 740 financial institutions with over \$130 trillion in assets, CDP pioneered using capital markets and corporate procurement to motivate companies to disclose their environmental impacts, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, safeguard water resources and protect forests. Nearly 20,000 organizations around the world disclosed data through CDP in 2022, including more than 18,700 companies worth half of global market capitalization, and over 1,100 cities, states and regions. Fully TCFD aligned, CDP holds the largest environmental database in the world, and CDP scores are widely used to drive investment and procurement decisions towards a zero carbon, sustainable and resilient economy. CDP is a founding member of the Science Based Targets initiative, We Mean Business Coalition, The Investor Agenda and the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative.





THE 8TH ANNUAL ABU DHABI SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARDS - CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE IN THE REGION



The Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards, organised by the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG), and run annually since it was launched in 2015, the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards are the region's only independent annual awards for sustainability achievements.

As part of the mission of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG), these Awards are another manifestation of the Group's commitment to knowledge sharing aimed at improving sustainability performance.

Awards Categories are:

- Best Sustainability Initiative
- Best Sustainability Report
- Sustainability Manager of the Year
- Sustainability Leader of the Year
- Best Sustainability Communication Programme
- Best Energy Management Initiative.

The winners of the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards 2023 were announced at a Gala Dinner Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 3rd October and selected by a panel of four independent expert judges:

- Dr Jenny Davidson, Senior Lecturer and Climate Change Academic Fellow, Newcastle University Business School, United Kingdom.
- Mr Dexter Galvin, Chief Commercial Officer, CDP.
- Dr Fauzia Jabeen, Professor of Management, College of Business at Abu Dhabi University and Visiting Professor, Burgundy School of Business, Dijon, France.
- Mr Abdullatif Albitawi, Vice Chair, Energy Institute (EI) Middle East.

The Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards recognise key sustainability initiatives and achievements across participating organisations in the region. In this spirit of recognition, the ADSG is delighted to share the following case studies and profiles of the winning work and individuals honoured this year.

BEST SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE: AD PORTS



The Best Sustainability Initiative Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Award 2023 was won by AD Ports Group for the monitoring and protection of the Ras Ghanada Coral Reef through a Geographic Information System (GIS).

Environmental sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) lie at the heart of AD Ports Group's strategic vision and Environmental Social Governance (ESG) agenda. As a port operator and supporter of SDG 14 (Life below water), the Group is committed to conserving and protecting the Ras Ghanada Coral Reef, which is among the UAE's most biologically diverse habitats and the largest coral reef in the Gulf region. Known for its rich biodiversity, approximately 40% of Arabian Gulf coral species can be found on Ras Ghanada itself.

AD Ports Group have integrated Ras Ghanada conservation, monitoring and reporting of its health into the Environmental pillar of their ESG strategy. Khalifa Port, AD Ports Group's flagship port, was built to allow for the natural flow of marine water through the creation of a break water; the Group has also implemented monitoring and reporting procedures to safeguard the reef. It is an integral part of their ESG strategy goals and of their future sustainability journey.

Initiative Highlights:

- AD Ports Group's relocation of Khalifa port offshore, construction of an 8 Km long environmental-breakwater, and innovative techniques for coral translocation have established a precedent for sustainable infrastructure development.
- Utilising a Geographic Information System (GIS), AD Ports Group's creation, management, analysis, and mapping of geo-referenced sampling points (stations) has significantly enhanced the Emirate's understanding of the Ras Ghanada coral reef's dynamic nature.
- When Khalifa Port was being designed, the blueprint was configured to ensure the natural flow of water currents to and from the reef. One of the driving factors that pushed the Port 3 km offshore, with a significant cost impact at billions, was the presence of the Ras Ghanada reef and sea-grass.
- Additionally an 8 km-long environmental breakwater, built at the cost of US\$240 million, protects the sensitive coral from contamination, turbidity and unwanted temperature fluctuation caused by port operations.
- An annual ecological monitoring and preservation program has been put in place to evaluate the health of the reef including a detailed baseline survey, followed by regular surveys conducted three times a year.
- The Group implements ongoing initiatives each year to preserve and enhance the marine habitats, including trans-locations of new coral recruits to more favorable locations. The entire initiative is within the purview of ISO 1400, which sets out the criteria for an environmental management system.

The impacts of the initiatives AD Ports Group have undertaken over a decade include:

- Reef Expansion and Coral Growth: Constructing environmental-breakwater using natural material instead of traditional concrete has facilitated the

growth of reefs, evolving into self-contained ecosystems nearly as expansive as natural reefs.

- **Healthy Ecosystems:** The robust monitoring program has resulted in the prevention of physical damage to coral and seagrass, successful mitigation of siltation, and effective prevention of pollution, the coral ecosystem remains robust and undisturbed, reflecting its health and resilience.
- **Successful Coral Relocation:** The relocation of over 500 corals has reduced the direct loss of sensitive coral marine biota, contributing to the preservation and protection of these critical organisms.
- **Low Incidence of Coral Diseases, Recovery of Indicator Species, Maintenance of Species Richness, Areal Extent Preservation, Excellent Ecological Health and Compliance with Marine Water Standards**

Championing Conservation:

AD Ports Group has distinguished itself as a beacon of innovation and thought leadership in the realm of coral reef conservation and have established a precedent for sustainable infrastructure development. Their groundbreaking approaches demonstrate how innovative thinking can yield tangible solutions for conserving marine ecosystems. Recognising the significance of widespread awareness and active involvement, AD Ports Group has championed transparent and inclusive communication channels. Outreach efforts extend to a diverse range of stakeholders, including local communities, environmental organisations, and governmental bodies and aim to foster a profound appreciation for coral reef conservation and the broader marine environment.

AD Ports Group also actively collaborates with experts, researchers, and conservationists to ensure their initiatives are firmly rooted in the latest research and best practices, thereby driving meaningful impact.





Schneider Electric won the Best Sustainability Report Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Award 2023 for their 2022 Schneider Electric Sustainability Impact (SSI) Report.

In response to the societal, economic, and ecological worldwide transformations, expectations from its stakeholders and in alignment with its purpose and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Schneider Electric has made six long-term commitments. By tracking its sustainability performance and publishing quarterly results, Schneider Electric upholds its commitments to the SDGs and industry leadership in corporate social responsibility.

The execution of the Group's 2021 – 2025 sustainability strategy is tracked through quantitative key performance indicators (KPIs), under two complementary tools: the SSI report and the Schneider Sustainability Essentials (SSE). Collectively, the SSI 11 Global Impacts and its Local Impact, as well as the 25 SSE programs, are the Group's short-term sustainability roadmap and contribution to the 17 United Nations SDGs. The SSI is the translation of Schneider Electric's six long-term commitments into a selection of 11 highly transformative and innovative programs. The programs are tracked and published quarterly, audited annually, and linked to short-term incentive plans for more than 64,000 employees. Schneider Electric SSI is in alignment with GRI standards and is publicly available.

Sustainability is about impact

In the 2022 Schneider Electric Sustainability Impact (SSI) Report, Schneider Electric published their impact measurement, as audited and certified by top tier third party consultants and in reference to the GRI impact indicators.

The Schneider Electric SSI report is published internally and externally at the same time with the highest level of transparency and trust. Schneider Electric engages in open and continuous dialogue with each of its stakeholders. During the preparation of their 2022 report, Schneider Electric had discussions with stakeholders; in particular, the Schneider Electric sustainability department considered the comments, ratings, and evaluations from stakeholders on the Group's Sustainability strategy and programs.

BEST ENERGY MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE : **ADNOC GAS**



The Best Energy Management Initiative Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Award 2023 was won by ADNOC Gas for the reduction of the organization's CO2 footprint through energy consumption optimization and compressor technology.

This project is also part of the company program (Applying Engineering Solutions) to identify and safely reduce energy consumption and unnecessary gas recycling by applying new technology on anti-surge valves, which has resulted in remarkable energy savings and reduction in CO2 emissions.

Project Summary:

ADNOC Gas adopted a focused approach to identify potential gaps for review and improvement through engineering solutions in antisurge application by applying cutting edge technology to reduce motor power by reducing recycling of gas.

The resulting energy savings and reduction of CO2 emissions marks a milestone in ADNOC Gas' journey to achieve ADNOC 2045 net zero CO2 emission vision.

- A feasibility study was conducted, considering scope for optimization, suitability of technology, manufacturer recommendation and machine safety considerations. Outcomes of this study were engineered, with the help of manufacturer, vendor, and highly experienced discipline engineers, into a successful trial testing one compressor.

- A retrofit project was then commissioned and observed for one year to evaluate behavior, data collection and benchmarking in compressor and further being extended in another three compressors.

- During this time compressor performance was recorded for different process parameters and the energy consumption recorded for comparison with historic values and peer compressors. A review of data collected revealed a significant reduction in fuel consumption, which resulted in a net reduction in energy requirement. Significant improvements to compressor internal life and machine performance were also observed.

- This retrofit project was carried out as a pilot for one of the compressors and after the success of this project, later it was extended to another 3 compressors, which resulted in overall 8.4% of energy reduction per year, which is equivalent to 7% CO2 per year.

Success through technological innovation and confidence in a scientific approach

- This project replaced conventional pneumatic actuators into electro-hydraulic actuators to achieve very high precision control. This is the first kind of deployment in antisurge blow off application (which was implemented after applying all necessary studies, OEM consents and discipline engineering endorsements).

- There were no references available for such installation, however management had the confidence to implement this project, which has resulted in a significant milestone to optimizing energy losses to make the business sustainable.

Knowledge-sharing

- This retrofit project and its results have been published by ADNOC Gas in different forums internationally (such as ADIPEC, nominated in ADNOC Excellence Award and internally at different sites) with an aim to share knowledge with stakeholders for their own or similar application.

- This technology can be applied and extended to all process compressor antisurge valves, steam turbine governor valves and other control applications to achieve energy management objectives and CO2 emissions targets.

Can you share any challenges that you faced in the implementation of this initiative? And how did you overcome these?

- This retrofit brown field project require very detailed engineering to ensure compatibility with control system and field antisurge valves. However, for green field project, the same can be addressed thru design development.

- Due to new technology for such application, training and competency development is essential to technician to installation & maintenance.

BEST SUSTAINABILITY REPORT: SUSTAINABILITY LEADER OF THE YEAR



Mr. Shargiil Bashir won the Sustainability Leader of the Year Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Award 2023 in his capacity as Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Vice President at First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB). Mr. Bashir is responsible for developing, leading, and implementing the bank's ESG strategy and initiatives.

A snapshot of sustainability stewardship at First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)

- Mr. Bashir was among the main drivers of the bank joining the UN convened Net Zero Banking Alliance as the first bank in UAE and GCC. He was the architect of FAB's Board Risk & ESG Committee, while introducing ESG-related KPIs for the board and senior management.

- Mr. Bashir was behind FAB's commitment to the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) in January 2022, a MENA region first, indicating that the bank will assess and disclose the GHG emissions of its financial portfolio. As a result, FAB already published its net zero pathway targeting emission reductions by 2030 for its high polluting sectors like Oil & Gas, Power Generation and Aviation. Mr. Bashir has promoted accountability and transparency of sustainability performance by implementing annual reporting practices, such as the ESG Report, Sustainable Finance Report, Equator Principles Report, PRB Report, TCFD Report, among other company sustainability-related disclosures.

- Mr. Bashir conducted a materiality assessment of FAB's sustainability performance and impact by engaging with internal and external stakeholders. The input from external stakeholders such as regulators, rating agencies, government entities and NGOs was key to understand the impact of FAB sustainability goals. The exercise was conducted through in-person engagements, in addition to sessions conducted remotely through an online

platform or interactive surveys, allowing the stakeholders to raise queries, voice opinions, vote on material topics and interact anonymously as well.

- In a cross-industry collaboration effort towards net zero, Mr. Bashir was the driver of several thought leadership projects in the UAE, many of which have been documented and shared publicly through white papers such as Seizing the Carbon Trading Opportunity, Enabling Lift-Off: Building the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Market in the UAE and Beyond and Seizing the Green Hydrogen Opportunity.

Can you share any challenges and/ or guidance associated with your sustainability journey?

A key challenge not only for FAB but for all entities is raising awareness internally and externally. We have implemented specified and mandatory ESG training for all employees. This training focuses on raising each individual understanding of ESG but also how to support our clients and stakeholders on their sustainability journey or transition.

Is there anything else you would like to share with our e-Journal readers in relation to sustainability reporting?

ESG reporting and disclosures are a vital part of any companies' sustainability journey. To be transparent about your sustainability journey is important in order to share your journey with all your stakeholders e.g. clients, partners, employees, regulators. This way you can enhance your engagement, share the impact you are creating but also share your progress on this important journey.

BEST SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNICATION PROGRAM: SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC



Schneider Electric won the Best Sustainability Communication Programme Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Award 2023 for positioning Schneider Electric as an active catalyst of change and sustainable development through proactive commentary, industry-leading insights and thought leadership.

This initiative includes quarterly Sustainability Impact reporting, the NextGen Go Green Youth Competition and the Schneider Electric Sustainability School.

Campaigning to champion sustainability

Schneider Electric closely monitors the company's progress globally and regionally across a range of transformational Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) targets. Each quarter, the company shares results of its Sustainability Impact program alongside its financial results. In addition to monitoring of sustainability progress, the company advocates for best practices in sustainability through thought leadership opportunities and data-driven insights, as evidenced across Schneider Electric's flagship initiatives. Additionally, Schneider Electric's leadership have authored and published several whitepapers on a range of topics, aimed at bringing value across industrial environments.

Schneider Electric has internal campaigns and processes in place to keep track of its sustainability progress as well as map achievements in this regard. Globally, the company opened the Schneider Electric Sustainability School aimed at equipping companies and professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to improve their sustainability performance. The company also empowered and helped build the next generation of sustainability leaders through its NextGen Go Green youth competition. Moreover, the company has an ongoing corporate sustainability strategy, which lets stakeholders in on its sustainability progress, commitments, and pledges.

Schneider has worked in coordination with government stakeholders to showcase its sustainability efforts. Schneider Electric - earlier this year - joined forces with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment for the National

Dialogue for Climate Ambition (NDCA) to help accelerate the nation's journey to net zero by 2050. Additionally, Schneider Electric has made significant headway on its global and local goals of 50% reduction of CO2 emissions from top 1,000 suppliers' operations; carbon neutral operations in 2025 and 25% absolute carbon reduction across its entire value chain by 2030.

Schneider Electric leadership have amplified their commitment towards sustainability and mapped the company progress across local, regional and global platforms including World Government Summit, ADIPEC, GITEX, World Utilities Congress, among other platforms. Additionally, they have offered their expertise and insights to the media across interviews, events and through press release announcements.

Through its partnerships with the public and private sector, Schneider Electric has exercised best practices in sustainability, with the benefits being reaped by the healthcare, manufacturing and other sectors. Some of the private and public sector companies Schneider Electric has worked with to amplify its commitment to sustainability include McDonald's UAE, Dubai Silicon Oasis, Microsoft and Emirates Health Services, among others. Earlier this year, Schneider Electric brought together executives, public officials and sustainability experts, representing more than 25 UAE-based and global businesses, to reiterate the importance of private sector engagement and a commitment to accelerate decarbonization and strengthen public-private collaboration ahead of COP28.

SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER OF THE YEAR: **ADNOC GAS**



Mr. Eissa Al Jenaibi won the Best Sustainability Leader Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Award 2023 in his capacity as Energy Manager at ADNOC Gas. Mr. Eissa Al Jenaibi has over a decade of experience at ADNOC Gas. As a sustainability advocate, one of his notable achievements is the ADNOC Gas Decarbonization Roadmap, which aligns with the company's sustainability strategy and GHG emissions targets. Some of the other examples of his innovative approaches to achieving operational excellence include exploring carbon capture solutions, integrating renewables, maximizing the electrification of mechanical drives, and optimizing energy usage.

Profiling professional excellence in sustainability.

Mr. Eissa Al Jenaibi is a driven sustainability professional, who is recognized for his innovative and holistic approach to mitigating environmental impacts while fostering efficiency and operational excellence. Mr. Al Jenaibi is credited with making a positive impact on energy efficiency and operational excellence in all aspects of ADNOC Gas' operations.

- Mr. Al Jenaibi's initiatives have significantly impacted ADNOC Gas' sustainability journey. The company's Decarbonization Roadmap aims to abate 20 million tons of CO₂e emissions by 2030, identifying opportunities for approximately a 53% GHG emissions reduction compared to Business-As-Usual scenarios.

- Under Mr. Al Jenaibi's guidance, ADNOC Gas has embraced clean energy

alternatives, incorporating carbon capture, renewable energy sources, and energy-efficient design optimization to reduce its carbon footprint. Eissa's unwavering commitment to sustainability resulted in energy efficiency improvements that surpassed expectations by 10% compared to the 2014 baseline. In recognition of these achievements, the company received the Energy Management Leadership Award from The Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) in 2022.

- Under Mr. Al Jenaibi's guidance, ADNOC Gas obtained ISO 50001:2011 Energy Management System Certification in 2012, and smoothly transitioned to ISO 50001:2018 in 2020.

- Mr. Al Jenaibi is dedicated to spearheading continual improvement, exemplified by ADNOC Gas' initiative to retire in-house power generation, resulting in substantial reduction in direct emissions across the company's operational sites and plants. This initiative has been progressively implemented in phases at other operating plants. The retirement of low-efficient power generation units and the adoption of alternative sources led to an annual reduction of approximately 6% in CO₂ emissions, enhancing the organization's environmental profile.

- Mr. Al Jenaibi actively engages in energy efficiency studies, conducting technical analyses and economic assessments that lead to positive impacts on emission reduction and energy savings. An example of this is ADNOC Gas' Waste Heat Recovery initiative, which has reduced CO₂ emissions by over 100 tons through the utilization of wasted energy.

- Mr. Al Jenaibi's leadership is recognized by ADNOC Gas for fostering sustainable innovation and helping the company reduce emissions, benefiting all stakeholders. His pioneering efforts have established new benchmarks for sustainable practices, demonstrating a willingness to explore cutting-edge solutions and chart the course for a more sustainable future. Over the past decade, Mr. Al Jenaibi and his team have turned evolving challenges into opportunities, helping the company exceed ADNOC's 25% emission reduction target.

- Mr. Al Jenaibi is a role model who embraced new sustainable practices, and his leadership skills in engaging internal teams and proposing sustainable actions have inspired a culture of sustainability across ADNOC Gas.

AWARD OF REMARKABLE COMMITMENT TO THE AD SG: **DOLPHIN ENERGY**



Dolphin Energy was awarded the honour of Award of Remarkable Commitment to the AD SG for the organisation's longstanding support of the AD SG and its programmes.

Mr Obaid Abdulla Al Dhaheri, CEO, Dolphin Energy Limited, Lead Sponsor Opening Address, said: "Being 'Nature Positive' offers a new, constructive

and inclusive business environment because it allows the opportunity to demonstrate good governance, to contribute to the development of a stable society and the chance to follow a new, economic model for growth. It has allowed us to collaborate, innovate and be more transparent."

MEET THE 8TH SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARDS JUDGES



DR. JENNY DAVIDSON, SENIOR LECTURER IN LEADER DEVELOPMENT AND ORGANISATION FUTURES TEAM, NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY.

Jenny has been working and carrying out research in the field of sustainability for over 20 years. Jenny has worked full time in higher education for five years, primarily in the Corporate and Executive Department at Newcastle Business School, where she has held a number of senior leadership roles, including Director of Learning and Teaching and MBA Director, in addition to a role as tutor at Cambridge University's Institute for Sustainability Leadership.



DR. FAUZIA JABEEN, PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ABU DHABI UNIVERSITY

Dr. Fauzia is with the College of Business, Abu Dhabi University since 2010. She holds a Ph.D. in Management and has more than 18 years of experience in Teaching, Consulting & Research. Her teaching assignments are extensive and includes International Business, Business Ethics and Corporate Governance, and Organizational Behavior at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels. Additionally, Dr. Jabeen is a prolific writer, with many published works on productivity/performance management, organizational development, gender studies, enterprise development, social responsibility, sustainability, etc., to her credit in high impact-factor journals.



DEXTER GALVIN, GLOBAL DIRECTOR, CORPORATIONS & SUPPLY CHAINS, CDP

Dexter leads CDP's work to support companies in building a truly sustainable economy. With a deep knowledge of Scope 3 and how companies can unlock the power of their supply chains, Dexter spearheaded CDP's Supply Chain program in 2008 - now a global membership program with far-reaching impact, including recent adoption by the U.S. federal government, the largest purchasing organization in the world. His remit includes developing market-leading products for companies through CDP's Reporter Services team, working with CDP's accredited solutions providers (ASPs) and other partners, and utilising his passion for the standardization and harmonization of environmental reporting standards to drive meaningful corporate impact. Dexter also sits on the advisory boards for Giki and AI for the Planet, and in 2013 he launched Action Exchange



ABDULLATIF ALBITAWI, VICE MANAGER, ENERGY INSTITUTE - MIDDLE EAST BSC, MSC, CENG, MEI, SFIIRSM

Abdullatif is a member in the Energy Institute and the Secretary Genral & Hon. Vice Chair of the Middle East branch. He is a chemical engineer in back ground and holds an MSC in Energy Studies and one of the first qualified energy engineers in Jordan.

Abdullatif has 22+ years of work experience in the pharmaceuticals, chemical and manufacturing industry in managerial and consultancy positions. He is also Specialist Fellow of the International Institute of risk and Safety Management (IIRSM) and served in many positions in the institute. Abdullatif is also a judge for number of international awards in energy and risk management.



RECOGNITION OF AD SG MEMBERS WHO ISSUED THEIR SUSTAINABILITY REPORTS

ADSG Members were presented with Recognition Certificates for Sustainability Reporting: Dolphin Energy, First Abu Dhabi Bank, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, Aldar Group, Emirates Global Aluminium, ADNEC Group,

TAGA, Cleveland Clinic - Abu Dhabi, Schnieder Electric, BESIX, Masdar – Abu Dhabi Future Energy, HSBC, Etihad Airways and Aramex.



Through active engagement with the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group, our members are paving the way for a sustainable future, exemplifying their commitment by publishing comprehensive sustainability reports adhering to various standards, these commendable efforts were duly recognized and celebrated during the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards Gala Dinner. We extend our appreciation to all members for their dedication and commitments for sharing the best sustainability management practices among AD SG network.



Mohammed Juma Saeed Al Dhaheri
Section Head – Membership Management & Business Development, AD SG





ABU DHABI SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP FORUM 2023



The 8th annual Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum was held on 4-5th October 2023 at the Anantara Eastern Mangroves Hotel, Abu Dhabi.

Over 100 delegates from corporations, government, NGOs and academia attended the two-day Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG) flagship event, which comprised of six plenary sessions and two workshops exploring key topics within the Forum theme of Nature-Positive Growth.

The Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2023 explored ways in which businesses, markets and society might respond to the long-term risks, challenges and possible consequences of climate change, nature loss and the overarching climate catastrophe. Discussions focused on the implications of uncertainties for business strategy and financial planning in order to accelerate the way forward and create opportunities for nature-positive growth collaboratively.

Day 1: Wednesday 4th October 2023

The Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2023 opened with the headline CEO Panel, Looking Ahead to COP 28 Dubai: Leaders on the Road Ahead. This session explored the post-COP27 sustainability discourse in the run-up to COP28 and highlighted the crucial role of nature-positive solutions in adaptation, mitigation and supporting governmental and global targets.

The CEO Panel featured the following international experts:

- H.E. Ahmed Abdulmuttaleb Baharoon – Executive Director, Environmental Information, Science and Outreach Management, and Acting Secretary General, Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi (EAD)
- Laila Mostafa Abdullatif – Director General, Emirates Nature – WWF
- Craig Bennett – CEO of The Wildlife Trusts and Honorary Professor of Sustainability and Innovation at University of Manchester Alliance Manchester Business School
- Martin Lok – Executive Director, Capitals Coalition
- Dexter Galvin, Chief Commercial and Partnership Officer, CDP

The plenary session was moderated by Dexter Galvin, who facilitated an engaging discussion on the key outcomes of COP27, the focal points of COP28, and the critical actions required by industries and regions to limit global temperature rise.

During the panel discussion, H.E. Ahmed Abdulmuttaleb Baharoon shared examples of nature-based solutions championed by EAD's pioneering programmes in the coastal and terrestrial spaces. H.E. Ahmed Abdulmuttaleb Baharoon also elaborated on the EAD's recent landmark launch of the UAE's first Climate Change Strategy. Laila Mostafa Abdullatif shared insights into latest nature-based solutions and collaborations being implemented by Emirates Nature – WWF in the region, and highlighted the crucial importance of such measures in addressing the climate-nature crisis and accelerating decarbonisation efforts.

Martin Lok provided an international perspective by outlining the future regulatory landscape for governments and business and addressing the frameworks, tools and metrics available. Martin Lok also announced the exciting launch of the Arabised white paper Towards a new economic paradigm: The role of integrated decision-making across nature, people, society and the economy. The publication represents a collaboration between the Capitals Coalition and ADSG, who have translated this publication for its members, stakeholders and the wider Arabic sustainability community.

Craig Bennett's contributions highlighted the universal importance of the connection between nature and climate and the significance of removing the barriers between work and workers in these spaces. He championed the role of nature-proof solutions in supporting adaptation and mitigation and emphasised how environmental restoration and protection are at the heart of the climate crisis solution and action.

The CEO Panel was followed by the CFO Panel, Financial Leadership in Times of Instability.

The CFO Panel featured the following international experts:

- Hamad Al Mazrouei – CEO of Abu Dhabi Global Markets (ADGM) Registration Authority
- Dr Nashwa Alruwaini – CEO and Board Member, Pyramedia Group
- Ola Pihlblad – Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Sweden, Abu Dhabi
- Derar Almanaseer – Director of Strategy & Investment, Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC) Group
- Craig Bennett – CEO of The Wildlife Trusts and Honorary Professor of Sustainability and Innovation at University of Manchester Alliance Manchester Business School

The plenary session was moderated by Craig Bennett, who engaged panellists in an important exploration of how organisations can mitigate risk and price volatility amidst global economic instability for the benefit of both industry and society at large.

Hamad Al Mazrouei outlined the regional financial landscape and its future trajectory and highlighted the transformative role ADGM has played in driving change. These insights emphasised how regulation can promote and incentivise sustainable finance and disclosure and shared how education and collaborative working can champion best practice. Examples of best practice in the private sector were shared by Dr Nashwa Alruwaini, who also advised how companies can navigate economic instability, financial leadership and risk mitigation.



Derar Almanaseer also provided key insights from the private sector perspective and illustrated how large international companies can manage finance risk and drive nature-positive growth. Ola Pihlblad presented examples of excellence on the international stage and shared highlights of work taking place in Sweden. Panellists were thus able to engage in a diverse discussion that considered the contrasting risks, challenges and opportunities of different markets and regions.

The third plenary session of the day addressed a Full Capitals Approach to Climate & Sustainability.

Plenary Session 3 featured the following international experts:

- Maitha Mohamed Al Hameli, Manager - Marine Assessment and Conservation - Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD)

- David Ramos, Head of Sustainability for HSBC Bank Middle East, North Africa and Turkey
- Faisal Qayyum, Unit head Accounting and Financial Reporting - Finance Division, Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD)
- Maria Flouda, Founder, Sustainability Switch Consultancy

The plenary session was moderated by Maria Flouda, who facilitated discussion that introduced the concept of ‘total capital’ approach and explored how different sectors can account for the different capitals.

Panellists combined their technical, financial and environmental expertise to explore the individual capitals and define ‘total capital’ for attendees from the perspectives of business and regulators. The discussion touched on tangible examples of total capital approaches and shared how individual approaches and initiatives can be financed and make meaningful impacts.



Speakers shared practical guidance on the many competing frameworks used internationally and how organisational and governmental ambitions can be embedded into strategy and operations, while addressing the specific challenges and opportunities in the region.

The final session of Day 1 of the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2023 was a workshop facilitated by Dexter Galvin (Chief Commercial and Partnership Officer, CDP) on Greenhouse gas accounting for your supply chain.

This bespoke workshop delivered insights into how to effectively utilize the CDP Disclosure Framework, a powerful tool that helps organisations measure, disclose, manage, and ultimately reduce their environmental impacts. Attendees included AD SG members, business leaders, sustainability managers, environmental officers and sustainability practitioners and

professionals, who received expert guidance on:

- The importance of non-financial disclosure and transparency
- The business case for disclosure.
- How CDP disclosure can enhance organisational sustainability initiatives.
- Key Elements of the CDP Framework and its core components
- Real-world examples of successful CDP reporting.

The workshop also included an interactive discussion and gave participants a unique opportunity to share their experiences, challenges, and questions related to CDP disclosure with two international industry experts.





Day 2: Thursday 5th October 2023

Day 2 of Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2023 opened with Plenary Session 4, The End of Greenwashing.

Plenary Session 4 featured the following international experts:

- Dexter Galvin – Chief Commercial and Partnership Officer, CDP
- Sinéad Oryszczuk – Partner, CMS
- Huda Al Houqani – Director, ADSSG
- Craig Bennett – CEO of The Wildlife Trusts and Honorary Professor of Sustainability and Innovation, Alliance Manchester Business School

The plenary session was moderated by Craig Bennett, who led panellists and attendees into a dialogue that explored the practical meaning and consequences of greenwash/ greenwashing from regional, international and corporate perspectives.

Robust ESG reporting and non-financial disclosure were highlighted as best practices for the elimination of greenwash, and the discussion evaluated the coverage of current sustainability disclosure frameworks and comparatively examined their compatibility and consistency. The need for consistent reporting frameworks and the benefits of adopting a comprehensive framework were highlighted during the discussion, which illustrated the power of entities such as the ADSSG in promoting knowledge sharing and common understanding of key issues.

Plenary session 5 addressed Enabling the Transition to a Low Carbon Economy and Building Sustainable Infrastructure and Liveable Communities.

Plenary Session 5 featured the following international experts:

- Jassim Al Bulooki – Head of Health and Safety Governance, Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC)
- Dr Titia De Mes – Sustainability Manager, Abu Dhabi Sustainable Water Solutions Company
- Shargiil Bashir – Chief Sustainability Officer, First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)
- Professor David Provenzani – Country Director, Yellow Door Energy

- Araceli Gallego – Co-Founder and Managing Director, Goshopia
- Tatiana Antonelli Abella – Founder and Managing Director, Goumbook

The plenary session was moderated by Tatiana Antonelli Abella, who leveraged the panellists' diverse expertise in the power, water, finance and fashion industries to address the pressing challenge of developing infrastructure that supports the shift towards a low carbon economy. The resulting presentations and discussion explored the complexities and innovations required to construct infrastructure that aligns with the principles of sustainability, while also examining how these developments can enhance the overall living experience for inhabitants and communities.

Regional trends in resource consumption and efficiency were discussed in depth and in relation to regulation, consumer demand and attitudes, and societal impact. By looking at the carbon footprints and carbon management of the fashion, water and solar and nuclear energy industries in the UAE, attendees were encouraged to consider their individual roles in making responsible choices.

Examples of facilitating and financing sustainable infrastructure initiatives through public-private partnerships and through technological innovation were also shared and then explored within the wider context of the international sustainability agenda and COP28 Dubai.

The sixth plenary session was titled Bridging the Adaptation Gap: Corporations' Role in a Sustainable Future.

Plenary Session 6 featured the following international experts:

- Dr Rola Atiyeh, Senior Manager Environment & Sustainability, Dolphin Energy
- Laura Hellqvist, Sustainability Expert and Doctoral Student, SOAS University of London
- Craig Bennett, CEO, The Wildlife Trusts and Honorary Professor of Sustainability and Innovation, Alliance Manchester Business School
- Dexter Galvin – Chief Commercial and Partnership Officer, CDP

The plenary session was moderated by Dexter Galvin, who facilitated a discussion that explained the concept of the adaptation gap in the context



of climate change and examined how corporations can recognise their responsibility in addressing climate change adaptation and integrating it into their business strategies.

The panellists acknowledged that even an achievement of net-zero by 2050 will result in increased concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that will continue to raise average global temperatures and result in weather events that will impact everyone. The following discussion therefore elaborated on the measures that will be needed to deal with the climatic changes already set in motion. Speakers addressed corporate responsibility; business continuity; long term planning; nature-based solutions; integration of human capital; knowledge sharing between corporates, stakeholders and society; and some of the industry-specific challenges, opportunities and solutions.

The final session of the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2023 was a workshop facilitated by the Capitals Coalition and ERM entitled Valuing nature and people to inform business decision-making, introducing the TNFD Nature-Related Risk & Opportunity Management and Disclosure Framework.

This workshop was facilitated by the following international experts:

- Martin Lok, Executive Director, Capitals Coalition
- Louise Amand, Senior Manager, Capitals Coalition
- Dr. Kerstin Pfliegner, Partner: Corporate Sustainability, Climate Change & Nature, ERM
- Graham Lane, Director (EMEA), ERM



Facilitators introduced the concept of the infinity loop to understand the argument for including the value provided by nature, people and society into decision making and discussed the challenges and risks of failing to account for natural and social capital. The business applications of these principles were illustrated via detailed case studies and an exploration of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) recommendations.

The workshop included an interactive session to further engage participants with the topic and to address practicalities and any questions.

The Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2023 was presented by the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG) and supported by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD).

Dolphin Energy was the Lead Sponsor of the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Forum 2023, with Aldar Properties Group as Strategic Partner and Pyramedia Group as Media Sponsor.





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