



## MEIRA Newsletter

**13 April 2017**

MEIRA Newsletter is out again with more exciting news!

In this issue you will find our updated calendar of events, information about our most recent activities in the region, the institutional investor survey report conducted by Morrow Sodali and a calendar with the international conferences you cannot miss.

If you would like to collaborate in our next bulletin, contact us at [pr@meira.me](mailto:pr@meira.me).

[Download this newsletter \(PDF\)](#)

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## News and Opinions

- Four tips for running a successful Investor Relations call. [Watch the video here](#)
- Interview of Bryan Stirewalt, Managing Director at DFSA: The Future of Financial Institutions. [Listen to the podcast here](#)
- Saudi Arabia sets tax rates on producers of oil. [Read more](#)
- Darwinism and the evolution of IR: evolve or perish. [Read more](#)
- Khaled Al Roudan, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Kuwait: corporate governance essential to sectors protection. [Read more](#)

- Three trends in digital Investor Relations. [Read more](#)
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## Regulation

### **Qatar Stock Exchange publishes a guide on ESG reporting**

On January 2016, Qatar Stock Exchange joined the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSEI) and signed the voluntary commitment to advancing sustainability performance, transparency, and governance practices in QSE market.

Following this agreement, Qatar Stock Exchange has published the *ESG Guidance* to encourage Qatari issuers to voluntarily publicly share Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) information on a recurring basis. It also suggests metrics for reporting.

The guide was discussed on April 10 between the ESG experts participating in the MEIRA Webcast titled *ESG: opportunities and implications for IROs*. If you missed the opportunity to join the webcast, we offer you the possibility to listen to the record [here](#) or register on this [page](#).

[Download the report here](#)

### **SEC Adopts T+2 Settlement Cycle for Securities Transactions**

On March 22, 2017, the Securities and Exchange Commission adopted an amendment to shorten by one business day the standard settlement cycle for most broker-dealer securities transactions. Currently, the standard settlement cycle for these transactions is three business days, known as T+3. The amended rule shortens the settlement cycle to two business days, T+2.

The amended rule is designed to enhance efficiency, reduce risk, and facilitate a coordinated and expeditious transition by market participants to a shortened standard settlement cycle.

[Read more](#)

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## MEIRA Updates

### **MEIRA partners with Proxy Watch Arabia**

MEIRA is partnering with Proxy Watch Arabia's weekly newsletter for an exclusive courtesy trial which ends at the end of the month.

Developed jointly by GOVERN, the Economic and Corporate Governance Center, and Global Proxy Watch, a leading global corporate governance news provider, this weekly publication is the only independent source of governance and shareholder news in the Arab world, covering global as well as regional market developments.

MEIRA members can subscribe to Proxy Watch Arabia for 8-week courtesy trial starting February 28, 2017. After this period, MEIRA members can benefit from 25% discount if they wish to continue with the subscription.

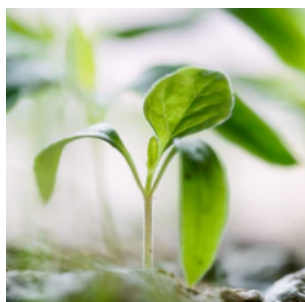
For trial and subscription, please contact [subsarabia@proxywatch.com](mailto:subsarabia@proxywatch.com).

[Download a copy of the latest bulletin here](#)

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## Publications

### **Institutional Investors Survey 2017 (report sponsored by Morrow Sodali)**



Did you know that 72% of investors consider ESG data disclosure to be very important in their investment decisions? Better disclosure of ESG practices, increased access to board members, disclosure of a board skills matrix, a robust board evaluation process and pay for performance are among the key areas of concern to global institutional investors, according to results of the annual Institutional Investor Survey 2017.

[Download the report here](#)

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## Events

### Upcoming Events

#### **MEIRA IR Awareness Workshop in Kuwait**

MEIRA, in collaboration with Boursa Kuwait, will organise an Investor Relations Awareness Workshop on April 17 at the Boursa Kuwait headquarters. The workshop aims at raising awareness and knowledge of the importance of the IR profession in Kuwait, from a regulatory and practical perspective.

The workshop follows the MOU signed by Boursa Kuwait and MEIRA to promote the implementation of IR best practice, in terms of strengthening IR in Kuwait and training listed companies to comply with the laws and regulations set by the Capital Market Authority.

[Read more](#)

### **Thomson Reuters: Celebrating 150 Years in MENA**

Thomson Reuters MENA is celebrating 150 years in the region, and we would like to invite you to celebrate this remarkable milestone.

Join us for a series of conversations about the future of our region across various industries.

Register to attend any of the four sessions taking place between April 17 - 19 at The Atrium, DIFC.

[For more details and registration, click here](#)

### **MEIRA Dubai Chapter meeting**

MEIRA is organising its Dubai Chapter meeting on May 4. The meeting will give an opportunity for the IROs in Dubai and Abu Dhabi to discuss their day to day activity.

In addition, we will count on the presence of Ranya Afifi, Director at The Economist, who will present her thoughts on the regional macroeconomic situation.

The MEIRA Dubai Chapter is chaired by Redwan Ahmed, Head of Investor Relations at DP World.

*Event for MEIRA members only.*

### **MEIRA Events Calendar**

**MEIRA Oman Chapter meeting:** 12 April (Muscat, Oman) *Members only* [More details](#)

**IR Awareness Worksop:** 17 April (Kuwait City, Kuwait) [More details](#)

**2017 Extel Survey:** 22 March - 28 April (Online) [More details](#)

**MEIRA Dubai Chapter meeting:** 4 April (Dubai, UAE) *Members only*

**Understanding Fintech seminar:** 08 May (Dubai, UAE) [More details](#)

**MEIRA 2017 Annual Conference and Awards:** 20 September (Dubai, UAE) [More details](#)

[Check our online calendar](#)

### **MEIRA Sponsored Events Calendar**

**AFE Annual Conference 2017:** 25 - 26 April (Beirut, Lebanon) [Register](#)

**The Euromoney Emirates Conference:** 08 - 09 May (Sharjah, UAE) [Register](#)

**Middle East Investment Summit 2017:** 22 - 23 May (Dubai, UAE) [Register](#)

**IR Magazine Global Forum Conference:** 03 - 04 October (Paris, France) [More details](#)

**8th Kepler Cheuvreux IR Summit:** 15 December (Milano, Italy)

## **Past Events**

### **MEIRA Oman Chapter meeting**

The Middle East Investor Relations Association organised its first chapter meeting in Oman in 2017. The meeting offered the attendants the opportunity to discuss matters related to IR and to connect the members within the chapter.

The Oman Chapter meeting took place on April 12 at the Bank Muscat Head Office in Muscat. The Chapter is chaired by Mr. Rashad Ali Al Dohh, Head of Investor Relations at Bank Muscat.

[Read more](#)

### **MEIRA Webcast: ESG - Opportunities and implications for IROs.**

MEIRA organised a webinar on ESG data in collaboration with Bloomberg on April 10 to explore current and emerging ESG issues and what company investor relations officers should do to address this area of growing investor focus.

Jennifer Suleiman, Head of Corporate Sustainability at Zain Group, Ali Saribas, Director at Morrow Sodali, Gregory Elders, ESG Analyst at Bloomberg and David Massias, ESG Specialist at Bloomberg, participated as speakers.

During the webcast, the experts pointed how ESG disclosure can benefit companies to attract capital and investors to invest in their companies. All participants agreed on the fact that investors are increasingly requesting more transparency on ESG data while the regulatory bodies and stock exchanges are encouraging the listed companies to adopt this practice.

To listen to the record click [here](#) or register on this [page](#).

### **BNY Mellon 17th Depositary Receipts International Conference**

On 29 - 30 March, MEIRA supported as Association sponsor the 17th Depositary Receipts International Conference organised by BNY Mellon in Abu Dhabi.

The conference focused on giving an insight on the financial markets in Middle East, Iran and Africa as well as discussing ESG, IR and boardroom matters.



# International conferences

## International Conferences Calendar

**HSBC MENA Forum:** 2 - 3 May (New York, USA)

**ADX Roadshow:** 8 - 9 May (New York, USA)

**JP Morgan Global Consumer Conference:** 16 May (London, UK)

**Morgan Stanley GEMS Conference:** 15 - 17 May (London, UK)

**DFM Roadshow:** 17 - 18 May (London, UK)

**JP Morgan Global TMT Conference:** 22 May (Boston, USA)

**Deutsche Bank Global Financial Services Conference:** 30 - 31 May (London, UK)

**Emerging Markets Corporate Credit Conference:** 31 May (Miami, USA)

**HSBC GEMs Conference:** 5 June (New York, USA)

**BAML CalGEMs Global One-on-One Conference:** 6 June (Los Angeles, USA)

**UBS EMEA LatAm One-on-One Conference:** 27 June (London, UK)

[For a complete list, click here](#)

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## Training

### NEW! Introduction to IR and Capital Markets training - 1 day

This new course provides an introduction to IR and the financial environment in which IR professionals work.

Suitable for anyone new to the financial world, who is working in investor relations, corporate communications or financial PR.

[Download the brochure](#)

### CIRO programme - 2 days

The Certified Investor Relations Officer programme, delivered in partnership with the London based UK IR Society, is an internationally recognised qualification in Investor

### Introduction to IR Calendar

- **Dubai:** 1 May 2017



[Register now!](#)

**Are you looking for a bespoke training?**

[Contact us](#)

### CIRO Calendar



- **Kuwait:** 29 - 30 April
- **Dubai:** 02 - 03 May (FULL)
- **Dubai:** 30 - 31 October

[Register now!](#)

Relations.

[Read more](#)

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## Members



We are delighted to count on the support of our new and renewed members (April 2017):

- National Bank of Kuwait (Kuwait)
- Paltel (Palestine)
- Renaissance Services (Oman)
- Viva (Kuwait)

*Become a member and benefit from our exclusive packages.*

*Contact [us](#) for more information.*

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## In the spotlight

If you have any question related to IR, take the opportunity to share it with MEIRA. We will find the best person within MEIRA network to address it.

**Send your question**

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## Survey

Share your thoughts and experience! Every month we will be running a short survey on an IR related topic. The results will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

**"How do you produce your annual report?"**

**Participate here**

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#### About Middle East Investor Relations Association

The Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) is an independent non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting the Investor Relations (IR) profession and industry standards in corporate governance. The mission of MEIRA is to enhance the reputation, efficiency and attractiveness of the Middle East capital markets.

This involves a commitment to fostering increased dialogue among its members and to encourage them to share and adopt best practice techniques within the field of IR. In partnership with stock exchanges, regulators and other market participants, MEIRA supports companies through its professional development and certification programmes as well as its membership community and network of country chapters.



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