

MEIRA Newsletter

11 April 2019

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If you would like to collaborate in our next newsletter, contact us at pr@meira.me

Weekend reading list

- > **MEIRA Article!** Bold move toward best practice in Oman's capital markets. *Times of Oman* [Read more](#)
- > GCC to drive surge in Islamic finance. *The National* [Read more](#)
- > Navigating institutional investor expectations: Tips for EM boards and executives. *Closir blog* (by Alissa Amico) [Read more](#)
- > Aramco gets whopping \$100bln demand for landmark bond. *Zawya* [Read more](#)
- > Why corporate boards should not indulge activists' sugar highs. *Financial Times* [Read more](#)

MEIRA Updates

Announcement: Muscat Securities Market introduces new Investor Relations requirements



This week, Muscat Securities Market (MSM) has circulated a notice to its listed companies which recommends that all current and future listed securities in MSM should oblige to appoint an Investor Relations Officer within one year. In the context of the MOU signed between MEIRA and MSM in December 2017, the circular also includes some additional requirements such as the recommendation to be Certified Investor Relations Officer (CIRO) and to participate in the events and seminar organised by both entities.

Commenting on this initiative, Andrew Tarbuck, MEIRA Chairman, said: "MEIRA thoroughly welcomes the MSM's progressive development to strongly advocate best practice in Investor Relations which fully aligns with MEIRA's goals. Promotion of IR through regulation has the greatest outreach to the market and is a great example of the top-down approach to developing IR in the region."

[Read MEIRA's article: Bold move toward best practice in Oman's capital markets](#)



Notes from the GM

Spring is in the air and it's certainly getting warmer, a guarantee here that I like!

We sometimes talk about bottom-up as opposed to top-down when we talk strategy, among other things. It's been some 3 months - very enjoyable months for me - at MEIRA. Having talked a lot myself, albeit much of it in writing in this fine weekly newsletter, I thought it timely to ask you to consider these questions as MEIRA members - your feedback is important in our planning:

1. What would you like to see MEIRA do for you under events, IR training courses and publications?
2. Is there anything in particular that you would like us to address at the MEIRA conference on 25 September 2019?
3. What are we missing and how can you help us do something about it?

We need to hear from MEIRA members on the ground, if not bottom-up - I'm really looking forward to our planned Chapter meetings. When asked in London last week what is different at MEIRA, one aspect that is very different is the geographical reach of MEIRA, the only regional

IR professional body. Our geography means that it is difficult to see members on an ongoing basis. While based in Dubai, a great location, it's not as though everyone can just drop by as is the case in a City office in London, still the go-to meeting place for much of UK Plc, however far-flung the underlying business.

Since I've been at MEIRA, some of you have called, left messages and we have even managed to catch-up when you pass by Dubai. That's great and much appreciated, thank you for making the effort. However, we can always do more, as much of an effort as it is over and above the annual calendar of MEIRA events, now in full swing. Let's continue to try please, no matter how hard it can be to fit into busy schedules. After all, it's not every day, week or month that we meet given how far-flung we all are in the Middle East!

We are visiting some more of you this month, from Bahrain to Kuwait and Oman - I'm very much looking forward to this. We have mentioned other ways of communicating, like Whatsapp groups. I would urge you all to consider these, among other channels, be it webinars and use of other cost-effective technology to bridge our geography. When I read the contribution of our friends in the Palestine Chapter in last week's newsletter, it made me think just how testing the IR role can be depending on your local operating and regulatory environment. We salute your IR efforts everywhere, onwards and upwards, team MEIRA!

Best wishes,

John and MEIRA team

2018 MEIRA Financial Statements

In line with our vision to improve regional standards in corporate governance and transparency, we are delighted to announce that the 2018 MEIRA Financial Statements are now available on our website. The 2018 MEIRA Annual Report will be available in the upcoming weeks.

[Download the Financial Statements here](#)

Events

What's coming?

A banner for the MEIRA Abu Dhabi Chapter Meeting. The background is a photograph of a modern building with a distinctive, angular, and repetitive architectural design, possibly a dome or a series of overlapping planes, under a clear sky. The text "MEIRA ABU DHABI CHAPTER MEETING" is centered in white, uppercase letters.

MEIRA ABU DHABI CHAPTER MEETING

16 April - [MEIRA Abu Dhabi Chapter Meeting](#) - Abu Dhabi, UAE

MEIRA is organising its Abu Dhabi Chapter Meeting on 16 April. The session includes an IR roundtable which will give our members the opportunity to discuss the latest updates on the IR landscape and network with their peers. Don't miss the opportunity to attend!

Event details

Date: Tuesday, 16 April, 2019

Timing: 09.00 am - 10.30 am

Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE

Venue: Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche

[Agenda and registration here](#)

This event is open to MEIRA members only

A banner for a MEIRA seminar. The background is a dark, textured surface with vertical lines of varying shades of brown and gold, creating a shimmering, wood-grain-like effect. The text "SEMINAR: IMPORTANCE OF IR FROM LOCAL FUND MANAGERS PERSPECTIVE" is centered in white, uppercase letters.

SEMINAR: IMPORTANCE OF IR FROM LOCAL FUND MANAGERS PERSPECTIVE

17 April - [MEIRA Seminar: Importance of IR from local fund managers' perspective](#) - Kuwait City, Kuwait

The MEIRA Kuwait Chapter, in collaboration with Boursa Kuwait, is organising an awareness seminar titled "Importance of IR from local fund managers perspective". The event, which is taking place on 17 April, will welcome reputable local fund managers who will share their thoughts about how to enhance the communication between the buy-side and the IR teams. The session will also include a presentation from Instinctif Partners which will share useful tips to deploy and enhance IR toolkits.

Event details

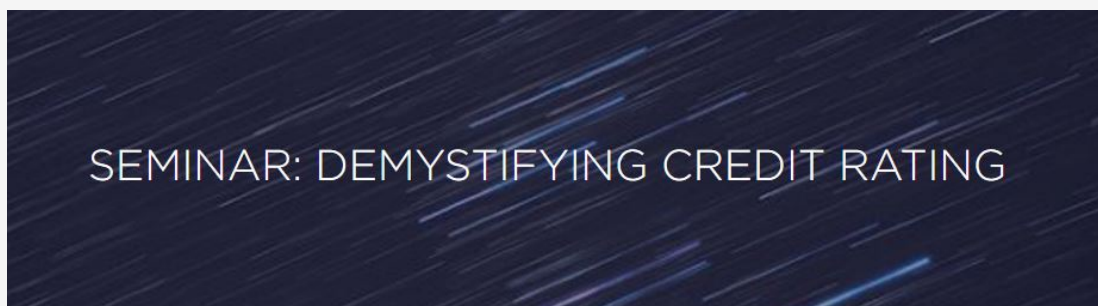
Date: Wednesday, 17 April, 2019

Timing: 01.00 pm - 03.00 pm

Location: Kuwait City, Kuwait

Venue: Boursa Kuwait HQ

[Agenda and registration here](#)



22 April - Seminar: Demystifying credit rating - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

MEIRA, in collaboration with Moody's, is organising an interactive workshop titled "Demystifying credit rating". The session will allow the attendees understand the principles of credit rating and its importance for listed companies. The event is also supported by The Financial Academy of Saudi Arabia.

Event details

Date: Monday, 22 April, 2019

Timing: 08.30 am - 12.00 pm

Location: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Venue: The Financial Academy premises

[Agenda and registration here](#)

2019 Calendar of Events

MEIRA Abu Dhabi Chapter Meeting: 16 April (Abu Dhabi, UAE) *MEIRA members only*

MEIRA IR Seminar - Importance of IR from local fund managers

perspective: 17 April (Kuwait City, Kuwait)

Middle East Investment Summit: 23 - 24 April (Dubai, UAE) *Discounted rates for MEIRA*

members

MEIRA & Moodys Workshop - Demystifying credit rating: 22 April (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)

MEIRA Dubai Chapter Meeting: 23 April (Dubai, UAE) *MEIRA members only*

AFE Annual Conference 2019: 23 - 24 April (Cairo, Egypt)

MEIRA Bahrain Chapter Launch and IR Awareness Seminar: 29 April (Manama, Bahrain)

2019 MEIRA Annual Conference & Awards: 25 September (Dubai, UAE)

[Check our online calendar of events](#)

International Conferences

International Conferences Calendar

Morgan Stanley EEMEA Conference: 14-15 May (London, UK)

BAML Emerging Markets Debt & Equity Conference: 28-31 May (Miami, USA)

HSBC GEMs Investor Forum: 10-12 Jun (New York, USA)

HSBC GEMs Investor Forum: 3-5 Sep (London, UK)

EFG Hermes 9th Annual London Conference: 9-12 Sep (London, UK)

Arqaam MENA Conference: 23-24 Sep (Dubai, UAE)

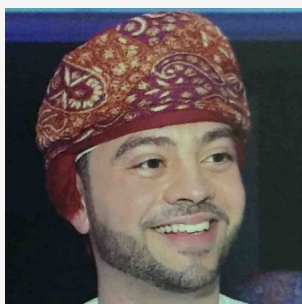
Goldman Sachs 7th CEEMEA Corporate Days: TBC Sep (Frankfurt, Germany)

Goldman Sachs 11th CEEMEA 1x1 Conference: 11-12 Nov (London, UK)

UBS GEM Conference: 3-4 Dec (New York, USA)

For a complete list, contact [Closir here](#)

In the spotlight



Rashad Ali Al Dohh, Head of Investor Relations, Bank Muscat and MEIRA Oman Chapter Head

Q: Why should anyone consider joining MEIRA?

MEIRA is a pioneer in the field of IR and enjoys a strong presence in the MENA region. This gives us all access to various markets, firms and IR professionals. As a MEIRA member, you can expect to share the following benefits: knowledge-sharing platforms; networking and exchange of ideas with IR peers; IR courses and certification; the annual MEIRA conference; and the popular weekly MEIRA newsletter.

Q: What plans does the Oman Chapter have in the coming year?

The Oman Chapter, supported by the regulators (MSM & CMA), believes deeply in the goal of IR and its importance in today's market. In 2019, the Oman Chapter will focus on 3 key objectives. First, working closely with the MSM to issue the first IR circular advising all listed companies to assign an IR focal point within the company. Second, continuing to hold key awareness sessions on IR with different topics - the events will be enhanced by inviting regional professionals to participate. Third, increasing the membership base of the Oman Chapter in an effort to make the Chapter more interactive and dynamic.

Q: What will the Oman market and IR look like in 3-5 years' time?

The Omani market is evolving rapidly, while the government is taking every step necessary to ensure the business and investment environment is appealing to foreign investors. We envision a more transparent market in terms of regulations and disclosure where IR will play a significant role.

Q: Are there any other thoughts or special stories, personal, professional, IR-related or otherwise that you would like to share with the MEIRA audience?

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to MEIRA for spearheading the IR transformation in the MENA region. Also, I would like to assure all IR-related professionals that the Omani government, including the Central Bank, are keen on creating a business-friendly market with the right disclosure requirements that should attract investors globally.

Training

CIRO programme

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

[Read more](#)

The Introduction to Investor Relations course

This one-day course provides an introduction to financial markets, Investor Relations and the financial environment in which Investor Relations professionals work.

[Read more](#)

CIRO Calendar 2019

- **Abu Dhabi:** 25 - 26 - 27 June
- **Dubai:** 29 - 30 - 31 October

[Register now!](#)

Introduction to IR Calendar 2019

- **Abu Dhabi:** 25 June
- **Dubai:** 29 October

[Register now!](#)

**Are you looking for a bespoke or
in-house training?**

[Contact us](#)

Jobs



Investor Relations Specialist - Saudi Arabia

Mobily is looking for an Investor Relations Specialist to join its IR department in Saudi Arabia. The main objective of the role is to perform financial analyses to prepare various company earnings and distribute the annual financial statements to the

company's shareholders.

[Download the job description](#)

Members

We are delighted to count on the support of our new and renewed members:
(4 - 11 April period):



Do you want to join MEIRA?

Don't miss the opportunity to join our IR community and become a member today.

You just need to fill our [membership form](#) and send it to info@meira.me in order to finalise the process.

We are looking forward to welcoming you!

[Membership form](#)



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Forward

With the support of our annual strategic partners



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.

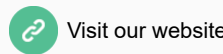
This involves a commitment to fostering increased dialogue among its members and to encourage them to share and adopt best practice techniques within the field of IR. In partnership with stock exchanges, regulators and other market participants, MEIRA supports companies through its professional development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



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Middle East Investor Relations Association

Office 18, Floor 7

Sheikh Rashid Tower, DWTC

PO Box 9576

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

info@meira.me or +971 (0)4 309 7034

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