

MEIRA Newsletter

2 May 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 news!** MEIRA sets up Bahrain chapter. *IR Magazine* [Read more](#)
- > Aramco floats downstream in deals flurry. *Arab News* [Read more](#)
- > Rise of the family private investment office and fall of the hedge funds. *The National* [Read more](#)
- > Saudi Arabia may relax shares limit for foreign investors. *The National* [Read more](#)

MEIRA Updates



MEIRA launched the Bahrain Chapter led by Marwa Al-Maskati

Bahrain Bourse and MEIRA has officially launched a new chapter in Bahrain, to further develop and enhance best practices in Investor Relations (IR) across the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The MEIRA Bahrain Chapter was formally inaugurated on Monday at the signing ceremony of founding members who have recognised their commitment to developing the IR function in the local market. The founding members include Aluminium Bahrain ('ALBA') (represented by Eline Hilal), Bank ABC (represented by Brendon Hopkins), Bahrain Telecommunications Company ('Batelco') (represented by Faisal Qamhiyah), Ithmaar Holding (represented by Sameh Mohamed Mahmandar), National Bank of Bahrain (represented by Russell Bennett), and SICO BSC (c) (represented by Fadhel Makhloq). Bahrain Bourse will also lead the Chapter represented by MEIRA Bahrain Chapter Head, Marwa AlMaskati, Director of Marketing & Business Development at the exchange.

[Read more](#)



Notes from the GM

Oh what a party, what a show, from Beirut to Bahrain!

Having attended our first hybrid Annual General Meeting (traditional physical presence and virtual meeting via an online platform), courtesy of DP World, at the wonderfully located Wheelhouse overlooking the docks of Jebel Ali, it was time to travel further west. Where better than a weekend break away in Byblos, one of the oldest Phoenician cities, and Beyrouth,

as the local signs in Lebanon say, in response to a timely invitation from Levant MEIRA members to the launch of TenTime, the new online Arabic media platform? It was certainly a show and a party with a fitting assembly of the who's who of chic in the region. When they go public, they'll need IR!

I last visited Bahrain, island of two seas, in the late 1980s when it featured as a regional offshore banking centre between Singapore and London. What a great place, what hospitality and what an aspiring and inspiring new MEIRA Chapter, headed up by Marwa Almaskati of Bahrain Bourse. On 29 April, we were hosted by the CEO of the Bourse and his most attentive team. The fact that the CEO not only opened the day's proceedings but remained as a proactive and vocal participant throughout the day's discussion in raising IR awareness was as good as it gets in IR. Commitment (of management) is a watchword for IR and I have not seen a better demonstration of this anywhere. Bravo Bahrain and its MEIRA Chapter Founding Members, again all of C-suite credentials.

It is great compelling examples like this that get us up every morning, sometimes very early to catch day flights(!), and give meaning to the regional professional body that MEIRA is. Bringing IR peers together, we were met by an audience of the Bourse's listed companies who gamefully engaged in the questions and answers around IR practice. There's a lesson to be had in listening on the ground to discussion about the operating and regulatory environment because everywhere we go, it's different. It's bound to be different for good reasons: historic; cultural; market structure, we can go on. The point is that best practice is not bestowed from upon high, it's built ground-up organically by practitioners and experts who can successfully navigate what they find and are willing to share their valuable experience, good or bad. That's IR for you!

Yes, ultimately, we are addressing the same audience of investors, wherever they come from. Granted too, it takes time and we need to compare and discuss what we find so that we can get the best out of our IROs and local market practitioners. At the same time, we shouldn't forget that we are competing for attention, for capital and for the same international investors who have choices. This means that the energy and aspiration that a Bahrain market brings, for example, to frontier and emerging markets can be channelled and can deliver, in time, the goal of greater inclusion in international markets, be it through indices or other product offerings. Bahrain belongs there and we're sure other markets do too. We look forward to working closely with Marwa and team at MEIRA Chapter 8 and to building on the IR awareness that has already firmly taken root.

Onwards and upwards MEIRA and all Chapters, you can make a telling difference to your

companies and markets!

"The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems" - Mahatma Gandhi

Best wishes,

Team MEIRA

IR Survey

How do you build a high-performing
Investor Relations team?

Be Heard: Take the 2019 BNY Mellon Global IR Survey

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW



12th BNY Mellon Global Investor Relations Survey

BNY Mellon would like to invite MEIRA members to participate in the **12th BNY Mellon Global Investor Relations Survey**.

Since 2004, thousands of IR professionals from around the globe have completed the Survey. This year's data and analysis will once again produce valuable insights that will enable you to benchmark your activities against those of your global peers and provide new perspectives.

The Survey should take approximately 25 minutes to complete. If you need to take a break, you can enter your email address to save your responses and resume later.

Your information, both responses and contact information, will be held strictly confidential and will not be used for marketing or any other purpose beyond data analysis. In addition to the BNY Mellon analysis of the Survey data, the aggregated Survey data will be shared with the Yale School of Management to allow them to perform academic analysis of the survey results.

BNY Mellon looks forward to sharing the 2019 Global Trends in Investor Relations report with you later this year.

[Please enter the survey here](#)

Events

What's coming?

OMAN IR CIRCULAR SEMINAR

2 May - Oman IR Circular Seminar - Muscat, Oman

MEIRA and Muscat Securities Market (MSM) are organising today an IR Seminar in order to discuss the main implications of the IR Circular sent by MSM to all listed companies early this month. During the session, the attendees will have the opportunity to share their thoughts and understand how to comply with this new requirement.

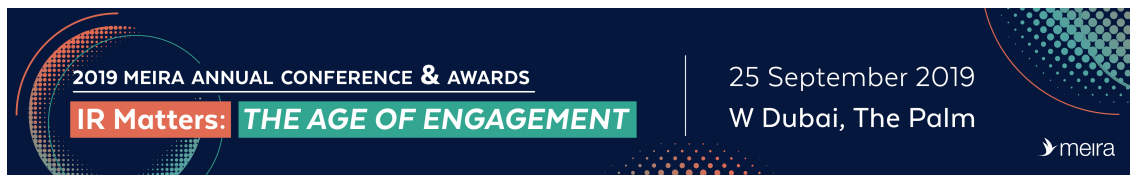
2019 Calendar of Events

Oman IR Circular Seminar: 2 May (Muscat, Oman)

MEIRA Saudi Chapter Ifat: 12 May (Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia) *MEIRA members only*

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

[Check our online calendar of events](#)



[Register Now](#)



VIVA: Platinum Sponsor!

We are delighted to count on the support of VIVA as our Platinum Sponsor this year. Commenting on this, Wassim El Hayek, Investor Relations and M&A Director, says: *"Kuwait Telecommunications Company (VIVA) is proud to be the Platinum*

Sponsor of the MEIRA 2019 Conference. VIVA strongly believes in the constructive and positive role that MEIRA plays as the go to professional body for IR in the region. Through its active events calendar, IR training and networking for IR peers, not least at the Annual Conference, MEIRA has helped to develop the role of IR in the eyes of the investment community and other market

participants.

Since the listing of VIVA on Bursa Kuwait, VIVA has committed, as part of its successful strategy, to play a leading role in IR. We believe that our IR activities are an essential part of VIVA's approach to corporate governance, notably in looking after the interests of our shareholders. VIVA aims to maintain its leading position in Kuwait and the Middle East through a proactive and professional IR programme. In this, we will continue to work closely with MEIRA in applying IR best practice."

Check our sponsorship opportunities

Past events



29 April - IR Seminar - They buy- and sell-side view - Manama, Bahrain

Bahrain Bourse and MEIRA organised an IR awareness seminar titled "IR: the buy- and sell-side view". The event took place on 29 April in Manama.

Following the launch of the MEIRA Bahrain Chapter, the session explained the importance of the IR function from the investment community perspective and the main challenges faced by the local IR practitioners.

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](#)

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](#)

CIRO Calendar 2019

- **Abu Dhabi:** 25 - 26 - 27 June
Last seats available!
- **Dubai:** 29 - 30 - 31 October

[Register now!](#)

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](#)

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](#)

Members

We are delighted to count on the support of our new and renewed members:
(25 April - 2 May 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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With the support of our annual strategic partners



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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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