



MEIRA Newsletter

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19 March 2020

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

Weekend reading list

- > Markets tumble again as global coronavirus alarm spreads. *Arab News* [Read more](#)
- > Investors avoid conferences but remain open to meetings amid Covid-19 spread. *IR Magazine* [Read more](#)
- > In challenging times for oil, investors drill deep into Saudi Aramco. *Arab News* [Read more](#)

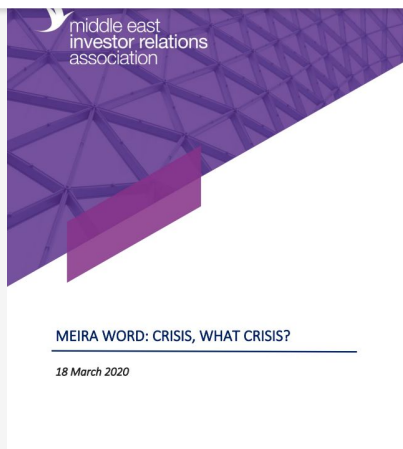
Publications

MEIRA Word: Crisis, what crisis?

We are delighted to launch a new series of MEIRA articles that we plan to write periodically in response to events in our markets. What's different about this White Paper is that MEIRA has unique access to our IR teams.

Accordingly, MEIRA Word means that we have had the privilege of talking with the people that count. In this way, through MEIRA Word, we are in a position as your professional body to offer our members a special membership benefit in sharing IR in practice.

We'll start with the topical case of DP World and its recent announcement that it plans to delist



another way to look at this. Above all, one common element in all our MEIRA Word articles will be the role of IR. We are fortunate to have DP World, a perennial IR award winner, as a supportive member willing to share their IR best practice.

This white paper is exclusive for MEIRA members and partners. It is available on our member's area on the website where you can download it along with some other relevant pieces. To access, visit meira.me/ir-resources/ and login with your credentials.

If you need assistance, contact info@meira.me.



Keeping pace with ESG: Your need-to-know guide (by Orient Capital)

As we turn the page on 2019 and consider the new decade, there is a topic which seems to be everywhere and on everyone's minds: ESG.

We live in a world where, over the last decade, we have seen targeted quotas for the inclusion of women on boards. We've seen the #metoo movement gain prominence, extreme weather events blamed on climate change, extinction rebellion taking over city streets, and school children protesting for change.

We have to pay attention to factors that drive into the heart of corporate purpose. E (environmental) and S (social) awareness/reporting have become just as important as the day-to-day G (governance) within the companies we work for and support. How are you tackling it? Do you know what other companies are doing? Is it becoming a theme you cannot ignore but do not quite know how to address? How do you ensure your board are taking it seriously?

This annual research, produced by Orient Capital, offers relevant insights on ESG reporting and also includes the views from key experts from across the investor universe and corporate world.

[To download the report click here](#)



Greetings MEIRA Members, Partners and friends,

Shakespeare wrote, "Beware the Ides of March", an old reference to the moon of mid-March and in his works, effectively, the death knell for poor old Caesar. As I've said before, let's not get stuck on just how bad it seems given it's much worse than we could have imagined only a week ago, so much so, I'm tempted to misquote the great Bard and ask about the coming summer of discontent!

However, IR is not like that, neither are we, are we? Let's carry on, get on with what we can do and if necessary, prepare for the worst - 12 months or more? And certainly hope for the best - 3-6 months, if we're lucky? The least we will do is stay in touch with you, keep talking, our speciality(!), after all, and hopefully, keep us all going, albeit we're not going anywhere fast just yet. In any event, let's be ready and carry on with our plans. Over and above our weekly Newsletter, I'm proud to say that our new White Paper series is off to a strong start with the latest article, MEIRA Word, "Crisis, what crisis?" hitting MEIRA members' and partners' desks earlier this week. What else?

Your MEIRA Board recently met and other than urging, in these stressed times, more communication from all of us, open channels, particularly among MEIRA members, something your Chapter Heads have taken to heart with their prolific WhatsApp discussion groups, what else have we been up to? Your Board of Directors signed-off the 2019 MEIRA Annual Report and Accounts and you'll see the results of the latest report in all its glory by early next month given we are currently producing the finished article. It's an important document that we're proud of as a professional body, not least because it's a statutory reporting requirement - and if we can't get it right, who can? It is also about the MEIRA narrative, steady as she goes as we continue our progress in our second decade of existence in the region, always worth a studious read as with any annual report.

As far as team MEIRA itself goes, there's always more to do and I can report that while the year started well and certainly busily, it has inevitably slowed as we batten down the hatches, preserve cashflow - thank you for continuing to pay your MEIRA invoices - and keep the good ship, MEIRA, afloat, as long as we need to and we will. A key part of this is staying in touch, talking and sharing any concerns. A good example was a flurry of enquiries on the holding of AGMs, for example. There are statutory requirements to comply with, including timelines. Accordingly, if these cannot budge, just do it, albeit proxy voting makes more sense in the current environment and perhaps more consideration will be given to alternatives, like hybrid, if not virtual AGMs, including online Q&A for shareholders, for example - these will certainly feature in the future, if not now. The world is changing and we will have to learn and change too, including the way we look at our IR. Let's start planning now, including revising Articles of Association to give your companies more flexibility for such scenarios. It's amazing sometimes just how necessity only becomes the mother of invention after the event!

On its part, your Board is dutifully undergoing its own review to ensure it remains fit for purpose, always a crucial element of governance and again, if we can't lead by example, how can we

stay busy with all the other stuff we have forgotten. It is in times of adversity that we can really make our mark by thinking clearly, if necessary, taking a step back, possibly a deep breath and counting our lucky stars around that beautiful March Full Moon.

We're good to go, MEIRA, stay well and let's take this opportunity to support one another big time, okay. Onwards and upwards IR!

Best wishes,

Team MEIRA

Events

Upcoming events

A rectangular graphic with a blurred background of green foliage. The text "WEBINAR - ESG IN THE MIDDLE EAST: A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE BALANCE SHEET" is centered in white, uppercase letters.

WEBINAR - ESG IN THE MIDDLE EAST: A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE BALANCE SHEET

1 April - MEIRA Webinar - ESG in the Middle East: a new perspective on the balance sheet

MEIRA, in collaboration with Instinctif Partners, is organising an exclusive webinar on Wednesday 1 April at 12:30 pm UAE timing, titled "ESG in the Middle East: a new perspective on the balance sheet".

The participants will have the opportunity to understand the importance of disclosing non-financial information on their ESG performance and how it links to investor and broader stakeholder relations. In addition, our speakers will share insight on investors' approach to incorporating ESG metrics in investment decisions and some practical tips on how to meet investors' expectations on non-financial reporting.

[More information and registration here](#)

MEIRA Calendar of Events



2020 MEIRA IR Awards Best Practice Category Participate now!

The 2020 Emerging EMEA Executive Team survey, now fully integrated with Extel, is open. IR winners in the Middle East will be announced at the MEIRA IR awards ceremony, which will take place on September 23, 2020. Between March 2 and April 3, both buy-side and sell-side can give their views on the IR performance of corporates and individual IR professionals based in the Middle East.

In order to secure the highest possible ranks in the survey results, don't forget to Insert the "[Survey Vote](#)" marketing banner (download) on your corporate website and your signature hyperlinked to [Institutional Investor website](#).

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 2020

> **Abu Dhabi:** 9 - 10 - 11 June

> **Dubai:** November

[Register now!](#)

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](#)

Calendar 2020

> **Abu Dhabi:** 9 June

> **Dubai:** November

[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 renewed member
(12 - 19 March 2020 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](#)

Share this newsletter with your colleagues and friends

With the support of our annual strategic partners



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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