



6 May 2021

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

Weekend reading list

- > IMF: Economic reforms helped KSA rebound 'quickly and decisively. *Arab News* [Read more](#)
- > How Middle East businesses can rise to the net-zero challenge. *Gulf Business* [Read more](#)
- > Overselling sustainability reporting. *Harvard Business Review* [Read more](#)

MEIRA Updates

from
the
GM



Welcome to ESG May at MEIRA, we have started.

We kicked off this week with an opening discussion on sustainability, including some helpful case studies - perhaps, unsurprisingly, both companies spoke of more ESG questions than ever before in their IR meetings. It's not going away, folks! This follows the recent announcement of the UAE regulatory mandate of sustainability reporting for all listed companies by 30 June 2021.

First, whatever we call it, sustainable business isn't new. Indeed, there are plenty of good examples of longstanding, responsible and successful businesses that have managed through thick and thin. Let's not forget your own outstanding efforts in the past year, we're all ready to roll again. In this part of the world, we are familiar with the aims and values of Islamic finance, an important part of funding and investment that has also been in existence for a long time. Like most things, we find that there is inevitably some overlap, if not common cause in culture, wherever we are. Now, the important next step is to share our thinking and discuss ways to address all of this as far as the investment community is concerned.

Let's set the reporting scene by outlining some of the best known ESG-related acronyms we can think of today:

CDP - the original Carbon Disclosure Project started at the beginning of this century and is perhaps best known for its annual questionnaires to companies requesting data on their impact on the environment;

ESG - today, who doesn't get Environmental, Social and Governance factors, be they

GRI - many markets around the world have used this tried-and-tested framework, the Global Reporting Initiative, that asks companies to work out what works for them and their stakeholders in reporting material business factors, while aiming to offer stakeholders a comparable way to assess the sustainability of business versus other choices they have;

IIRC - increasingly, the business world sees benefits in harmonising common standards. Ultimately, there will be some timely convergence across markets and industries that should be reflected in our approach to international integrated reporting given a common audience of international investors. The 'C', Council, is one of the leading organisations to champion this approach, among others;

SASB - the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board is relatively newer and seeks to take an industry-specific/sectoral approach to developing metrics and standards that can be usefully applied across markets;

UNPRI/SDGs - remember the Secretary-General who persuaded investors to start thinking about their role and the difference that they can make to the world of investment? Well, some 16 years later, the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment and Sustainable Development Goals feature in the majority of exchanges around the world, including here where the region has many signatories to the UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative. At the same time, Kofi Annan's mission has many buy-side signatories, including the largest institutional investors in the world worth USD trillions in assets under management. Bravo!

During May (and June, if needed), in response to your needs, we will start convening workshops on the issues you seek help with. In this way, we start and let's keep going as we learn and develop our own responses to what your target audiences are looking for. We cannot promise we will have all the answers and if we don't, we will continue until we find the answers for you. This is just the beginning!

Talking of which, you will know that we have already shared our rather apt MEIRA

Our conference day this year is Monday, 25 October. We couldn't be more excited as we roll-out with you what we expect to be bigger, better and bolder than ever before, MEIRA-style! The integration of ESG into IR continues apace and we will be ready to discuss this with you, celebrate and complete the journey that has already begun, from ESG to IR!

Enjoy the Eid holidays next week.

Best wishes,

Team MEIRA

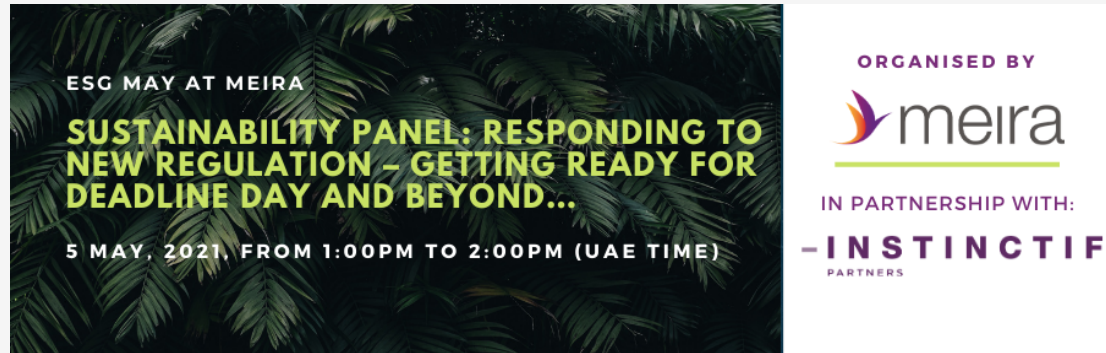
Events



Join us for a month of ESG at MEIRA, a new series of events and thought leadership initiatives to bring you the latest trends in partnership with our regional and international experts!

> **ESG framework and sustainability reporting webinars:** *Details and registration will be available soon.*

> **MEIRA D&I Working Group Roundtable:** *Details and registration will be available soon.*



MEIRA, in partnership with Instinctif Partners, organised a panel with regional and international specialists who looked at the UAE Securities & Commodity Authority's latest regulations on Sustainability Reporting, and what it means for issuers who are embarking on or progressing their ESG journey. The recording of the session is now available [here](#).

Careers



Investor Relations Manager - UAE

A listed company in the UAE is looking for an Investor Relations Manager. To download the job description and apply, visit: meira.me/careers/

Training



The banner features a purple background. On the left is the MEIRA logo, which consists of a stylized bird icon followed by the word "meira" in lowercase. In the center, there is a white rectangular box with an orange border. Inside this box, the words "MEIRA TRAINING" are written in large, bold, purple capital letters. Below this, in a smaller, blue, italicized font, it says "Visit meira.me/training to check the 2021 Calendar". Below the white box, centered on the purple background, is a purple button with the text "Register now" in white.

MEIRA TRAINING

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Members

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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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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