



24 June 2021

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

Weekend reading list

- > Heavyweight investors demand more disclosure of environmental risks. *Financial Times* [Read more](#)
- > Don't take compromise for an answer. *Fidelio* [Read more](#)
- > How ESG integration drives cultural change. *IR Magazine* [Read more](#)

MEIRA Updates

Paul Gay steps down from the MEIRA Board



Paul has been instrumental in positioning MEIRA as an integral part of developing capital markets in the region, especially in Saudi Arabia.

Paul has contributed enormously to the success of the association. His CFO experience, level-headedness and wisdom, particularly in the past year of COVID-19, have undoubtedly been an immense asset for MEIRA. Paul has been a stalwart of the Board and we are certain that his legacy of promoting good governance through diversity of thought and leading our IR community by example will continue.

MEIRA wishes Paul all the success in his new role as a Non-Executive Director in Europe. We are certain that Paul will remain in touch and always be happy to continue supporting and guiding our efforts in the region. Our MEIRA doors remain open always.

Merci beaucoup, Paul.

Best wishes,

Team MEIRA

Deborah Vaz appointed as Office Manager and Professional Development Administrator

Dear IR People,

I was caught by excitement when John asked me to do a write-up in this week's Newsletter - no GM's Notes, phew! - to share my MEIRA journey thus far with all of you, so here goes!



Office Manager & Professional Development Administrator; a big shout out to all our immensely supportive Board of Directors and of course my wonderful colleagues - Alicia, John, not forgetting, Nirmal - our Finance chief!

The summer of 2018 was when I first joined MEIRA as a part-time Executive Assistant. Clemence Piot, then General Manager, had interviewed me and offered me the role. Thank you Clemence if you are reading this, your contribution to MEIRA's success is

monumental and always fondly remembered.

In the last 3 years, we've experienced several transitions other than a change of boss LOL: Moving offices from the historic Dubai World Trade Centre (one of the first skyscrapers in the Middle East!) to the very opulent Offices at One Central - another iconic location in Dubai's Central Business District; to working remotely, combined with an address on the cloud!; from a full-fledged conference to a virtual one (cheers 2020) and come October 2021, MEIRA goes Hybrid, join us!

When I joined MEIRA I was completely new to the Investor Relations Industry and its nuances. Slowly, yet steadily, I started to grasp its essence, built on relationships across its huge network, played to my strengths, and contributed towards the Association's needs in every way I possibly could, including administering candidates for the professional IR courses delivered at MEIRA. We have seen an array of talented individuals from a variety of industries and across many regions get certified for the CIRO, well over 100 in our region and growing, out of a global total of some 1,800 IROs. It's always fascinating to see hard work triumph!

The CIRO Programme continues to see huge demand and we are confident this will only grow with MEIRA continuing to receive interest from exchanges, academies, and regulatory authorities. The endeavour to constantly improvise and align with current market trends is key to MEIRA, so is staying in harmony with the operating environment

Today more than ever, a prerequisite to achieving a healthy work-life balance, I believe, is explicit support and trust from your team and management. This cannot be taken for granted and it naturally extracts the best out of an employee, in my opinion. It's certainly worked for me and I hope you have this experience too.

Challenges will always be a part of our lives, one way or another, one form or another, a balancing act for many, but undeniably, it helps us evolve, learn, re-invent, remodel ourselves, so long as we choose to do so, recognizing our limitations yet striving to present our very best always.

We hope with every passing year, MEIRA soars to new heights, braces storms steadfastly, and reaches the epitome in the world of IR! And why not?

None of it would be possible without you, our valued people of IR, each and every one of you count and make the difference!

So please do join us in celebrating the 2021 MEIRA Hybrid Annual Conference & Awards on 25 October!

It'll be spectacular, with you all, we promise!

Deborah Vaz,
MEIRA Office Manager & Professional Development Administrator



We are delighted to inform you that the "2021 IR Practitioners Survey" was launched this week and will run until **Sunday, 25 July**.

The Survey, launched by **MEIRA in collaboration with DNA**, is designed to assess key career-related aspects of the IR role, including compensation, team structure, reporting line and KPIs, among other criteria.


The results of this fourth edition will be compiled into a comprehensive report which will be available at the **2021 MEIRA Annual Conference on 25 October**. The 2021 report will include a comparative analysis of the results extracted from the previous surveys and new matters related to the IR profession in the Middle East, especially in the context of COVID-19.

In order for the Survey to be a success, we need a minimum participation, therefore we highly encourage you to take 5 minutes of your time and complete it.

[To participate, please click here](#)

MEIRA IR Best Practice Guide

We would like to remind our members that the MEIRA IR Best Practice Guide is available on the members' online library.



middle east
investor relations
association

MEIRA IR
BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

practical examples and tips for the day-to-day job.

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

Events

ESG MAJLIS AT MEIRA

TELLING A COMPELLING ESG STORY

6 JULY, 2021, FROM 1:00PM TO 2:00PM (UAE TIME)

ORGANISED BY



emperor

Sustainability has been a hot topic of conversation for many years, but recent focus on global issues such as climate change and social injustice, set against the backdrop of the pandemic, has only heightened awareness of the link between society and the corporate world, placing even greater scrutiny on companies' societal and environmental impact.

As traditional business and sustainability issues coalesce, businesses must truly embrace ESG issues and put them at the heart of their strategy and communications. Rather than viewing sustainability reporting as a compliance exercise, we believe this

In this session, we'll share recent trends in reporting and offer some practical tips about what to consider when setting out on your sustainability reporting journey.

The webinar will take place **on 6 July at 1pm UAE time**.

Speakers:

- Jo Wade, Communications Consultant & Partner, Emperor
- Mohammad Abdal, Chief Communications Officer, Zain; MEIRA Board Member
- Jennifer Suleiman, Chief Sustainability Officer, Zain
- Moderator: John Gollifer, General Manager, MEIRA

[Click here to register](#)



The Arab Federation of Exchanges (AFE) is organising the webinar "ESGs Reporting: How to be visible for the rating agencies for better inclusion in ESG products", on Monday, 28th of June 2021 at 11:00 am Beirut Local time.

As both investors and issuers increasingly recognize the importance of ESG factors, providing voluntary or more preferably mandatory guidance to issuers on reporting ESG considerations gives exchanges an influential role to facilitate effective corporate

Regulators and exchanges for each individual market have adopted a range of disclosures guidance and global frameworks to follow. The obligation level required regarding ESG reporting also differs among these markets, ranging from voluntary, comply-or-explain basis, to mandatory.

Speakers:

- Marwa Almaskati, Director of Marketing & Business Development, Bahrain Bourse and MEIRA Board Member
- Elena Philipova, Global Head ESG Proposition, Refinitiv
- William Tohme, Senior Regional Head of MENA, CFA Institute

For registration, kindly fill out the [registration form](#)





Sponsorship opportunities

Maximise your visibility, share your expertise and send a strong signal to the investment community that your company is committed to the implementation of Investor Relations best practices, greater transparency and improved market communications.

[Download the sponsorship brochure here](#)



Awards Submission is Open for the Best IR Reporting Category!

The entry process for the MEIRA self-entry award categories will run until **15 July 2021**, so hurry!

As in the previous editions, companies can submit their annual reports for the print and or digital category.

The winners for each category will be announced on 25 October.

[> Download the 2021 Methodology here](#)

[> Download the 2021 Entry form here](#)

**Kindly note that a submission fee of USD100 applies to non-members*

Careers

Bilingual Investor Relations Managers - Jeddah / Riyadh

Two different listed companies are looking to hire a Bilingual Investor Relations Manager. One of the positions is for Jeddah while the second one is for a candidate based in Riyadh.

[Download the job description here](#)

Training



Are you looking for bespoke or in-house training?

[Contact us](#)

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](#)

Share this newsletter with your colleagues and friends



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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