



16 April 2026

## WEEKEND READING LIST

- Diversification and discipline remain key as global markets navigate uncertainty, says Standard Chartered ([Economy Middle East](#))
- UAE's Capital Market Authority issues virtual assets framework to strengthen oversight ([Gulf Business](#))
- GCC banks seen resilient despite rising geopolitical risks ([Zawya](#))

## MEIRA UPDATES



### From the Middle East to the World – MEIRA IR Leaders

At MEIRA, we are proud to represent a dynamic and growing community of IR professionals shaping the narrative of the Middle East on the global stage. With this in mind, we are excited to launch a new newsletter feature: **“From the Middle East to the World – MEIRA IR Leaders.”**

This section will spotlight outstanding MEIRA members who are driving excellence in investor relations, ESG, and corporate governance, sharing their stories, achievements, and perspectives with a regional and international audience.

#### Why take part?

- Position yourself and your organisation within the global IR landscape
- Share your expertise and contribute to advancing best practices across the region
- Raise your professional profile within the MEIRA network and beyond

**How to be featured:**

If you would like to participate, please email [pr@meira.me](mailto:pr@meira.me) with:

- A short professional bio (150–200 words)
- A high-resolution headshot
- An overview of your current role and organisation
- Key achievements or milestones you would like to highlight
- Recent initiatives or success stories (IR, ESG, governance)
- Optional: your perspective on the future of investor relations

Our team will review submissions and contact selected members.

We look forward to showcasing the individuals behind the region's IR success stories and bringing their voices from the Middle East to the world.

**A message from Reza Eftekhari, MEIRA CEO**

While headlines continue to focus on uncertainty, it is often the quieter structural shifts in markets that have the most lasting impact. One such shift, increasingly shaping global capital markets and now gaining traction in our region, is the rise of passive investment and exchange-traded funds.

Globally, this trend is already well established. Passive strategies today account for **around 55 percent of the investable market**, up from just 4 percent in the early 1990s. What was once considered an alternative approach is now a dominant force influencing liquidity, valuation and capital allocation decisions.

We are beginning to see this evolution more clearly reflected in the GCC. The recent initiative by Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange to launch a new ETF offering exposure to global companies driving AI-led growth is a notable example. It signals not only growing investor demand, but also the continued development and sophistication of regional markets as they align more closely with global investment trends.

For issuers, this shift carries important implications. Passive capital may follow indices, but it is not passive in expectation. As highlighted in recent industry insights, these investors are “far from passive in their appetite for engagement” and increasingly expect transparency, accessibility and clear communication from companies.

This fundamentally elevates the role of investor relations.

In a landscape shaped by index inclusion, fund flows and ETF dynamics, IR professionals must act as interpreters of the market. Understanding how capital moves and, critically, explaining why it moves is becoming as important as communicating financial performance. The ability to distinguish between technical volatility and fundamental change is now central to maintaining investor confidence.

At the same time, this shift creates opportunity. Inclusion in indices and ETFs can enhance visibility, improve liquidity and attract long-term capital. However, this is not automatic. It

requires consistent disclosure, strong governance and a clearly articulated equity story that resonates across both active and passive audiences.

For the Middle East, this comes at an important moment. As markets deepen and the pipeline of new listings continues to build, the growing presence of passive investment adds another layer of resilience and connectivity to global capital flows.

At MEIRA, we see this as a key area of focus for the IR community. We will continue to bring this topic to the forefront through targeted discussions, knowledge-sharing initiatives and upcoming engagements, including at our chapter events.

As the investment landscape evolves, one thing remains constant. Whether capital is active or passive, confidence is earned through clarity, consistency and trust. That responsibility continues to sit firmly with investor relations.

### Get to know our new MEIRA team member



**Lucija Krivić** is an events professional with a passion for creating impactful experiences and bringing people together. She specialises in organising and delivering memorable events and enjoys turning creative ideas into engaging real-life experiences. She is currently expanding her international experience within the events and hospitality industry and is excited to contribute to MEIRA’s mission and community.

*“I’m genuinely excited to join MEIRA and be part of a community that values connection, collaboration, and meaningful impact. I look forward to contributing to memorable events, meeting inspiring people, and growing through every experience this journey brings.”*

## EVENTS



### MEIRA Oman Chapter Meeting



Apr 19, 2026  
(09:00 - 13:00)  
(GMT+4)



Global Sustainabili...  
Sib, Muscat Governorate...

The Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) in partnership with Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) is delighted to announce the upcoming **MEIRA Oman**

**Chapter Meeting** in Muscat, kindly hosted by **Oman Cables**.**Date:** Sunday, 19 April 2026**Time:** 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**Location:** Global Sustainability Academy, Oman Cables Industry

Join us for an engaging morning designed for Investor Relations professionals and market participants, featuring insightful discussions, knowledge sharing, and networking opportunities. The programme will begin with a presentation and welcome note from **Oman Cables and MSX**, followed by presentations from **Ali Mustafa Al Lawati Founder of National Academy for Training and Development**

, **Governance, Risk, and Compliance expert with over 20 years of experience**, and **Aisha Al Balushi, Senior Investor Relations Officer at Omantel**. The session will conclude with a tour of the **Sustainability Academy**.

**Important Notes:**

Seating is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The event is open exclusively to MEIRA members.

Stay tuned! More event details will follow. We look forward to welcoming you to another exciting MEIRA Oman Chapter meeting!

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[Learn more](#)[Register](#)**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

MEIRA offers a comprehensive calendar of **professional development courses and webinars** throughout the year.

22 Apr	<b>AI &amp; Analytics in IR: Insights, Automation, and Predictive Tools</b>
21 May	<b>CIRO Online Revision Bootcamp</b>
09 Jun	<b>CESG-IR Professional Programme</b>

## IR Academy calendar

IR Academy 2026 - All courses

## NEW MEMBERS



**MCDC**  
شركة مكة  
للإنشاء والتعمير



### Makkah Construction & Development Company (MCDC)

owns one of the most valuable real estate assets in Makkah, the iconic Makkah Hotel & Towers complex, a destination that combines hospitality, retail, steps from the Holy Mosque. The Company's activities extend across Hajj services, and strategic real estate investments, giving us diversified and resilient revenue streams. With a unique location, high and recurring demand driven by millions of visitors and pilgrims to the holy city, MCDC is positioned as both a trusted facilitator of the pilgrim journey and a compelling long-term investment aligned with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.

To know more, please visit: [mcdc.com.sa](https://mcdc.com.sa)

## Quick links



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