



9 April 2026

WEEKEND READING LIST

- How to conduct ESG analysis: Comprehensive materiality assessment guide for 2026 ([Nasdaq](#))
- AI-driven investor relations: From static targeting to agentic workflows ([IR Impact](#))
- IMF, IEA and World Bank form coordination group on Middle East crisis ([Arab News](#))

MEIRA UPDATES

A message from Reza Eftekhari, MEIRA CEO:

In recent weeks, the global narrative has understandably been shaped by geopolitical tensions and conflict, with the region once again in sharp focus. While such periods can influence sentiment and introduce volatility, they also serve to highlight an important reality: the Middle East's economic transformation continues to advance, often with remarkable resilience beneath the headlines.

Recent data points to this continued momentum. [According to Arab News](#), startups across the MENA region raised **\$326.6 million in February alone across 62 deals**, reflecting sustained investor appetite even amid regional sensitivities. (As one market participant noted, "our collective confidence reaffirms the resilience of the GCC's venture capital landscape and the region's broader financial ecosystem.")

This is a powerful signal. Despite uncertainty, capital is not withdrawing from the region, it is continuing to back innovation, growth and future opportunities. Importantly, this activity is not occurring in isolation. It is building the foundation for the next generation of listed companies. From fintech to education technology and AI-enabled platforms, today's startups are actively shaping the future IPO pipeline across GCC markets.

At the same time, we are seeing companies already preparing for that transition. The example of Saudi-based startup Ninja, which is exploring a potential IPO after achieving scale and engaging with international investors, is a clear indication of how the ecosystem is maturing and connecting more directly with public markets.

In parallel, the rapid advancement of technology continues to reshape how markets operate. While artificial intelligence and data-driven tools are enhancing efficiency and access to information, they also reinforce the importance of the human dimension in investor relations. In an environment defined by complexity and speed, investors are not only seeking information, but also context, judgement and trust.

This is where IR remains indispensable. It is the function that translates strategy into a compelling narrative, that bridges perception and reality, and that ensures consistent, credible engagement with the investment community. Technology can support this process, but it cannot replace the experience and insight required to navigate uncertain conditions and build long-term confidence.

Encouragingly, the broader picture for the region remains positive. Strong fundamentals, ongoing reforms and a clear commitment to diversification continue to underpin investor interest. The combination of a growing private market ecosystem and increasingly sophisticated public markets creates a virtuous cycle, one that supports capital formation, liquidity and long-term value creation.

For investor relations professionals, this is a moment of both responsibility and opportunity. As new companies emerge and markets evolve, IR has a critical role to play in shaping standards, promoting transparency and supporting successful market entry.

At MEIRA, we remain focused on supporting this journey, fostering dialogue, sharing insights and bringing the community together through ongoing initiatives and engagement opportunities. In doing so, we continue to reinforce the role of investor relations at the heart of the region's capital markets.

Even in uncertain times, the direction of travel is clear. The Middle East is not standing still, it is building, evolving and preparing for the future.



MEIRA Advocacy - A New Members' Initiative

MEIRA is pleased to introduce **MEIRA Advocacy**, a **new members-only** initiative designed to capture the views, priorities and ideas of our IR community. Members can **submit feedback** (anonymously or attributed) on regulation, exchanges, sustainability, governance, disclosure and events.

MEIRA Advocacy will help inform our wider engagement by consolidating member feedback on regulatory and exchange matters, supporting constructive dialogue with relevant stakeholders. Insights gathered through this initiative will contribute to roundtables, policy engagement, events, training and thought leadership across the region.

Members are invited to share their views and help shape the regional IR profession via the special submission form. If you haven't received it, please contact info@meira.me and a member of our team will assist you.



Final call: Saudi Capital Market Awards — entries close today!

As proud partners of the Saudi Capital Market Awards, we remind you that today is the final day to submit your entries. Don't miss the chance to be recognised for excellence, innovation and leadership in the capital markets sector.

[Know more](#)

EVENTS



MEIRA Oman Chapter Meeting



Apr 19, 2026
(09:00 - 12:00)
(GMT+4)



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

The Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) 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 also include a presentation from Oman Cables, followed by a tour of the 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!

We look forward to welcoming you to another exciting **MEIRA Oman Chapter Meeting.**

[Learn more](#)

[Register](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



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

15 Apr	Next-Gen IR Strategy: Aligning with Long-Term Corporate Growth
22 Apr	AI & Analytics in IR: Insights, Automation, and Predictive Tools

IR Academy calendar

[IR Academy 2026 - All courses](#)

Quick links



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