Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group Inaugural Awards and Gala Dinner 2015 Report

The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG) hosted the inaugural Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards at the Anantara Eastern Mangroves hotel, Abu Dhabi, on 16th February. The awards and gala dinner bought together 110 attendees to celebrate and recognise Sustainable Businesses Leadership in the MENA region.

The keynote speaker of the evening was H.H Sheikh Dr. Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi who spoke passionately about the importance of Eternal Leadership and said that: "sustainable leadership starts with fixing yourself and only then can you be a good leader to others".

H.H Sheik Dr. Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Nuaimi speaking during the Awards and Gala Dinner

The Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards, launched for the first time in 2015, is an award and recognition scheme that is designed to recognise sustainability best practice and to raise awareness about the benefits of sustainable management practices for organisations. Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG) Director, Huda Al Houqani, said during her opening speech for the inaugural ADSG Awards and Gala Dinner that: "ADSG is pleased to announce the winners of the first ever Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards. These prestigious awards signify great achievement within the field of Sustainability, and we look forward to continuing these awards in the future."

The ADSG received a total of 22 applications. All applications were received by the Expert Award Committee who reviewed all entries against established award purpose and criteria.

The ADSG awards consist of five categories:

- Best Sustainability Initiative
- Best Sustainability Report
- Sustainability Manager of the Year
- Sustainability Leader of the Year, and
- Best Sustainability Communication Programme

The awards were presented by H.E Razan Al Mubarak, Secretary General Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, together with Huda Al Houqani, ADSG Director. In addition to the awards, the evening also included a celebration of all 24 ADSG member organisations that had published a sustainability report since 2008, where each entity that made the significant step towards transparency and sustainability received a recognition certificate to commemorate their efforts and acknowledge their sustainability efforts in the Emirate.

A difficult award to judge with many excellent submissions, the 'Best sustainability initiative' award went to Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB), for their Tamooha initiative. The Tamooha platform creates job opportunities for UAE National women which promotes and aligns with their social and family obligations and responsibilities. The initiative provides them with training and flexible working structures in remote areas and facilitates their social, professional and economic empowerment.

The Award for "Best sustainable Initiative" went to ADCB

Mr Khalid Al Hosani received the award for "Leader of the year"

Upon receipt of the Abu Dhabi Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Award for Best Sustainability Initiative, and in honour of this momentous occasion, Ali Darwish, Executive Vice-President and Head of Group Human Resources at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB), said, "ADCB is proud to provide a unique career structure that adds real value to our community. Tamooha is a sustainable and innovative way to contribute to the economic development of the UAE whilst advancing employment, cultural and diversity

across the Emirates, and particularly in remote regions. Emirati women are given the opportunity to join the workforce whilst meeting their everyday life responsibilities.

This award reflects Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank's keen enthusiasm to support the UAE vision, to build a bright and ambitious future, by develop a robust local workforce in harmony with cultural traditions and values. In particular, this award is further evidence that ADCB supports its staff to achieve their dreams, highlights their abilities and commits to investing in our employees and community, and ensuring that UAE women working within the banks have an opportunity to advance in their career. On behalf of ADCB, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group for such a prestigious award."

The second award was the 'Best sustainability report' which recognises an organisation that has an easily accessible sustainability report, addressing its sustainability impact and integrating sustainability it into the organisations regular reporting agenda. The winner of this prestigious achievement is Dolphin Energy for the quality of their 2014 report in which they succinctly report on their sustainability progress and journey.

Commenting on receiving the award for best sustainability report, Mr Ibrahim Ahmed Al Ansaari, CEO, Dolphin Energy Limited, said: "This is a proud moment in the history of the company and testament to the hard work of those responsible for developing our sustainability strategy and program. "It is humbling to have our efforts recognised in this way and we will use this win to drive and deepen our commitment to sustainability further."

Linden Coppell from Etihad Airways received the award for "Sustainability manager of the year ". Etihad Airways was also rewarded for "Best sustainability communication programme".

The Family Development Foundation was recognised for publishing a sustainability report. One of the 24 ADSG member organisations recognised for this achievement since 2008.

The third award, for the 'Best sustainability communication programme', celebrates the use of communication channels to promote sustainable business. Etihad Airways media communications campaign raised significant awareness for the need of biofuels in aviation. The launch of their new initiative BIOJet Abu Dhabi: Flight Path to Sustainability was the driving force behind this successful campaign.

Linden Coppell, Etihad Airways Head of Sustainability, said: "BIOjet Abu Dhabi is a ground-breaking initiative, not only for Etihad Airways, but for Abu Dhabi, the UAE, and the global aviation industry. Through a carefully executed communication plan, we spread awareness of this ambitious project to a large international audience and highlighted the importance of biofuels in helping the industry to meet its carbon reduction goals. The impact of our communication program was clearly reflected in the extensive coverage that was generated following the project's launch in 2014 and has been further enforced with this prestigious accolade."

The final two awards celebrate individuals that have supported a led sustainable action within their organisation. It celebrates their unwavering contribution to sustainability and their successes in the sustainable challenges they have had to face.

The 'Sustainability leader of the year' celebrates an individual in a leadership position that has shown personal commitment to sustainability and demonstrated excellent leadership in the implementation of sustainable response to social, economic and environmental challenges. This year's winner Mr Khalid Al Hosani from the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development has inspired and empowered his team to work together toward one goal. He has ensured that all setbacks are turned into opportunities, creating a positive working environment for the whole team.

In receipt of the award Mr Khalid Al Hosani said: "I am surprised and speechless. I believe that this award gives us the responsibility keep up its efforts. It is an honour to be recognised for our work in sustainability, which I believe it starts with our religion and culture. Today, it is more about the ethics and integrity that govern our decisions, rather than focusing on achievements and the end results only. It is about the impact and the added value that we generate to your surroundings."

Mr Ali Al Rahbi receives "Best sustainability report" award for Dolphin Energy

HH Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Nuaimi receives a token of appreciation from HE Razan Al Mubarak and Huda Al Houqani, ADSG Director

The final award, ‘Sustainability manager of the year’, was awarded to Linden Coppell, Head of Sustainability, Etihad Airways. The award celebrates her implementation of several initiatives that have greatly influenced the airline’s CSR achievements. She has been instrumental in reshaping the industry’s sustainability landscape and has lead discussions and ultimately to commitment to environmental and social improvement.

Linden Coppell, Etihad Airways Head of Sustainability, said: "Etihad Airways is widely regarded as a leading innovator within the global airline industry, a reputation that extends beyond its world-class product and service offering, and into core areas such as sustainability. Our focus on operating in a responsible manner is unwavering and principles from Etihad Airways' ambitious sustainability strategy have been fully integrated across our business. I am delighted to be recognised for leading the successful development and implementation of this strategy, which would not have been possible without the continued support of Etihad Airways' management and stakeholders, and the commitment of my team."

Congratulations to all the award winners and entities who have been recognised as they inspire and encourage sustainable business leadership in the UAE, regionally and internationally.

مجموعة أبو ظبي للإستدامة
ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

A Partnership to Champion Sustainability in Abu Dhabi

شراكة لريادة الاستدامة في أبوظبي

The Inaugural ADSG Sustainable Business Leadership Awards

The Abu Dhabi Sustainable Business Leadership Awards, launched for the first time in 2015, is an award and recognition scheme that is designed to recognise sustainability best practice and to raise awareness about the benefits of sustainable management practices for organisations. As part of the mission of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG), this Award is another manifestation of the Group's commitment to knowledge sharing aimed at improving sustainability performance. The Award will recognise organisations who have demonstrated sustainability impact.

The award categories are:

- Best Sustainability Initiative
- Best Sustainability Report
- Sustainability Manager of the Year
- Sustainability Leader of the Year
- Best Sustainability Communication Programme

Judges

northumbria UNIVERSITY

Dr Jenny Davidson, DBA MSc, BSc (Hons) AIEMA

Senior Lecturer
Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability

Jenny has over 15 years of experience working and carrying out research in the field of sustainability and Corporate Responsibility having held a number of senior sustainability roles in both the public and private sectors, latterly at Heathrow Airport for BAA and Oxford City Council. Most recently Jenny worked on adopting a collaborative approach to tackling sustainability issues across a broad range of stakeholders founding the ambitious Low Carbon Oxford programme and securing funding and income to support the programme.

Forging partnerships across academia public, private and voluntary sectors has formed the basis for many of the programmes that Jenny has led through mapping and aligning common goals, developing and implementing principles of collaboration and ensuring rigorous governance and assurance. Particular research interests lie in the role of the individual on the journey towards sustainability and how collaboration can act as a catalyst to sustainable development, prompting innovation and creativity.

Dr Dima Jamali

Professor
Olayan School of Business,
American University of Beirut

Dr Dima Jamali is Professor in the Olayan School of Business, American University of Beirut and currently serving as Kamal Shair Chair in Responsible Leadership. She holds a PhD in Social Policy and Administration, from the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK.

Her research and teaching revolve primarily around Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Social Entrepreneurship (SE).

She is the author of three books (CSR in the Middle East; SE in the Middle East; and CSR in Developing Countries), over 50 international publications, 15 book chapters, 100 conference proceedings, and multiple case studies, focusing on different aspects of CSR and SE in developing countries in general and in the Middle East region specifically.

She is the winner of the 2010 Shoman Prize for best young Arab researcher and a member of the Eisenhower Fellows, a global network of leading professionals committed to collaborate for a more prosperous, just and peaceful world

Dr Rula Qalyoubi

VP Sustainable Development
OneCoin UN.org

Dr Rula Qalyoubi holds a PhD in Economics from the Colorado State University and MSc in Development Economics from Utah State University in addition to two undergraduate degrees.

Dr Qalyoubi follows result-based policies to national circumstances by creating an international expert forum to share experience on best-practice policies and planning methodologies.

She is a vice president on sustainable development for the OneCoin UN.Org - Office of Sustainable Development for Sustainable Development Design through Education and Human Capital Formation. Dr Qalyoubi is a contributor to the Global Thematic Consultation on addressing Inequalities forum by UNICEF, ILO and UN DESA, and was commissioned by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Germany and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Austria for the program alignment of the Economic Analysis of Renewable Policy Design and Energy for the industrial sector in Jordan. Further, she was involved in the development of major outreach and fund-raising campaign targeting foundations, philanthropic organizations, NGOs and the private sector. Funding raised $1.4 million for the Jordanian Society for Renewable Energy.

Dr Qalyoubi reviewed and peer-reviewed journal articles and books among them are the handbook volume 1 for the "Capacity Development Needs Diagnostics for Renewable Energy - giz, IDAE, IRENA, NREL. She also served on a panel for the Egyptian Ministry - UNDP- Riose center to peer review Egyptian Energy Indicator.

She is part of the advisory Committee for Policy Framework for World Green Citizen.Org - Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability. And, as an expert she served as part of the Climate Change Modelling committee by UNDP, UNEP and Ministry of Energy in Jordan.

About Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group The Abu Dhabi Sustainability Group (ADSG) is a membership organisation whose mission is to promote sustainability management in Abu Dhabi by providing learning and knowledge sharing opportunities for government, private companies and not for profit organisations in a spirit of cooperation and open dialogue. The ADSG was set up by EAD in 2008 as a forum of members who have signed the ADSG Declaration, committing to adopt best practices of sustainability management and reporting and to actively participate in ADSG activities. The ADSG is open to new members willing to practice and champion sustainability in Abu Dhabi in a spirit of cooperation and open dialogue. **For more information, please contact The ADSG Communications office**

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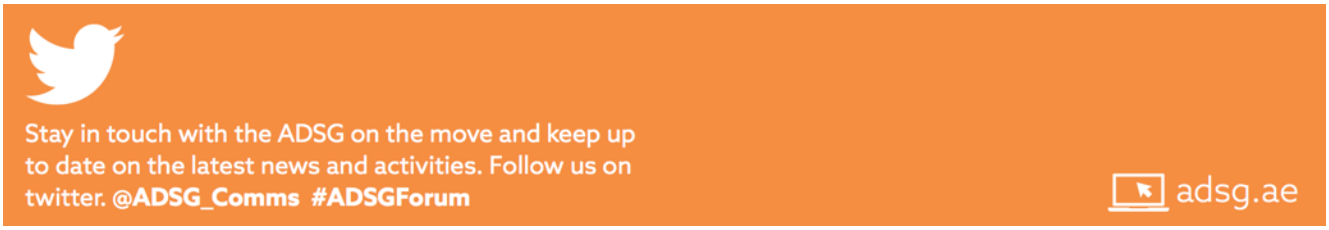

About Sustainability to Action (STA) is a group of consultants and associates based in Abu Dhabi and the UK who are experts in business responsibility in the areas of sustainability, corporate responsibility, materiality, stakeholder engagement, communications and behaviour change through social engagement. STA's team work with stakeholders to embed and integrate responsible business practices in organisations by providing insight and consultancy services, training, coach-mentoring and thought leadership. **For more information, please contact Sustainability to Action:**

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