

ESG Newsletter

February 2024

Your Knowledge Digest

Oxford Banking Group: Sustainability in Kuwait's upstream oil sector 

Does accelerating the energy transition affect fiscal sustainability in GCC countries? 

News | Regional

Kuwait invites bids for Shagaya 3 power plant (zawya.com) 

The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) aims to attract private sector technology in the field of renewable energy, ease the financial burden of project operation on the Government, lessen reliance on fossil fuel, and increase the share of renewable sources in the energy mix.



هيئة مشروعات الشراكة بين القطاعين العام والخاص
Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects

Kuwait must expedite its economic reforms - ARAB TIMES (arabtimesonline.com) 

The Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund's Center stressed the importance of opening new horizons and developing sectors related to renewable energy and other non-oil avenues to achieve economic resilience while reducing reliance on the oil sector.



KBA initiates new committee to drive ESG practices in the finance sector - ARAB TIMES (arabtimesonline.com) 

Recognizing the significance of sustainable finance, Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) has taken a proactive step by establishing a new committee dedicated to promoting ESG practices in the country's banking sector showcasing their commitment to responsible and sustainable banking practices in Kuwait.



SEE Holding, EnerTech to build Sustainable City in Kuwait (zawya.com) 

The new development aims to redefine urban living in Kuwait, enabling residents to significantly reduce their environmental impact with innovative clean energy, waste management, and resource conservation solutions as well as delivering social and economic sustainability.



KPTC's electric buses could take Kuwait closer to its climate goals | kuwaittimes 

Electric buses could take Kuwait one step closer to achieving its climate goals, reaffirming the government's environment goals which were announced on the sidelines of COP27, where Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah pledged a carbon-neutral oil and gas sector by 2050 and the rest of the country by the following decade.



Oman unveils sustainable finance framework in green push (zawya.com) 

Oman unveiled a sustainable finance framework to help the Gulf country reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and attract ESG investors in line with Oman's vision 2040, cutting oil's share of gross domestic product (GDP) to 16% in 2030 and 8.4% in 2040, down from 39% in 2017.



ADNOC commits \$23 billion for decarbonization projects, technologies, and lower-carbon solutions - ESG News 

ADNOC's Board set out strategic directions to deploy leading edge technologies to accelerate decarbonization, renewables growth, and lower-carbon solutions in support of its Net Zero by 2045 target, with a commitment of \$23 billion.



From burden to beacon: The ESG dilemma in the Middle East (zawya.com) 

Research suggests that by 2050, climate-related events could devour a staggering 3.3% of asset value for some sectors. Navigating ESG complexities requires collective effort, transparency, collaboration, innovation, and proactive policy support in order to ensure a just, equitable transition that leaves no one behind.



News | International

UN Secretary-General calls for urgent action on climate and AI | (weforum.org) 

The Secretary-General noted that in addition to climate change posing risks to humans and the environment, it is crucial to close the digital connectivity gap, share data, and build digital public goods to meet the aims of the UN SDGs, flagging the risks that AI poses to human rights, personal privacy, and societies.



ECB hints at greener monetary policy in new climate plan (zawya.com) 

Climate activists have been calling for years for the ECB to attach climate targets to its long-term loans to banks and stop buying the bonds of polluting companies. The U.S. Federal Reserve too is coming under pressure to consider climate change in its own policy, analysis, and research.



EU banking regulator releases proposed requirements for banks to manage ESG, climate transition risks - ESG Today 

The European Banking Authority (EBA) launched a consultation on the new proposed guidelines for addressing risks arising from the EU's transition to a climate-neutral economy, and requiring banks to identify, measure, manage, and monitor ESG risks.



EU markets regulator updates proposed rules for fund names using "ESG" or "Sustainability" terms - ESG Today 

ESMA introduced a new "transition" category to its guidance enabling the use of labels to identify funds that include investments not currently classified as green but are focused on transition strategies. This aims at protecting investors from greenwashing risk.



Banks show 'staggering' misalignment with green transition, ECB says | Euronews 

Among 95 of eurozone's biggest banks, a staggering 90% are found to be misaligned with emissions targets of the Paris Agreement, according to a study conducted by ECB. Banks that fail to take climate change seriously could go insolvent, supervisors said, after previously threatening daily fines for the worst offenders.

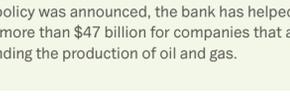


EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK



HSBC unveil their first net-zero transition plan - ESG News 

This plan builds upon the bank's initial commitment to align its financing activities with the Paris Agreement goals and achieve net-zero emissions in its own operations and supply chain by 2030, supporting the global transition to a low-carbon economy.



More than two thirds of companies planning to upskill workforce for climate change megatrend: PwC CEO Survey - ESG Today 

A significant majority of CEOs are planning, currently undertaking, or have already completed a series of actions to prepare their companies to address the risks and opportunities presented by climate change, including two thirds looking to upskill or reskill their workforce.



Investor revolt at Shell: \$4 trillion in assets push for stricter emissions targets - ESG News 

Investor groups, representing \$4 trillion in assets, have co-filed a resolution calling on Shell to align its emissions reduction goals with the Paris Agreement. This action comes in response to Shell's decision to abandon plans for cutting oil and gas production before 2030.



Action on energy demand could boost growth, save economies \$2 trillion a year and cut greenhouse gas emissions, say global CEOs - ESG News 

Over 120 of Global CEOs back practical actions to reduce energy demand in buildings, industry, and transport, aiming for a 31% reduction across all sectors, unlocking annual savings of at least \$2 trillion for the global economy if measures are taken by the end of this decade.



NBK ESG Highlights of the Month



NBK hosts a workshop to raise media awareness of sustainability and climate change issues 

NBK took a pioneering step towards value creation across its own supply chain by organizing a workshop designed to raise awareness on ESG initiatives, sustainability, and climate change, inviting diverse media outlets and newspapers in Kuwait.

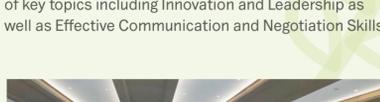
NBK organizes a masterclass on leadership and influence, in partnership with IE Madrid 

Regarding its employees as the most valuable resource, NBK organized a masterclass focusing on leadership and influence. This masterclass is the last of a series of 6 masterclasses organized by NBK covering a number of key topics including Innovation and Leadership as well as Effective Communication and Negotiation Skills.



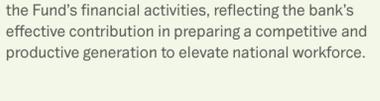
NBK hosts a series of workshops for the employees of Kuwait Fund 

NBK hosted a series of workshops for the employees of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), which focused on key areas related to the Fund's financial activities, reflecting the bank's effective contribution in preparing a competitive and productive generation to elevate national workforce.



NBK celebrates graduation of the eighth cohort of "High-Fliers" program 

The program covered a variety of important topics including leadership skills, change management and innovation, performance management, management science, developing new and unconventional thinking, as well as combining technical and leadership skills to cultivate strategic thinking in leadership.



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