



THE INSTITUTE OF  
Company Secretaries of India

भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान

IN PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Statutory body under an Act of Parliament

(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

**Vision**

"To be a global leader in promoting  
good corporate governance"

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर।

**Motto**

Speak the truth, abide by the law.

**Mission**

"To develop high calibre professionals  
facilitating good corporate governance"

#ICSIMiddleEastConf

# HIGHLIGHTS ICSI MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCE

Theme: Responsible Investment for Sustainable Future

4-6 SEPTEMBER 2024 | ABU DHABI, UAE

Knowledge Partners



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## Opening Plenary



The theme of the conference "Responsible Investment for Sustainable Future" championed a paradigm shift towards equitable, eco-friendly economies, empowering Company Secretaries with the tools to lead the charge in responsible investment, ensuring a sustainable future for all.

Highlighting India-UAE partnership, H. E. Dr. Abdelrahman Almuaini, Assistant Undersecretary for IP Sector, Ministry of Economy, UAE thanked ICSI for holding this conference to support cross border businesses & invited CS Professionals to join in building sustainable future.



Chief Guest: **H.E. Dr. Abdelrahman Almuaini**,  
Assistant Undersecretary for IP Sector, Ministry of Economy, UAE



Mr. A. Amarnath, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, UAE, appreciated the CS community in UAE & affirmed that their collective contribution will be vital for building India-UAE bilateral relation.

Guest of Honour: **Mr. A. Amarnath**,  
Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, UAE



Mr. Yusuff Ali M. A., Chairman & Managing Director, LuLu Group International acknowledged the competence & reliability of Company Secretaries in the corporate landscape and appreciated their commitment towards governance, ethics and sustainability.

Guest of Honour: **Mr. Yusuff Ali M. A.**,  
Chairman & Managing Director, LuLu Group International

Mr. Abdulla Salem Alnuaimi, Group CEO, Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, highlighted that ADX shares ICSI's perspective & believes that Sustainable Finance is intertwined with Economic growth and Governance and is reshaping businesses today.



Guest of Honour: **Mr. Abdulla Salem Alnuaimi**,  
Group CEO, Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange



Mr. Hamad Sayah Al Mazrouei, CEO, ADGM Registration Authority, advocated ADGM's commitment to sustainable practices & long-term value creation and invited ICSI & CS Professionals to align with the broader vision of sustainable development.

Guest of Honour: **Mr. Hamad Sayah Al Mazrouei**,  
CEO, ADGM Registration Authority



## Special Session



**Dr. R Seetharaman**, Former CEO, Doha Bank

### **Role of Good Governance in Sustainable Development**

The session gave an insight on the pivotal role of good governance in driving sustainable development. Characterized by transparency, accountability, compliance and participation, good governance fosters trust, attracts investment, and ensures equal distribution of resources.

## Plenary II

### **Global trends, Opportunities and Challenges in Responsible Investments**

The session provided an overview of the evolving landscape of responsible investments in emerging markets. It underlined key global trends, opportunities like technological advancements and the circular economy, and challenges such as greenwashing and data reliability.



**Ms. Soumya Rajan**, Founder & CEO, Waterfield Advisors  
**Mr. Suresh Vaidhyathan**, CEO Special Projects, Ghassan Aboud Group  
**CS Prashant Tandon**, CEO & MD, Lighthouse Canton, UAE  
**Mr. Loai Bataineh**, Senior Executive Officer, Ominvest Capital DIFC

## Plenary III



**Mr. Kailash Adhikari**, Managing Director, Governance Now  
**Mr. Aakash Moondhra**, Co-Founder India, Secondary Fiduciaries Fund  
**Ms. Padmaja Ruparel**, Co-Founder, Indian Angel Network

### **Private Equity Investment -Governance Perspective**

The session highlighted the importance of governance in private equity investments. Key governance principles were discussed, while focussing on diversity, equity and inclusivity. The session also addressed common challenges, and best practices in private equity investing.

## Plenary IV



### Global Stewardship Codes and Reporting Behaviour on Responsible Investment

The session discussed the importance of stewardship codes and reporting frameworks in promoting responsible investment. Highlighting the ICSI Guiding Principles on Stewardship (IGPS), a new framework for ethical stewardship practices, the session deliberated on data quality, assurance issues and investor expectations.

**Ms. Sameera Fernandes**, Chief Sustainability Officer, Century Financial  
**CS Subbu Subramaniam**, Independent Non-Executive Director, Ganesha Ecosphere  
**Mr. Saad Maniar**, Senior Partner, Crowe Mak  
**CS Asish Mohan**, Secretary, The ICSI

## Plenary V

### The Current Landscape of Sustainability, Innovation, and Investments

The session discussed sustainability, innovation, and investments. It covered climate change, renewable energy, and disaster resilience. It also explored the social impact of SDGs, inequality, and education, besides exploring the role of AI and blockchain in data-driven decision-making, compliance, and investor relations.



**Mr. Maher Al Kaabi**, Independent Board Member, Alserkal Group

## Plenary VI



### ESG Investment: Building a Strong Ecosystem

The session discussed the rise of ESG investment in the Middle East, driven by economic diversification and climate action. It highlighted opportunities for governance professionals, the role of sovereign wealth funds in global ESG goals, and challenges like regulation and data availability. Emerging trends in ESG reporting, technology, and investor engagement were also explored.

**CS Sharda Balaji**, Founder, NovoJuris Legal  
**Mr Padmanabha Acharya**, President, Indian Business & Professional Group  
**Ms. Anisha Ramakrishnan**, Director, Transworld  
**Mr. Bikash Prasad**, President & CFO, Olam Agri



## Plenary VII



**Dr. R Seetharaman**, Former CEO, Doha Bank

### **Green Financing: Structuring Corporate Finance**

The session explored the intricacies of green financing, highlighting the importance of public and private sector collaboration in achieving net zero emissions. It discussed various financial instruments, project financing strategies, and the evolving policy and regulatory landscape supporting green initiatives.

## Plenary VIII

### **Leadership for a Sustainable and Happy Planet**

The session highlighted the crucial role of effective leadership in driving a sustainable and equitable future. It discussed the qualities and competencies needed for leaders in a rapidly changing world, emphasizing vision, empathy, and resilience. The session also addressed the challenges and opportunities, the leaders face today.



**Mr. Avinash Ananda**, Leadership Advisor & Happiness Strategist

## Plenary IX



**Mr. Martin Malmros**, Founder & CEO, The Green Box  
**Dr Rajesh Pai**, Director, HLB HAMT Academy  
**Dr. Harish Ahuja**, Head Power & Carbon markets, Issuers relationship, National Stock Exchange

### **Carbon Credits: Combating Climate Change for a Greener Planet**

The session explained carbon credits, regulations, markets, and their role in climate mitigation. By clarifying these concepts, the session helped participants understand environmental sustainability for combating climate change.





**Group Photograph**

## Study Tour



**Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange**



**Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi**



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**Connect with ICSI**

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