GCC Boardroom Governance and Risk Compliance Training Course



Ref: #CS6239

Course Introduction / Overview:

This intensive training course provides a comprehensive exploration of boardroom governance and risk compliance strategies specifically tailored for the dynamic business environment of the GCC region. In an era of increasing regulatory scrutiny and global economic shifts, the effectiveness of a board is paramount to organizational resilience and success. This program delves into the core principles of modern corporate governance, drawing on insights from leading thinkers like Shann Turnbull, a proponent of network governance, and foundational texts such as "Corporate Governance: Principles, Policies, and Practices". Participants will move beyond theoretical knowledge to gain practical skills in implementing robust enterprise risk management (ERM) frameworks, navigating the complex web of regional compliance requirements, and fostering a culture of integrity and accountability from the top down. BIG BEN Training Center has meticulously designed this course to equip leaders with the foresight and tools necessary to enhance board performance, make informed strategic decisions, and safeguard stakeholder value. The curriculum addresses the unique challenges and opportunities within the GCC, including family-owned business governance, state-owned enterprise oversight, and the growing importance of ESG factors, ensuring participants leave with actionable strategies for immediate implementation.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Board Members and Directors.
- Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons.
- C-Suite Executives (CEOs, CFOs, COOs, CROs).
- Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals.
- Heads of Legal and Compliance Departments.
- Internal and External Auditors.
- Risk Management Professionals.
- Senior Government Officials and Regulators.
- Executives in Family-Owned Businesses.
- Aspiring Board Members.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking, Finance, and Insurance.
- Oil, Gas, and Petrochemicals.
- Real Estate and Construction.
- Telecommunications and Technology.
- Governmental and Public Sector Entities.
- Family-Owned Conglomerates and Enterprises.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Aviation and Logistics.
- Retail and Hospitality.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Board of Directors.
- Executive Management.
- Legal Affairs and General Counsel.
- Compliance and Regulatory Affairs.
- Risk Management.
- Internal Audit.
- Corporate Governance.
- Finance and Treasury.
- Strategy and Corporate Planning.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Develop and implement robust corporate governance frameworks aligned with GCC regulations.
- Master the principles of enterprise risk management (ERM) and establish a strong risk culture.
- Navigate the complex legal and regulatory compliance landscape of the Middle East.
- Enhance boardroom dynamics, effectiveness, and strategic decision-making processes.
- Define and monitor the organization's risk appetite and tolerance levels.
- Strengthen the oversight functions of key board committees, including audit and risk.
- Evaluate and improve internal control systems to mitigate operational and financial risks.
- Integrate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria into corporate strategy.
- Lead effectively through corporate crises and manage reputational risks.
- Conduct thorough board performance evaluations to drive continuous improvement.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring that participants can translate learned concepts into real-world applications. This course moves beyond traditional lectures to foster a dynamic learning environment through a blend of expert-led presentations, in-depth case study analyses drawn from real GCC corporate scenarios, and collaborative group workshops. Participants will engage in role-playing exercises that simulate boardroom meetings and crisis management situations, allowing them to practice their skills in a controlled setting. Interactive Q&A sessions, peer-to-peer learning discussions, and problem-solving activities are integrated throughout the five days to encourage the sharing of diverse perspectives and experiences. The facilitator will provide continuous feedback and guide participants in developing actionable plans and strategies that can be implemented within their own organizations. This hands-on, participant-centered approach ensures a deep and lasting understanding of complex governance, risk, and compliance challenges, empowering attendees to drive meaningful change at the board level.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Corporate Governance in the GCC

- The Evolution of Corporate Governance Globally and in the GCC.
- Key Principles of Effective Corporate Governance.
- Understanding the Legal and Regulatory Frameworks Across GCC States.
- Roles, Responsibilities, and Legal Duties of Directors.
- The Structure and Composition of an Effective Board.
- The Critical Role of the Chairperson and the Corporate Secretary.
- Distinguishing Between Governance, Risk Management, and Compliance.

Unit Two: Strategic Risk Management and Compliance Frameworks

- Introduction to Enterprise Risk Management (ERM).
- Developing a Comprehensive Risk Management Framework.
- Defining and Articulating Risk Appetite and Tolerance.
- Techniques for Identifying, Assessing, and Mitigating Key Risks.
- The Three Lines of Defense Model in Practice.
- Designing and Implementing Effective Internal Control Systems.
- Navigating the GCC's Evolving Regulatory Compliance Landscape.

Unit Three: The Effective Boardroom: Dynamics and Decision-Making

- Optimizing Board and Committee Structures.
- The Function of Key Committees: Audit, Risk, Nomination, and Remuneration.
- Fostering Constructive Boardroom Dynamics and Culture.
- Enhancing Strategic Oversight and Long-Term Value Creation.
- Managing Conflicts of Interest and Related Party Transactions.
- Techniques for Effective Board Reporting and Information Flow.
- Conducting Meaningful Board and Director Performance Evaluations.

Unit Four: Advanced Financial Oversight and Corporate Integrity

- The Audit Committee's Role in Ensuring Financial Reporting Integrity.
- Understanding and Scrutinizing Complex Financial Statements.
- Oversight of Internal and External Audit Functions.
- Developing Robust Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Programs.
- Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorist Financing (CTF) Compliance.
- Whistleblower Policies and Internal Investigation Protocols.
- Ensuring Transparency and Accountability in Corporate Disclosures.

Unit Five: Future-Proofing Governance for the Modern Era

- Integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) into Strategy.
- Board-Level Oversight of Cybersecurity and Technology Risks.
- Strategic Workforce Planning and CEO Succession.
- Crisis Management and Business Continuity Planning for the Board.
- Managing Stakeholder Relations and Corporate Reputation.
- The Governance of Digital Transformation and Innovation.
- Developing a Forward-Looking Governance Action Plan.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

In an era of rapid technological change and increasing ESG pressures, how can GCC boards balance traditional governance duties with the need for agile, forward-looking strategic oversight?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself through its unwavering focus on the specific context of the GCC region. Unlike generic governance programs, every module, case study, and discussion is tailored to the unique legal, cultural, and economic landscape of the Gulf. We move beyond reciting global best practices to dissecting how they can be practically and effectively adapted and implemented within the operational realities of GCC-based organizations, from publicly listed companies to family-owned conglomerates and state-owned enterprises. The curriculum provides a holistic and integrated perspective, weaving together the interdependent disciplines of governance, risk, and compliance into a single, cohesive strategic framework. Participants will not just learn the "what" but the "how" – how to build a risk appetite statement that reflects regional market dynamics, how to navigate the nuances of cross-border GCC regulations, and how to foster a boardroom culture that respects local traditions while embracing modern governance standards. The emphasis is on developing practical, actionable insights that empower board members and senior executives to lead with confidence and foresight in this complex and rapidly evolving market.