



Sustainable Finance and ESG Reporting in the GCC Training Course

Ref: #AF4435



Course Introduction / Overview:

The global financial landscape is undergoing a profound transformation, with sustainability and ethical considerations moving from the periphery to the core of investment strategy. For the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, this shift presents both a significant challenge and an unprecedented opportunity. As GCC nations aggressively pursue economic diversification through ambitious national visions, integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles is no longer optional but essential for long-term resilience and competitiveness. This intensive training course offered by BIG BEN Training Center provides a comprehensive roadmap for navigating the complexities of sustainable finance, ESG reporting, and green investment within the unique context of the GCC. Drawing on insights from leading academics like George Serafeim of Harvard Business School, who has extensively researched the link between corporate sustainability and financial performance, this program delves into practical application. Participants will explore concepts discussed in seminal works such as "Sustainable Investing: A Path to a New Horizon," adapting global best practices to regional regulatory frameworks, market dynamics, and cultural nuances, including the burgeoning field of green sukuk and Sharia-compliant sustainable investments. This course is designed to empower professionals to lead their organizations in this critical transition, turning sustainability commitments into tangible value and strategic advantage.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:



- Finance Managers and Directors.
- Investment Analysts and Portfolio Managers.
- Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Officers.
- Risk Management and Compliance Professionals.
- Investor Relations Specialists.
- Corporate Strategy and Business Development Managers.
- Government Regulators and Policymakers.
- Treasury and Capital Markets Professionals.
- Legal and Corporate Governance Advisors.
- Project Finance Managers.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking and Financial Services.
- Sovereign Wealth Funds and Asset Management.
- Oil, Gas, and Petrochemicals.
- Real Estate and Construction.
- Energy and Utilities.
- Telecommunications and Technology.
- Governmental bodies, ministries, and public sector agencies.
- Family Offices and Private Equity.
- Logistics and Transportation.
- Manufacturing and Industrials.

Target Organizations Departments:



- Finance and Accounting.
- Investment and Asset Management.
- Sustainability and Corporate Affairs.
- Risk Management and Compliance.
- Strategy and Planning.
- Investor Relations.
- Legal and Corporate Secretariat.
- Treasury.
- Project Management.
- Internal Audit.

Course Offerings:

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

- Analyze the GCC's sustainable finance landscape and its alignment with national economic visions.
- Implement leading ESG reporting frameworks such as GRI, SASB, and TCFD.
- Develop robust strategies for collecting, managing, and assuring non-financial data.
- Evaluate and integrate ESG factors into investment analysis and portfolio management.
- Structure and assess green financial instruments, including green bonds and sukuk.
- Identify and manage ESG-related risks and opportunities within their organizations.
- Communicate sustainability performance effectively to investors and stakeholders.
- Formulate a strategic roadmap for advancing corporate sustainability initiatives.
- Benchmark ESG performance against regional and international peers.
- Navigate the evolving regulatory requirements for sustainability disclosure in the GCC.

Course Methodology:



The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, practical, and highly interactive, ensuring that participants can translate theoretical knowledge into actionable skills. This course moves beyond traditional lectures to foster a dynamic learning environment built on real-world application. A cornerstone of our approach is the extensive use of GCC-specific case studies, examining successful green bond issuances by regional banks, ESG integration by sovereign wealth funds, and sustainability reporting challenges faced by major industrial players. Participants will engage in collaborative workshops and group exercises to practice ESG data analysis, materiality assessments, and the development of green investment theses. Interactive sessions, expert-led discussions, and peer-to-peer learning will encourage the sharing of diverse perspectives and solutions to common challenges. The program incorporates practical simulations of stakeholder engagement and investment committee meetings, allowing participants to apply their learning in a controlled, supportive setting. Continuous feedback from the instructor and peers is integrated throughout the course to reinforce key concepts and ensure a deep and lasting understanding of sustainable finance principles.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Sustainable Finance in the GCC



- Introduction to Sustainable Finance and ESG Principles.
- The Global vs. Regional Drivers of the Sustainability Agenda.
- Aligning ESG with GCC National Visions (e.g., Saudi Vision 2030, UAE Net Zero 2050).
- The Business Case for Sustainability in the Middle East.
- Key Terminology: Impact Investing, Green Finance, and Socially Responsible Investing (SRI).
- Understanding Stakeholder Capitalism and its Relevance in the GCC.
- The Role of Regulators, Stock Exchanges, and Government Bodies.

Unit Two: ESG Reporting Frameworks and Data Management

- Deep Dive into the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards.
- Understanding the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) Materiality Map.
- Implementing the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) Recommendations.
- Navigating the Landscape of ESG Rating Agencies (e.g., MSCI, Sustainalytics).
- Best Practices for Non-Financial Data Collection and Verification.
- The Process of Materiality Assessment for GCC Companies.
- Developing an Effective Annual Sustainability Report.

Unit Three: Green and Sustainable Investment Strategies

- Overview of Green Financial Instruments.
- Structuring Green Bonds and Green Sukuk: A Practical Guide.
- Understanding Sustainability-Linked Loans and Their Covenants.
- Strategies for Thematic and Impact Investing in the Region.
- Evaluating Green Projects: Renewables, Water Scarcity, and Circular Economy.
- ESG Integration Techniques in Equity and Fixed Income Portfolios.
- Due Diligence for Sustainable Private Equity and Venture Capital.

Unit Four: ESG Risk, Opportunity, and Corporate Governance



- Identifying and Quantifying Physical and Transition Climate Risks.
- Integrating ESG into Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Frameworks.
- Leveraging ESG for Innovation and New Market Opportunities.
- The 'S' in ESG: Social Metrics, Human Capital, and Supply Chain Management.
- The 'G' in ESG: Board Oversight, Executive Compensation, and Shareholder Rights in the GCC.
- Scenario Analysis for Climate-Related Risks.
- Building a Robust Corporate Governance Structure for Sustainability.

Unit Five: The Future of Sustainable Finance and Strategy

- Emerging Trends: Biodiversity, Natural Capital, and the Blue Economy.
- The Role of Technology: AI, Big Data, and Blockchain in ESG.
- Developing a Long-Term Corporate Sustainability Strategy and Roadmap.
- Effective Communication of ESG Strategy to Investors and Stakeholders.
- The Transition to a Net-Zero and Circular Economy in the GCC.
- Preparing for Future Regulatory Developments and Mandatory Disclosures.
- Capstone Project: Creating a Mini ESG Strategy for a Case Study Company.

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:



As the GCC transitions away from a hydrocarbon-based economy, how can sustainable finance act not just as a compliance tool, but as a primary driver of competitive advantage and innovation?

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

This training course distinguishes itself through its unwavering focus on the specific economic, regulatory, and cultural context of the GCC region. While many programs offer a generic overview of global ESG standards, this course is meticulously tailored to address the unique challenges and opportunities faced by organizations operating in the Gulf. We move beyond theory by incorporating practical, region-specific case studies, such as analyzing the structure of the first green sukuk issued in Saudi Arabia or dissecting the TCFD reporting of a major UAE real estate developer. The curriculum places a special emphasis on topics of high relevance to the region, including the intersection of Sharia-compliant finance with sustainable principles and the alignment of ESG strategies with national diversification visions like Qatar's 2030 plan. Rather than simply listing global frameworks, we guide participants on how to adapt and implement them within the local business landscape, considering data availability challenges and the expectations of regional investors and regulators. This granular, localized approach ensures that participants gain not just knowledge, but a practical and immediately applicable toolkit for driving the sustainable finance agenda within their own GCC-based organizations.