

Bursa Kuwait organizes Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) workshop for capital market participants

In collaboration with Sustainable Square



Kuwait City - 8 October 2023: Bursa Kuwait, the State of Kuwait's official stock exchange, organized an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) workshop for capital market participants on Monday, October 2, 2023, in collaboration with Sustainable Square, a consulting firm based in the United Arab Emirates. The workshop shed light on the latest trends and practices in the fields of ESG and corporate sustainability and highlighted the growing importance of these two factors on how investors across the international community base their decision-making.

The workshop was also held in commemoration of World Investor Week, an annual celebration that commenced on Monday. During the seventh iteration of the week, which runs from the 2nd to the 8th of October, securities regulators, IOSCO members and other stakeholders will promote investor education and protection.

This year's campaign focuses on the three main themes of *Investor Resilience*, *Crypto Assets*, and *Sustainable Finance*, complemented by other themes such as *Frauds and Scams Prevention*, *Basics of Investing*, and *Technology and Digital Finance*. Participating IOSCO members have also identified themes relevant to their capital markets.

Speaking on behalf of Boursa Kuwait, the company's **Head of Markets, Noura Al-Abdulkareem** said, "Boursa Kuwait has strived to raise the awareness of the Kuwaiti capital market's participants and ensure that our market is aware of the latest trends, standards and practices followed by the international investment community, including those in the field of ESG reporting and corporate sustainability."

She added, "This workshop is a continuation of the exchange's efforts over the past few years to help professionals in the capital market industry understand ESG reporting and its importance, shedding light on various frameworks and standards. I would like to thank Sustainable Square for their valuable insights into this field and look forward to more collaborations in the future."

Speaking on behalf of Sustainable Square, the company's **Founder and Group CEO, Mr. Monaem Ben Lellahom** said, "The partnership with Boursa Kuwait underscores Sustainable Square's unwavering commitment to elevating ESG standards regionally and globally. Together, we are not only creating value for issuers but also catalyzing a shift towards a more responsible and sustainable business ecosystem in the Kuwaiti economy. I would like to thank Boursa Kuwait for this opportunity, and I look forward to more collaborations in the future."

In commemoration of World Investor Week, Boursa Kuwait will be running a month-long campaign to raise awareness of financial literacy. The exchange is partnering with the Kuwait chapter of the CFA Society and the CFA Institute to organize seminars and workshops about

sustainable finance and corporate sustainability and ESG, as well as the learning solutions offered to professionals in the capital markets and financial services industry by the CFA. Additionally, Bursa Kuwait and the CFA Society will collaborate to enrich *Bursa Academy Online*, the digital education portal designed and developed by Bursa Kuwait, which aims to promote investing and financial literacy among new and professional retail investors.

The initiative forms part of Bursa Kuwait's efforts to create a lasting meaningful impact on the communities where it operates as part of its Corporate Sustainability strategy and ongoing efforts to equip all market participants with an in-depth understanding of the functioning of capital markets and various tools and techniques required to make informed investment decisions and effectively meet investors' needs. It is also in line with Goal 4 - Quality Education - and Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals - of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Bursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations, creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow Bursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, in order to achieve longevity and an ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange.

As part of the strategy, Bursa Kuwait has launched many initiatives in partnership with local and international organizations, focusing on support for nongovernmental organizations and charity programs, financial literacy and capital market awareness, the empowerment of women, environmental protection as well as safety and preventive measures against Covid-19.

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ABOUT BOURSA KUWAIT

Since it was established by the Capital Markets Authority to take over the responsibilities of the Kuwait Stock Exchange in 2014, Boursa Kuwait has worked diligently to build a progressive exchange platform based on efficiency and transparency, with a view to creating long-term value for the company's stakeholders in the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

Guided by a mission-driven strategy that focuses on developing the market in line with international standards, Boursa Kuwait has successfully introduced innovative investment tools, reinforced transparency, and restructured the market to increase its competitiveness and liquidity. The company's market developments and enhancements have contributed to the reclassification of the Kuwaiti capital market to "Emerging Market" status in the world's top three indices, strengthening Kuwait's position as a leading financial center in the region. A self-listed exchange, Boursa Kuwait is the first government entity in the country to successfully undergo privatization.

For more information about Boursa Kuwait's initiatives and its latest developments, please visit www.boursakuwait.com.