

Linklaters

CR / United Arab Emirates

Linklaters' UAE offices have an established corporate responsibility committee, composed of a cross-section of lawyers and business services staff. The committee aim to listen to, understand and respond to the needs of our clients, our people, our community and the environment in a manner appropriate for the region we live and work in.

Clients and markets

Sharing our expertise

Understanding our clients is not only about appreciating the legal challenges they face, it is also about having a deep knowledge of the business and commercial context in which they operate. Our GCC Update newsletter is produced by lawyers in the UAE offices and is intended to keep client, prospective clients, stakeholders and alumni up to date on a selection of legal hot topics.

Additionally, the UAE offices look to support general counsel and in-house legal teams through the provision of know-how and access to a wide range of Linklaters tools as part of client relationship management. Lawyers and support staff continue to assist local priority clients with their internal know-how strategy.

People

Learning and development

Our commitment to the development of our people is evident in the extensive global learning curriculum followed in the UAE through Linklaters Law & Business school, managed through the tailored in-house sessions from local experts.

The UAE offices continue to invest in local and regional talent with a well established internship programme which aims to give Emiratis and Middle Eastern based law students an opportunity to experience working for a leading international law firm.

Community

Volunteering

Linklaters UAE offices invest time in our local community, with every member of staff encouraged to use at least one day per year to work on a charitable project.

During Ramadan 2012, 14 members of the Linklaters UAE offices attended the annual volunteering event run by local organisation "Adopt-a-Camp". Volunteers worked alongside community volunteers to pack and distribute care packages for around 5000 labourers in operational and abandoned work camps in Dubai.

Supporting local culture

The UAE Offices are gold sponsors of the Dubai Concert Committee, supporting arts in the UAE. The Dubai Concert Committee provide 10 free classical music concerts per year.



Local highlights

55

People

2

Offices

38%

Of the office participated in voluntary activities in 2011 / 2012

54%

Of UAE fee-earners advised on transactions on a pro bono basis in 2011 / 2012

Contacts

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Environment

Managing our impact

As the United Arab Emirates has one of the largest carbon footprints per capita in the world, the UAE offices are established platinum sponsors and provide legal pro bono to environmental and conservation charity Emirates Wildlife Society in association with WWF (EWS-WWF).

This year the UAE offices arranged to offset the carbon emitted by air travel to / from the UAE offices for the six years since they opened. 1250 indigenous ghaf tree seeds were bought from local environmental organisation Goumbook, to be planted locally.

Sustainability

The UAE offices encourage employees to be environmentally conscious and recycle. To that end the UAE offices have a “Green List” in place incorporating, among other things; plastic, paper and aluminium recycling containers in every kitchen, heat reducing blinds in all offices and automatic light sensors throughout the building.

The UAE offices also promoted WWF's “Earth Hour” heavily in the offices, encouraging employees to switch off electrical appliances for a designated hour

Case studies



Advising EWS-WWF on legal arrangements with Fujairah Municipality

In alignment with global community investment theme Venture Catalysts, providing skills and expertise to grow the capabilities of not-for-profit organisations, Linklaters' UAE lawyers are working continuously to provide bespoke pro bono support to local environmental organisation EWS-WWF. Most recently, this work has focused on advice for the formulation of legal arrangements between EWS-WWF and the Government of Fujairah, which are undertaking a programme to protect an important wetland area, Wadi Wurayah. The team are also drafting and advising on the use by EWS-WWF of pro-forma legal documentation when contracting with third parties for project-specific or annual sponsorship.



Donation and volunteering at Adopt-a-camp

Linklaters UAE offices donated US\$5400 to Adopt-a-Camp, a local organisation that supports over 32,000 labourers in both operating and abandoned work camps in Dubai. The money was raised by staff donations which was matched by Linklaters. Adopt-a-Camp is invested in the on-going well-being and education of labourers in camps and is heavily involved in providing workers with free English classes (run with the assistance of the American University of Dubai), vocational classes and counselling. Linklaters' donation was used to purchase 160 care packages containing essential items which were assembled by volunteers (including 14 Linklaters volunteers) then distributed in labour camps during Islamic holy month of Ramadan.



Wildlife Survey at Wadi Wurayah

The UAE offices Community Investment Committee is dedicated to supporting local causes and donated cash for five camera traps to be set in Wadi Wurayah. The Wadi is the first designated Mountain Protected Area in the United Arab Emirates, and is believed to be one of the few remaining habitats of the endangered Arabian tahr and Arabian leopard. The camera traps were strategically placed in the Wadi and set to capture passing wildlife. A team of volunteers from Linklaters UAE offices spent a day setting the camera traps and carrying out a survey of the area looking for evidence which would indicate the presence of local wildlife.

