

THE DIRECTORS QUORUM MONTHLY

SPECIAL EDITION

1ST PAKISTAN ESG CONFERENCE

ROAD TO READINESS

Sponsored by

**23rd - 25th
JANUARY 2024**

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

We are thrilled to announce the successful conclusion of the **1st ESG for Pakistan Conference - Road to Readiness**, organized by PICG. This groundbreaking event marked the first national-scale ESG conference in Pakistan, bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders to highlight the importance of ESG integration in the country.

The conference took place virtually over three days, from January 23rd to 25th, 2024, and attracted a vast and diverse audience from across Pakistan. With global ESG developments on the rise, the conference aimed to capture the progress and readiness of ESG integration in Pakistan, showcasing initiatives from apex regulators, multilateral organizations, the corporate sector, and ESG capital market players.

The conference featured a distinguished lineup of speakers, including key international and local representatives from responsible organizations driving the ESG market. To achieve our conference objectives, we utilized a multi-format delivery, comprising keynote speeches, panel discussions, influencers' messages, research summaries, and masterclasses. Additionally, a learning hub was available for participants to research and gain insights into various aspects of ESG.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



PANELISTS & MODERATORS



DAY 1: BUSINESS CASE FOR ESG - PAKISTAN LENS

- ESG – The strategic context
- State of Progress: The projects & financing landscape
- Business Case for environmental and social corporate stewardship
- Way-forward for corporate governance

During Day 1 of our event, we made sure to provide a comprehensive overview for both new and already engaged stakeholders. We began by setting the strategic context, delving into the current projects landscape, and examining the financing landscape within the broader ESG ecosystem.

To emphasize the importance of environmental stewardship, we discussed the business case for it, highlighting the benefits it brings to organizations. Additionally, we dedicated time to address social stewardship, recognizing its significance in creating a positive impact on society.

Lastly, we engaged in an insightful discussion on the way forward for corporate governance. This allowed participants to gain a deeper understanding of the evolving practices and expectations surrounding corporate governance in the context of ESG.

Overall, Day 1 provided a solid foundation for all attendees, ensuring that they were equipped with the necessary knowledge and insights to navigate the ESG landscape effectively.

DAY 2: LEADING AND LEARNING - CORPORATE ESG STEWARDSHIP

- State of ESG Corporate Governance – Pakistan lens
- Boards fiduciary responsibilities – international best practice
- Driving Sustainability: Leading CEOs reflections
- ESG integration masterclass

On Day 2 of our event, our main focus was to shed light on the current state of ESG practices within the corporate world of Pakistan while also setting a benchmark for future progress. We aimed to create an environment that fostered learning and allowed for the sharing of experiences.

To achieve this, we organized a panel discussion featuring corporate executives who provided valuable insights into their own ESG practices. This discussion served as a platform for participants to learn from real-world examples and gain inspiration from successful implementations.

In addition, we conducted masterclasses led by subject matter experts. These sessions offered in-depth knowledge and practical guidance on various aspects of sustainability, enabling attendees to enhance their understanding and skills in ESG practices.

To further enrich the event, we invited sustainability practicing CEOs from leading organizations to share their insights and experiences. Their valuable perspectives provided a holistic view of the challenges and opportunities in implementing ESG practices within the Pakistani corporate landscape.

Moreover, we had the privilege of hosting international keynote speakers who highlighted best practices in climate and ESG board governance. Their expertise and global perspective added an invaluable dimension to the discussions, inspiring participants to strive for excellence in their own ESG initiatives.

Overall, Day 2 was dedicated to creating a platform for learning, showcasing experiences, and setting a high standard for ESG practices in Pakistan. By bringing together industry leaders, subject matter experts, and international perspectives, we aimed to drive positive change and encourage continuous improvement in corporate sustainability efforts.

DAY 3: STATE OF READINESS STANDARDS, REGULATIONS AND FINANCIAL MARKETS

- Sustainability reporting – international and local developments
- Sustainability regulation – local developments and initiatives
- ESG Investments – a global perspective
- State of financial markets readiness – Pakistan lens

On Day 3 of our event, we focused on providing the latest perspectives from regulators, standard setters, and capital market players, ensuring that attendees were up-to-date with the evolving landscape of ESG practices.

To begin, we received updates on reporting standards from the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) and the local accounting standards board. These updates were crucial in understanding the evolving requirements and expectations for ESG reporting, ensuring that participants were well-informed and prepared to meet these standards.

Additionally, we facilitated a session with capital market players, creating a platform for dialogue and collaboration. This session served as a lighthouse, guiding the way for the development of ESG markets. By engaging with key stakeholders in the capital market, we aimed to foster a deeper understanding of the role they play in driving sustainable investments and promoting ESG practices.

A keynote speech from the CEO of the International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN) provided valuable insights into the ESG objectives of international investors. This keynote shed light on the perspectives and expectations of global investors, highlighting the importance of aligning corporate practices with international standards.

Furthermore, we eagerly awaited the plans and announcements from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). Their strategic vision and initiatives in the realm of ESG were highly anticipated, as they play a crucial role in shaping the regulatory landscape and driving sustainable practices in the country.

Overall, Day 3 was dedicated to ensuring that participants had access to the latest insights and updates from regulators, standard setters, and capital market players. By providing a platform for engagement and knowledge sharing, we aimed to facilitate collaboration and drive progress in the adoption of ESG practices within Pakistan's corporate sector.

CONCLUSION - THE WAY FORWARD

In conclusion, the conference achieved its goal of laying the foundation for ESG readiness in Pakistan. With a remarkable turnout of approximately 1000 registrations from both local and international participants, the event garnered significant interest and engagement.

Featuring a lineup of over 30 speakers, including renowned experts from around the world and esteemed local professionals, the conference provided a diverse range of perspectives and insights. With more than 10 hours of content delivered through various sessions, attendees were able to delve deep into the subject matter and gain valuable knowledge.

The conference served as a platform for professionals from different backgrounds to come together and exchange ideas, fostering collaboration and networking opportunities. The participation of both local and international attendees brought a global perspective to the discussions, enriching the overall experience.

We believe that the conference has not only provided valuable information but has also inspired attendees to take a proactive role in the ESG space. By highlighting the importance of ESG practices and showcasing successful examples, we hope to have motivated participants to continue their learning journey and emerge as leaders in this field.

As we move forward, we encourage all attendees to utilize the knowledge gained during the conference and apply it in their respective organizations and roles. By incorporating ESG principles into business strategies and practices, we can collectively contribute to a more sustainable and responsible future.

Thank you to all the participants, speakers, and organizers for making this conference a resounding success. We look forward to witnessing the positive impact that emerges as a result of our collective efforts in the ESG space.

