

The Middle East & Africa Forum for Sustainability Leaders

Views You Can Use

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Professional sustainability certifications are becoming more prominent

From my perspective as a young person and as someone from the Arab region, what I've noticed is that there has recently been a strong emphasis on sustainability certifications within organizations that seek to encourage and incentivize younger generations.

Organizations will often ask their employees what additional skills they would like to acquire, what kinds of certifications they'd like to have, and what kind of courses they'd like to take. The organization will sometimes even offer to pay for it. In my case, I always express interest in deepening my knowledge of sustainability issues and climate change, especially with regards to the energy transition. Since education extends beyond the university, these kinds of opportunities for upskilling employees are becoming crucial elements of corporate social responsibility.

Female empowerment in STEM fields can come from networking with trailblazers

My work with Girl Up at the United Nations Foundation lies at the intersection of young female empowerment, upskilling in underrepresented fields, and the Middle East and Africa region. Childhood and adolescence are very crucial ages for women. And women are often underrepresented in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. What we do is to encourage young women to familiarize themselves with STEM opportunities and to pursue education in these fields by connecting them with other successful women in the region and having online bootcamps or in-person trainings.