



We joined the UN Global Compact to help in shaping a sustainable future



erga

NEWS

SPECIAL CSR ISSUE #14



A WORD FROM ELIE & RANDA GEBAYEL

Welcome to Erga News issue dedicated to the corporate social responsibility and Erga’s commitment with the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC).

From its inception, Erga has been keen in supporting the society and the environment before hearing about “Sustainable Development”. This term is surely wider than the stated words; but society and environment are effectively an integral part of Sustainable Development.

Since our commitment to support the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption, we were eager to fulfill the requirements of our stakeholders regarding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In our annual Sustainability Report, we described our actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles aligned into our business strategy, culture and daily operations.

In fact, before being committed to support the Ten Principles of the UNGC we have incorporated and aligned the Sustainable Development principles in our Balanced Scorecard from our Vision, Mission and Values to our strategic themes, objectives and initiatives.

For this reason, it was easy for us to make few modifications in our terminology and strategy plan to align our work with the SDGs of the UN and think wider to incorporate more initiatives in this direction.

We also committed ourselves to sharing this information with our stakeholders. For so, the sustainability report we prepared has been published on our extranet and the UNGC website for free consultation, to assure to our stakeholders our long term commitment to said principles.

In this newsletter issue, we decided to deeply explain what is the UNGC, how Erga decided to be a participant in the UNGC and what is our role as participants explaining some of our initiatives regarding the SDGs.

Hope you will like it and it will encourage every person reading this issue to feel how corporate responsibility can make a big difference in having a sustainable future and make working happier.

START BEING SUSTAINABLE ON A PERSONAL SMALL LEVEL!

Erga explains how on to act as a responsible business

From your side you should start by yourself because

“...the greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it”

Robert Swann



LOCATION
Tabarja, Lebanon
TYPE
Resort
STATUS
Ongoing

DESIGNED BY



ARCHITECTS
Elie & Randa Gebrayel
In Collaboration With:



CONCEPT
Roger Abi Khalil & Ghassan Slim



DEVELOPMENT
Antoine Nehme & Nathalie Nouaimeh



SUPERVISION
Lebnen Najem, Imad Mattar,
Dominique Taby, Maroun Lichaa Khoury



LOCATION
Beirut, Lebanon
TYPE
Mixed-Use
STATUS
Complete

DESIGNED BY



ARCHITECTS
Elie & Randa Gebrayel
In Collaboration With:



CONCEPT
Sami Ghanem



DEVELOPMENT
Elissa Zeidan & Rita Khater



SUPERVISION
Nassib Ayoub, Charbel El Ghossein,
George Feghaly, Bassam Ragheb,
Maroun Lichaa Khoury

SAMA BEIRUT



Given that the concept is relatively new in the country, Green Buildings in Lebanon are still an ambition. However, there is a number of projects currently underway by architecture and construction firms for Green Buildings. One prominent example is “Sama Beirut” project in Sodeco. This project employs several sustainable strategies with utmost respect for the environment at its core according to LEED standards: Water efficiency, minimizing energy consumption, optimizing energy performance, on site green power, day-lighting, ventilation effectiveness, indoor environmental quality, low emitting materials and controllability of systems for improved thermal comfort.



Kye Beachfront resort is a commercial project located in Tabarja region on a total built-up area of 45,000 sqm. The project consists of 157 chalets, a water park, marina and yachting club, private gated community, children's playground, cigar lounge, 9 swimming pools, a gym, international restaurants, 200 parking lots and a retail area. Achieving the internationally recognized British BREEAM certification is a validation of the project's sustainability and environmental awareness.



WATERFRONT CITY



LOCATION	Dbayeh, Lebanon
TYPE	Mixed-Use
STATUS	Complete



Offering a safe pedestrian-friendly environment with all the amenities at your doorstep, Waterfront City has gone beyond all boundaries to bring you residential areas with the promise of a superior living experience. Embark on a new chapter where the heart beats strong within a true waterfront community. By setting a new sustainability benchmark and embedding sustainability as a way of life, the project has been engineered by following the green construction and building certification, namely, BREEAM, LEED Gold, and LEED for neighborhood development. Public green spaces promote environmental sustainability by establishing 3 parks where endangered Mediterranean flora was reintroduced. Every building is equipped with recycling rooms and composting machines for organic waste for fun-nel-ing back into the greenery. The aim is to harness a habit of environmental awareness.

DESIGNED BY



ARCHITECTS

Elie & Randa Gebrayel

In Collaboration With the following partners:

















CONCEPT

Sami Ghanem & Fady Khoury







DEVELOPMENT

Maguy Anis, Antoine Nehme & Sana Khoury







SUPERVISION

Firas Kossaifi, Tony Azzi & Rustom Halawani



LOCATION
New York, USA

TYPE
Non-binding UN Pact

PURPOSE
Corporate Sustainability



THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT



The world's largest corporate sustainability initiative

A call to companies to align strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and take actions that advance societal goals.

The United Nations Global Compact is a non-binding United Nations pact to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation.

The UN Global Compact is a principle-based framework for businesses, stating ten principles in the areas of human rights, labor, the environment and anti-corruption.



Under the Global Compact, companies are brought together with UN agencies, labor groups and civil society. Cities can join the Global Compact through the Cities Programme.

The UN Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability (a.k.a. corporate social responsibility) initiative with 13000 corporate participants and other stakeholders over 170 countries with two objectives: «Mainstream the ten principles in business activities around the world» and «Catalyse actions in support of broader UN goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)». Moving forward, the UN Global Compact and its signatories are deeply invested and enthusiastic about supporting work towards the SDGs.



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The United Nations has set the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development action plan to meet 17 Sustainable Development Goals to improve conditions for people, planet and prosperity.

At Erga, we have identified 7 SDGs at the core of our initiatives, though we are indirectly and positively impacting other global goals by our actions (indirect impact).

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

The 17 SDGs are integrated, they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Through the pledge to Leave No One Behind, countries have committed to fast-track progress for those furthest behind first. That is why the SDGs are designed to bring the world to several life-changing 'zeros', including zero poverty, hunger, AIDS and discrimination against women and girls.

Everyone is needed to reach these ambitious targets. The creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources from all of society is necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context.



SOME OF OUR CSR PARTNERS



Joumana Samaha
President

AUXILIA LEBANON VIDE GRENIER ALL YEAR LONG TO SUPPORT PEOPLE IN NEED

Erga started with Auxilia in a small gesture in Christmas 2017. But, we kept a good contact with Mrs. Joumana Samaha, the president of Auxilia. When they got the idea of having a garage sale from our vide grenier we found it a bit hard to implement in the beginning and then all happened very smoothly. So all year long, especially during seasonal transitions Erga's architects and engineers sort their clothes, books, kids toys, kitchen and babies accessories... which are clean and in good condition and bring them to the CSR Unit. Whenever the quantity is acceptable, we contact them to pick all the items. The things that might be needed by Auxilia families in need are distributed to them and the rest goes for Auxilia's garage sale where things are sold for small amounts of money and that money is used to bring food for Auxilia's families in need.



December 27, 2017

Thank you Erga employees

A big Thank you to Erga Employees for offering a fridge and a washing machine for one of our families + 12 food parcels for 12 families.

May you have a prosperous year!

ERGA ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

As architectural and engineering consultants, our major impact on the environment is our consumption of energy and paper during our daily operations (SDG 12). So Erga generates waste and Greenhouse Gas emissions (SDG 13: Climate Action).

In our field, we can advise our clients to choose affordable and clean energy (SDG 7) systems in the target of having sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11). We can also impose the materials' quality and quantities to be specified in any planned construction project (SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production).

In addition, our work can indirectly affect the biodiversity (SDG 15: Life on land), because sometimes our client to maximize the use of the space might cut trees but we plant others as defined and specified by the law.



ENERGY CONSUMPTION & EMISSIONS AT erga



Since 2017, Erga is committed with Lebanon Climate Act (LCA) to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions with a network of other private companies.

Workshops and training sessions are given by experts from time to time to push our work forward and make the private sector aware of its effective contribution in climate change.

An action plan was submitted by Erga to LCA and the Ministry of Environment involving all staff members to enhance the green culture and the sustainable architectural vision.

GREEN BUILDINGS & DESIGNS



Erga helps many municipalities in Lebanon to work their projects taking into consideration energy saving and their cities and communities' sustainable development.

In addition, Erga is committed in its Strategic Plan to promote green culture among its clients convincing them to install energy and water saving systems.



For this reason, Erga Academy plays a major role in technically engaging our architects and engineers providing suitable training courses related to green standards like LEED, BREEAM, QSAS, Istidama....

Whenever a new supplier introduces any new innovation in our field, it is automatically transmitted through Erga Academy and Erga's Library to Erga architects and engineers looking for new solutions in designing green buildings and through them it is transmitted to our clients.

NATURE PRESERVATION WITH JOUZOUR LOUBNAN



As seen in previous page with our CSR partners.



WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING



As architectural company, waste generated is limited to paper, foam boards, cardboards in its majority, small water plastic bottles and old computers and peripherals.

For paper, IT equipment, plastic bottles and caps to dispose we contact related NGOs more specifically Arc-En-Ciel (AEC) and L'Ecoute Organization.

This year, we disposed more than 100 computers with servers, printers and scanners that were in the store. They were divided between AEC and L'Ecoute. They refurbish them and re-sell them or recycle their material and the benefit goes to the NGO employing people with special needs.

10 tonnes of papers were also disposed from the store for the benefit of L'Ecoute organization.

In addition, we have an initiative to reduce the use of paper transforming our forms to e-forms.



Erga is committed to support its community (SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG3: Good Health & Well Being and SDG 2: Zero Hunger) organizing social events through its Social & Environmental Committee.



TRAINING TRACKS	EPREP (Erga Preparatory) EPRO (Erga Professional) EADMIN EPDM SM	The basics of Erga systems given to all Erga staff Erga Systems specific to Erga Engineers worldwide Erga Systems specific to Erga Administrative Professional Erga Project Design Manager (PDM) Professional Erga Site Management Professional
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Erga Academy is not limited to training sessions; it manages seminars, workshops, product presentations and Erga's knowledge base including the Visual Library and the lessons learned.



Work Insurance is also provided in case an accident occurs at work covering all cases.

In addition, Erga bought an automatic defibrillator for emergency cases and trained all support staff members on using it whenever needed.

Erga participates also in Beirut Marathon supporting yearly a cause and participates in Beirut Corporate Games competing for 2 days with other companies. For years, Erga was taking the 3rd place thanks to its team



Erga has other perspectives than the strict professionalism and solutions provision. It has this other human part that lies behind its big production and strictness. This human magical part that can't be easily described. It is only felt by the people dealing with Erga and is directly linked to our commitment towards the society and the environment.

Annually, Erga organizes special events. You can check the next page to understand the real role of the CSR Committee and have a brief of the events organized annually.





NAME
Mrs. Randa Gebrayel

TITLE
Vice Chairman & Head of CSR Committee

LOCATION
Beitut Head Office

Diploma in Hautes Etudes In Architecture, Beirut in 1980

Co-founded Erga in 1980 with her husband Elie Gebrayel



Whenever a staff member or relative is in need for any support, more specifically medical support, the committee tries as much as possible to involve all staff members in helping. This committee is also responsible for preparing the Sustainability report.



WOMAN OF THE SEASON



"SDGs describe the world we all want. A world very different from the one we know today. To get there, it requires the biggest transformation mankind has experienced. Implementing the SDGs implies another way of living our lives. It isn't necessarily going to be more convenient, but more equal, more global and more conscious."

Lise is a Danish businesswoman who currently serves as executive director of the United Nations Global Compact. Before her appointment to the position by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon on 25 June 2015, she was the Executive Vice President, Chief of Staff, and member of executive management at Novo Nordisk, a multinational pharmaceutical company in Denmark. Additionally, she is the chairman of the Danish Council for Corporate Responsibility, Deputy Chair of the Danish Nature Foundation, member of the boards of Grieg Star Group A/S and C3 Collaborating for Health, and an adjunct professor of sustainability and innovation at Vrije University in Netherlands. Her tenure in business has been consistently marked by a dedication to social responsibility and sustainability while still achieving business goals and driving growth. Lise is a lead example of a dedicated person to sustainability.



CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE SCOPE AT **erga**

Headed by Randa Gebrayel, the Vice-Chairman, its membership is open to anyone interested in helping in social or environmental projects. This committee works on "Ergamania" concept symbolizing Erga's family spirit. It focuses on the human side, apart from daily operations, and it is directly linked to Erga's commitment towards the society and the environment.

Its responsibilities rely on setting a social and environmental plan and organizing activities boosting the relation between Erga staff and the society. Its projects usually serve humanitarian or environmental causes. This committee continually looks for associations, NGOs or families in need that have no outside funding or support and organizes internal seasonal events to boost the family spirit involving all staff members and their families. These events include the below activities but not limited to:



LET'S TALK ERGO...AT ERGA
START BEING SUSTAINABLE ON A PERSONAL SMALL LEVEL

You have to start by asking yourself the questions below. Whenever the answer is applied you seek improvement and whenever it isn't start considering it as a goal to achieve.

Source: www.developingmoneyideas.com/personal-sustainable-development

Do I use renewable energy? Do I sort out garbage? Do I throw out the food I buy? Do I pick the garbage I see in the stairs, the yard, the neighborhood, the parks, the city or do I clean only on designed cleaning days? Do I use sustainable transportation? Do I print or use electronic versions in my phone or computer? Do I use the libraries to read books or do I always want my own copy?	ENVIRONMENT
Can I live from my past earnings without a job? Is my net worth (assets minus liabilities) positive? Have I maximized my income? Have I minimized my expenses? Do I enhance the quality of my assets -The best assets are those generating income and the worst are those increasing your debt? do I have debts? How long do I wear/use my things? How often do I buy things I do not need?	ECONOMY
How often do I exercise? Do I take breaks during my work or other activities? Do I eat enough vegetables? Do I limit sugar intakes? Do I sleep enough to recover my mental and physical condition? Do I smoke and drink alcohol?...	HEALTH



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