



5th GRI Global Conference
Empowering Sustainable Decisions
Amsterdam, 18 – 20 May 2016

5th GRI Global Conference 2016



The 5th GRI Global Conference will be held 18 – 20 May 2016 at RAI Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Join GRI and up to 1,500 sustainability leaders from around the globe to exchange leading-edge knowledge on sustainability best practices, innovations and trends that are empowering sustainable decisions and changing the world.

EMPOWERING SUSTAINABLE DECISIONS

The 5th GRI Conference will create an inclusive platform to inspire and engage a truly global network of sustainability leaders.

GRI pioneered sustainability reporting in the late 1990's and has since become the globally accepted standard for enabling business, governments and other organizations to understand and communicate their impacts on critical sustainability issues. As we move towards a new era of sustainability, it is clear that for information to truly empower decision making it must be more accessible, comparable and available in real time. GRI's focus at the 2016 Conference is to deliver innovative sustainability content that embraces this new era, enable capacity building, networking, and peer-to-peer learning.

The dynamic three days will include plenary sessions to inspire and motivate sustainability thought leaders and practitioners with high level and expert speakers. Immerse yourself in the six themed tracks with twenty breakout sessions (including two academic sessions) in addition to fourteen master classes, eight regional and three breakfast sessions, all to consider new ways to approach innovative solutions. Address sustainability progress through key themes on; reporting standards, smart policy, facing the challenges, innovation and collaboration and moving beyond reports through technology and data. Share your first hand experiences and best practices through interactive discussions, workshops and debates.

Enjoy the social side to sustainability, with receptions, dinners and moments to celebrate. The marketplace is at the heart of the conference and will provide a meeting place for networking, exhibitions and an interactive hackathon.



Such a great event. I left feeling invigorated, inspired and excited about what we can accomplish. Dave Pearson,
DTTL Chief Sustainability Officer



I would like to congratulate GRI for a very well organized and most of all, very enlightening conference! It presented us with a lot of high-level insight, and an excellent networking environment. Luis
Castanheira, ISEP

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Plenary Sessions

OPENING PLENARY - 20 YEARS ON: ARE WE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

Together, we are part of a pioneering movement that has transformed the way organizations around the world identify, communicate and act on their sustainability impacts. Much has been achieved but as we enter a new era of sustainability, we must tackle the big challenges and the urgency needed to create a more sustainable economy and world in a fundamentally different way. This session will provide a rally cry for the global network and will inspire, energize and motivate you to think differently about your contribution in this context. It will empower you to seek out new opportunities within and beyond sustainability reporting to address the sustainability challenges we face.

PLENARY 2 - INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals has ushered in a new era of global development objectives to achieve 3 extraordinary things in the next 15 years: end extreme poverty, fight inequality & injustice and fix climate change. How can the private sector be an active contributor to this agenda, inspire innovation to address some of the world's most challenging issues and support the sustainable development of emerging markets? This session will highlight the huge potential of private sector innovation and collaboration, and explore the role of government in supporting these breakthroughs to create a more sustainable economy and world.

PLENARY 3 - HOW IS SUSTAINABILITY DATA CREATING TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE?

Despite the many challenges we hear about daily, there is much to be hopeful for with an increasing number of innovations and breakthroughs to tackle some of the world's most pressing issues. A key enabler in this transformation will be the role of technology and big data in unlocking the wealth of sustainability information already available. To truly empower decision making towards a more sustainable economy and world, this information needs to be more accessible, comparable and available in real time. Hear from some of the world's leading innovators about how they are taking this ambition from concept to reality.

PLENARY 4 - TRUST & TRANSPARENCY: BUILDING BETTER BUSINESS AND POLICY WORLDWIDE

This media led debate will highlight different perspectives on whether sustainability information and communication can really build trust in businesses and governments, and the opportunities and risks involved in doing this. Hear from leading CEOs, communications executives and government representatives about the potential for sustainability information and the latest insights on public attitude towards business and governments.



The conference was fabulous, and a credit to all involved. Everything ran like clockwork, the venue was great, food, organization, the App was fantastic, and it was wonderful to see so many people gathering together around the reporting theme and meet old and new friends.

Elaine Cohen, Beyond Business

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Meet the Community



In 2013 the GRI 4th Global Conference attracted 1,550 attendees from 69 countries. The conference drives collaboration between diverse organizations and stakeholders to work together, and bring about real change and advancement towards a sustainable economy.

Participants in 2013 joined the conference from over 30 sectors, with the GRI 5th Global Conference set to once again convene representatives from; academia, business, civil society, consultants, financial services, NGO's, labor organizations, governments and inter-governmental agencies.

THE CONFERENCE COMMUNITY INCLUDES PAST PARTNERS AND SPONSORS, SUCH AS

- Siemens
- BHP Billiton
- State Street Corporation
- Shell
- Natura
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Swedish International Development Cooperation
- Heineken
- Air France/KLM
- Edelman
- Nestle
- Prudential
- Puma
- Enel
- Bloomberg media
- The Guardian Sustainable Business
- Sustainable Brands
- Deloitte
- EY
- PWC
- KPMG
- CEMEX
- Randstad



It was a terrific conference – great discussions and networking along with lots of helpful content. Im glad we were able to support it. Mary O'Malley, Prudential

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ENABLING SMART POLICY

- Moving beyond borders to look at how policy and initiatives impact and enable sustainability reporting and sustainable landscapes.
- Perspectives explored from governments, international organizations and capital markets will discuss topics such as solutions for change, transparency, trade, sustainable development, meeting goals and collaborations with business and civil society.

2

MORE REPORTERS, BETTER REPORTING

- Explore ways to further sustainable decision making by delving deeper into the sustainability reporting process to explore and envisage big picture challenges with topics, such as materiality in different sectors, a focus on disability reporting in addition to SME experiences and best practices.
- An academic session on the role of assurance in improving quality

3

MOVING BEYOND REPORTS

- Dialogues that move beyond the reporting process to see the value of quality sustainability information.
- Innovative ways to align data to meet diverse groups of stakeholders needs, including corporate sustainability and official statistics, to create sustainable solutions for the future.

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More Than a Conference

THE CONFERENCE COMMUNITY INCLUDES PAST SPEAKERS, SUCH AS

- Al Gore, former United States Vice President
- HRM Willem-Alexander, King of The Netherlands
- Queen Rania al-Abdullah, of Jordan
- Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UN Environment Program
- Pia Olsen Dyhr, Ministry of Trade and Investments Denmark
- Aron Cramer, President and CEO BSR
- Mervyn King, Chairman, IIRC
- Pavan Sukhdev, GIST Advisory, TEEB
- Meyer Sandy Frucher, Vice Chairman, NASDAQ
- Connie Lindsey, Executive VP and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility and Global Diversity & Inclusion, Northern Trust
- Kumi Naidoo, Former Executive Director, Greenpeace

ENJOY THE SOCIAL SIDE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The marketplace is at the heart of the conference and will create an inclusive meeting place for individuals from multiple stakeholder groups and regional delegations. Explore and get involved::

- Interactive exhibition booths
- A live hackathon
- Community celebrations
- Receptions and meet-ups
- Breakfast sessions
- VIP areas for the GRI Organizational Stakeholder Program Members and conference speakers



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

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INNOVATION & COLLABORATION

- A unique look at future emerging trends in sustainability reporting and the impacts shaping society
- Insights into sustainability trends and innovations, such as advances in technology and big data, integrated reporting, in addition to the communication of sustainability information.
- An academic session on the role of education in shaping the sustainability leaders we need for the future.

5

REPORTING STANDARDS

- A focus on standards in sustainability reporting, looking at the reporting guidelines and the separate governance bodies that develop GRI's standards activities.
- Get to grips with topics such as occupational health and safety and the reporting standard governance.

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FACING THE CHALLENGES

- Analyze and address some of the world's biggest sustainability challenges being faced today.
- Sessions will highlight topics such as anti-corruption, human rights and managing climate risk.

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