



## Monthly Newsletter | May 2026

### Dear Members & Friends,

Over the past month, we have continued to build strong momentum across the Chapter, with a clear focus on progress and delivery.

In parallel, a key priority has been developing our **Chapter Playbook**, anchored in the CoreNet Global pillars: Advancing the practice of Corporate Real Estate, building a vibrant community, boosting CRE careers and developing talent, and being the voice of the profession. This playbook will guide how the Chapter operates over the next couple of years, setting the structure and direction for how we deliver value to our members.

Looking back, April and May have been strong months. We delivered two events, both fully overbooked, which reflects the energy and engagement across our community.

Beyond events, our social media platforms are gaining traction, with a steady increase in followers and a refreshed look that better reflects who we are and where we are heading.

As we continue to grow, we are still looking for volunteers to join our Chapter committees across membership, programs, partnerships, and communications. If you are interested, I encourage you to step forward and contribute in any capacity you can.

Looking ahead, I hope to see many of you at our **Social Soirée** on **June 18** at the JW Marriott Dubai Marina. We are also planning a **Riyadh After Hours** in June, with the exact date to be confirmed soon.

Finally, HQ has announced the appointment of **Vicki Worden** as **Chief Executive Officer**, effective 1 August 2026. Our chapter looks forward to working closely with her and the global team as we continue to grow and strengthen the Chapter.

Stay curious. Stay connected.

**Samer Mahdi**  
Chapter Chair



## Upcoming Events

### 18 June 2026

Social Soirée: Unwind-Connect-Repeat  
Dubai

[Register](#)

### Late June 2026

Riyadh After Hours: CRE Social  
Riyadh

[Watch your Email](#)

### 8-10 September 2026

CoreNet Global Summit EMEA  
Munich

[Register](#)

### 26-28 October 2026

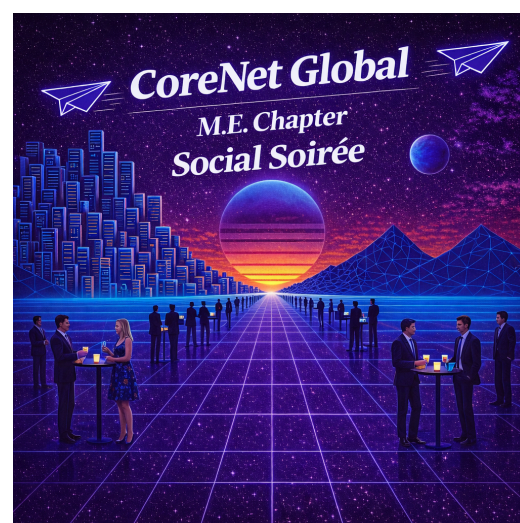
CoreNet Global Summit North America  
Chicago

[Register](#)

## Event Spotlight

### Social Soirée: Unwind-Connect-Repeat

Join the Chapter on **Thursday, 18 June** (7–9pm) at the **JW Marriott Hotel Marina** for an evening of connection, conversation, and community. In a time when the region has felt heavy with uncertainty and nonstop headlines, this reception is an opportunity to step away from the noise and come together with fellow members, peers, and industry leaders in a more positive and meaningful setting. Enjoy **drinks** and **canapés** while networking with the Chapter Leadership, including several new Board members, and get to know the dedicated volunteers behind the Chapter's regional events and member initiatives. The evening will also offer a glimpse into what's ahead for 2026 and beyond, including insights into the Chapter's evolving vision, strategy, and future plans. We look forward to reconnecting, strengthening our community, and shaping the future together! [Register](#)



## Board Member Spotlight

A warm welcome to returning Board Member **Elliot Lewis FRICS**. For those unfamiliar with Elliott, he co-founded the Middle East Chapter in 2008 and returns to the Board as our **Industry Partners Officer**. In this role, he will focus on fostering and building strategic partnerships with related industry bodies and organisations. Elliott is a seasoned real estate asset management and operations executive with over 20 years of leadership experience across EMEA and Asia-Pacific, including deep expertise in the Middle East and Africa. Currently, he provides strategic direction for The World Bank Group's 280,000 sqm portfolio spanning 137 countries. We are thrilled to have his global expertise back on the Board!



#### UPCOMING LEARNING

CoreNet Global offers a wide range of learning programmes designed to strengthen professional expertise across CRE. **Advance your career** by exploring global offerings, including live, seminars, industry-recognised **professional certifications**, and flexible, self-paced on-demand courses. Discover upcoming programmes available across your region and take the next step in your professional development!

Schedule



#### WEBINAR

**Why Reuse Wins:** The FF&E decision that improves cost, speed, and Portfolio Performance. The full recording is now available on The Source. Discover how innovative FF&E reuse strategies drastically reduce costs, accelerate project timelines, and optimise performance. Industry practitioners share real-world insights and actionable data to help you transform your design and procurement process.

Recording



#### ALL ACCESS PASS

Unlock **full membership benefits** completely free for 30 days. Your pass grants you discounted pricing on Summit registration and professional development, alongside exclusive invitations to member-only webinars and chapter events. You will also get a free copy of *The Essential Guide to Corporate Real Estate* and full access to the Source App to read curated industry news and network via the Member Directory.

Join

### Committee Member Spotlight



To bolster our operational execution, we are expanding our committees and are thrilled to welcome **Nada Abdel Khalek**, Head of Marketing and Communications at ISG Middle East. Nada will be partnering with MarCom Board Member Irina Budnik to deliver the Chapter's marketing strategy. With a strong commercial mindset and a creative approach to business growth, Nada brings extensive experience in corporate communications, stakeholder engagement, and multi-channel campaigns to the role.

### Sponsor Spotlight

teknion

#### Reflecting on a Valued Partnership: Teknion Renews Silver Sponsorship!

We are thrilled to announce that **Teknion** has renewed their Silver Sponsorship with the Chapter for another year! As one of our very first sponsors, Teknion holds a special place in our history. Our long-standing partnership has been instrumental to our growth, from hosting memorable events at their showroom in the **Dubai Design District (D3)**, to their ongoing collaborative spirit. A special thank you goes out to **Heather Portingale** for her incredible dedication in helping shape our monthly programmes and events, as well as the entire Teknion team for their continuous support. Thank you, Teknion, for being such a wonderful partner. Here's to another fantastic year ahead! 🙌

**Interested to become a sponsor?** Learn more about the benefits of partnering with the Middle East Chapter and elevate your brand within the corporate real estate community. Send us an **email** to request a prospectus.

### Industry News

## Dubai Approves Dubai Metro's Gold Line Spanning 42 km and 18 Stations

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, approved the Dubai Metro Gold Line, the emirate's largest sustainable transport project. Involving an investment of around AED34 billion, the new metro line will extend over 42 kilometres and 18 stations, marking Dubai's first fully underground metro line. [Read More](#)

Got ideas? We want them!

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