

Monthly Newsletter | June 2023

Dear Members & Colleagues,

May was a busy month for the Chapter! We had our own event hosted by the **Gensler** team at their Alserkal Avenue showroom featuring insights into their latest research; members of our Board including myself participated in panels at the **Workspace Exhibition Dubai** and also **Proptech**, part of the **Construction Technology Festival**.



As well as our upcoming event on the **21st June** – see the event spotlight for more details, we are excited at the forthcoming **East Meets West Global Summit** taking place in Dubai this September. Make sure you plan to attend as this will be a truly global audience of senior CRE professionals.

Our Board has also been busy – **Board Member Savas Cizmeci** with Microsoft has assumed the position of **Chair-Elect** and will take over my role as Chair in April 2024. We have also recruited to the Board, **James Hodgetts** at JLL and **Neslihan Kuckukaslan** with Interface and new sub committee members which we will share more details on soon, to support content and programming for 2023 and beyond. A warm welcome to our new volunteers!

I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Sarah Aoun
Chapter Chair



Upcoming Events

21 June 2023
Experiential Technology Solutions for the Workplace
Dubai
[Register](#)

12-14 September 2023
2023 CoreNet Global Summit - East Meets West
Dubai
[Register](#)

Event Spotlight



Experiential Technology Solutions for the Workplace

We are excited for this month’s event where we are joined by **Julian Phillips**, **Senior Vice President of Global Workplace** and **Managing Director of XTG**, **AVI-SPL**’s global business unit, who is based in the US but is joining the Chapter in Dubai for this exciting, interactive breakfast presentation at the AVI SPL offices in Dubai Investment Park. [REGISTER](#)

Meet the new Chair-Elect

Many will already be familiar with **Savas Cizmeci** who heads up real estate operations for Microsoft in the Middle East & Africa, as well as seeing him regularly at the monthly Chapter events. Savas has served as a Board Member of the Middle East Chapter for some years and we are excited to announce that last month he was appointed **Chair-Elect**! A much coveted role, Savas will take over the reigns from current Chair - Sarah Aoun in April 2024 when her term ends. Until then Sarah and Savas will collaborate on the business of the Chapter to ensure a smooth transition. Congratulations Savas!





EAST MEETS WEST

See the **great speaker line-up** at this September's **East Meets West** Global Summit being held in the Middle East region for the first time. you'll hear from Professor Eddie Obeng, British organisational theorist, educator, and author as well as Nayla Al Khaja, the first female Film Director in the United Arab Emirates. There'll be exhibits, site tours, workshops and plenty of networking. Hurry and register today!

Register



MARKET NEWS

Dubai's robust real estate market is primed for further investment according to property experts in the city. The real estate market grew by 36% in the past year and now is an ideal time to invest, according to property experts in the city. In the past 10 years, Dubai has developed itself into a sought-after city for both foreign investors and first-time buyers, becoming a place of attractive investment opportunities within the UAE.

Learn More



15% OFF

How will you succeed with CNG membership? Firstly, bring real estate into partnership with corporate strategy; create value for the corporations you serve; do your job better and help your company produce better results; earn "trusted partner" status with key clients and the C-suite **AND advance your company and your career!** This month there is a 15% discount to join but you can also do a free trial!

Learn More

Sponsor Spotlight

Interface®

Interface is a long-time supporter of the Chapter as an Annual Sponsor. They are a global leader in modular flooring, offering an integrated collection of carpet tiles and resilient flooring that includes luxury vinyl tile (LVT) and nora® rubber flooring. Formed in 1973 by founder, Ray Anderson who saw a carpet tile in Europe and recognised its future potential in modern offices, it started a commercial flooring revolution that would spread around the world. Thank you Interface for supporting our Chapter!

Interested to join the prestigious line-up of sponsors? Email [Jack Cone](#)

New Member Spotlight



Welcome to new member **Darren Taylor!** Darren is the Global Head of Client Relations for INC Solutions, a market leading Design & Build company operating in the UAE, KSA and Africa. He provides design, project management and fit-out services to clients with multi-regional / global offices. Sustainability is also a high priority for the INC Group and Darren works with the regions to assess and implement future-friendly processes that affect our planet. Darren has his finger on the pulse of current and upcoming trends, travelling regularly to conferences, seminars, and global partners to gain insight on the workplace of the future.
[Darren Taylor | LinkedIn](#)

Sub-Comm Spotlight



Last month we said good bye to long standing sub-committee member **Akosua Osei-Bonsu**. Akosua has been a long time member of the sub-committee team developing content for the monthly learning and networking events. We really valued her support over the years and most recently with our end of year social at Topgolf Dubai. Akosua is Regional Property Administrator at Standard Chartered where she has been working for the last 4 1/2 years. Taking on a new role earlier this year, she has decided to step back from the sub-committee for the meantime, to focus on her position. Huge thanks Akosua for everything!
[Akosua Osei-Bonsu | LinkedIn](#)

If you have ideas for 'raising the bar' at the Middle East Chapter please feel free to reach out to us!

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