



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Veolia launches a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program for Oman**

Muscat, December 16, 2013:- Aligned with Oman's 2020 Vision, Veolia formalizes a structured Corporate Social Responsibility program in Oman with numerous actions planned over the next few years. This builds on individual actions undertaken by Veolia in Oman since 2007. This program aims to reach three objectives:

#### **Be closer to the local communities**

A series of initiatives will be deployed to bring value and benefit to the community at large. It will encompass, among others, the development of partnerships with universities to provide expert speakers, an educational program with schools and a series of events to share water, waste and energy management best practices.

An example of this type of initiative took place in October 2013 when Veolia, in collaboration with Majis Industrial Services and Port of Sohar, led to the successful event as part of Omani Women's Day. This raised awareness about cancer and also its detection and treatment among female employees at Port of Sohar and in the communities of Liwa and Shinas.

#### **Engage employees**

While promoting Omanisation and talent development, Veolia gives its employees the opportunities, resources and environment to allow them to make an effective contribution to the business and to the community. Veolia will encourage its employees to volunteer for charity work with a target of 50% of all employees to participate at least half a day per year.

Veolia also encourages, throughout all its contracts, local talents to realize their full potential in the Omani market place. As an example, Veolia has hired amongst its team young Omani water engineers, recently graduated from Omani universities. For the last two years, they have been trained every day to the best water engineering practices while working on a strategic project to reduce water losses for the Public Authority for Electricity and Water.

#### **Raise awareness on environmental protection and biodiversity**

A sustainability approach is at the heart of all Veolia's activities and Veolia is always seeking opportunities to reduce its consumption of natural resources by using alternatives where possible and by optimizing efficiency of use, whilst protecting and enhancing the environment.

As part of the CSR program, Veolia will share and promote sustainable business practices with its sub-contractors, suppliers and other business partners.

*"As a socially responsible company, Veolia continuously aligns its corporate strategy with working practices and attitudes that contribute to sustainable development and drive forward general improvements in the Omani community. There is no alternative to being sustainable and responsible."* said Xavier Joseph, CEO, Gulf Countries, Veolia Environnement.



Veolia Foundation, during a previous operation in 2007 after cyclone Gonu hit the Omani coast, delivered equipment and provided expertise for the deployment of an emergency water treatment plant in Quriyat area. Veolia Foundation now explores new cooperation opportunities and possible synergies with key stakeholders focusing on water issues in Oman. A proposal for a Water Alliance on disaster preparedness and environmental restoration has been prepared with the University of Arizona for better Water Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas. A kick-off seminar will take place in Muscat in the first few months of 2014 to introduce this initiative.

*“Running a responsible business is the way in which we fulfil the obligations we have to our stakeholders including our employees, customers, and government bodies. Our approach to responsibility reinforces our management of a sustainable environmental business.”* stated Patrice Fonlladosa, President and CEO, Africa & Middle East, Veolia Environnement.

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**About Veolia Environnement:** *Veolia Environnement* (Paris Euronext: VIE and NYSE: VE) is the worldwide reference in environmental solutions. With 220,000 employees\*, the company has operations all around the world and provides tailored solutions to meet the needs of municipal and industrial customers in three complementary segments: water management, waste management and energy management. Veolia Environnement recorded revenue of €29.4 billion\* in 2012. [www.veolia.com](http://www.veolia.com)

(\* ) Excluding VeoliaTransdev employees and revenues currently under divestment.

**Media Contact:**

Hélène Toury  
Marketing & Communications Manager, Middle East  
Mobile. + 971 (0)56 11 88 565