

The Bridge

CGBA's latest news, views and announcements



Member Appreciation

Special benefits await our members. Find out what's in store for you!

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New Cooperation

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Our current annual and event sponsors

➤ Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars and join us at the next in-person event

Dear Members and Friends,

We hope you had a wonderful double Easter celebration this year with the holidays falling just a week apart, bringing even more opportunity to connect with family, friends, and traditions across cultures!

It was a pleasure seeing so many of you at our March Get Connected event in Nicosia. The evening was filled with engaging conversations and valuable networking, and we invite you to read more about it and view the photos [here](#).

As we move into spring, we are also preparing for our upcoming Annual General Meeting on May 11, which will take place at City of Dreams Mediterranean. During this year's AGM, board elections will also take place, and we warmly encourage members who are interested in contributing more actively to the Association to consider nominating themselves for a position on the board.

We very much look forward to welcoming you there for an important and enjoyable gathering of our community!

Sustainable Development: From Resource Warfare to Renewables as a tool for Peace



By Irene Loucaides, Founder & Managing Director,
GROW SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTING

For centuries, the quest for natural resources has been a primary driver of global instability. From the imperial scrambles for gold and rubber to the modern-day "petro-politics" of the Middle East, the geography of energy has often dictated the geography of war. History is replete with conflicts triggered by the uneven distribution of commodities; the pursuit of rare minerals, fertile land, and fossil fuels has repeatedly bypassed diplomacy in favor of aggression. Today, ongoing geopolitical conflicts serve as a stark reminder of how dependence on localized, finite resources can derail global progress and sabotage sustainable development. However, the shift toward decentralized renewable energy offers a potential path to break this historical cycle.

The modern era has seen these tensions peak in the form of high-stakes energy warfare. The conflict in Ukraine, for instance, fundamentally altered the global energy landscape. For decades, Europe's reliance on Russian natural gas was seen as a bridge of economic interdependence, but it ultimately became a tool of geopolitical leverage. When the invasion began, the weaponization of gas supplies forced an immediate, painful pivot. The sudden spike in prices sent shockwaves through the global economy, disproportionately impacting the Global South. This conflict proved that as long as a nation's "on switch" is located outside its borders in a centralized fossil fuel hub, its sovereignty remains vulnerable.

Similarly, the current conflict in Iran illustrates the devastating impact of war on Sustainable Development. Airstrikes on petrochemical plants and oil refineries have caused massive environmental degradation, contaminating soil and water sources across the Persian Gulf. These "ecological scars" often take decades to heal, poisoning the very land that local populations rely on for food and water. Furthermore, instead of funding clean energy transitions or social welfare initiatives, nations are diverting their capital toward defence, military expenditures, and emergency infrastructure repair. The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has paralyzed roughly 20% of global oil and gas flows, leading to soaring inflation. This has directly caused food insecurity in developing nations that rely on Middle Eastern fertilizers—a byproduct of natural gas—for their own agricultural output. When the price of gas rises in the Gulf, the price of bread rises everywhere else in the World.

The transition to renewable energy—such as solar, wind, and green hydrogen—could fundamentally rewrite the rules of geopolitics by addressing these root causes of resource competition. Unlike oil or gas, which are concentrated in a few volatile regions or under the control of specific regimes, sunlight and wind are geographically ubiquitous. By producing power domestically, countries can achieve true "energy self-sufficiency." This reduces their vulnerability to foreign supply shocks, maritime chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz, or the political whims of pipeline-controlling neighbors. In a renewable world, the "weaponization of energy" becomes nearly impossible; an aggressor cannot embargo the sun or sanction the wind.

Furthermore, transitioning away from fossil fuels reduces the global reliance on "petro-states." Historically, economies built solely on the export of finite resources are often characterized by high levels of corruption, wealth inequality, and authoritarianism—a phenomenon known as the "resource curse." By diversifying the global energy mix, we dilute the disproportionate power held by these centralized entities, fostering a more democratic and stable international order.

While current conflicts have temporarily revitalized the use of coal in some regions to offset immediate energy shortages, experts emphasize that these crises have only strengthened the long-term case for a swift, global transition. The wars in Ukraine and Iran are painful evidence that fossil fuel dependence is a national security risk. "Home-grown" green energy is no longer just an environmental goal; it is the ultimate insurance policy against war. By investing in a decentralized energy future, the global community can finally decouple human progress from the violent competition for the earth's hidden reserves.



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Member Appreciation



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Member Appreciation



SKYSIDE

Every great journey begins with a story, and in the private sanctuary of private flight, those stories gain a certain magic. Inspired by this sense of airborne wonder, luxury aviation brand of Schoeller Holdings Ltd and the Columbia Group, Skyside, is introducing a new platform designed to elevate the inflight experience.

Skyside – The Private Traveller, an exclusive extension of their premium brand ecosystem Skyside Private Aviation, is set for release in May this year. The new inflight experience has been created for a world of elevated possibilities and intends to connect leading luxury brands with a global audience of high-net worth travellers, entrepreneurs, investors, and decision-makers flying privately across international destinations.

Distributed across more than 14 aircraft worldwide, as well in high-environments including yachts, global offices, exclusive events, and Columbia's five-star property in Cyprus, the Columbia Beach Resort, the publication offers a powerful platform for visibility and engagement.



You are invited to enjoy an exclusive **40% discount** on advertising placements in the inaugural edition. Partners or contacts you wish to refer may also benefit from this offer.

The deadline for this offer is 30 April 2026.


To reserve space or request further details, please get in touch at media@skyside.aero.

New Cooperation



We are delighted to share some exciting news! We have recently embarked on a wonderful new collaboration with the Zyprisch-Deutscher Kulturverein and are pleased to announce their upcoming family excursion taking place in Nicosia.

Family Walk with Picnic

 Eucalyptus Grove, Athalassa Park
Eucalyptus picnic area:
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/sbBrEjmExWtAdDGH7>
(Large parking area available directly on site)

 **10 May 2026**

 **10:00 and 14:00**

Food & Drinks: Participants are kindly asked to bring their own food and beverages

Programme: Flexible and informal; games for children will be organised

Further information can be found on their [Facebook page](#).

The Member Stage: Events & Initiatives

We are very happy to lend our support to this beautiful initiative taking place at our member Eléa Golf Club.



Golf for Hope – Making a Difference Through Sport

Eléa Golf Club is proud to launch Golf for Hope, a non-political humanitarian initiative supporting displaced children in Lebanon, in partnership with the Golf Club of Lebanon.

Despite extremely challenging conditions, the team on the ground continues to provide a safe environment and a sense of normality for children and their families. This initiative brings together our community through a series of fundraising activities, including Charity Golf Days, a Bicycle Ride, a Charity Rally, and corporate sponsorship support, all culminating in our May Fair Craft & Charity Day celebrations on 3 May.

All funds raised will go directly toward programmes focused on education, wellbeing, and safe recreational spaces for children in need.

We invite all members and associates and business partners to support this meaningful cause and to join us for the Fair – together, we can make a real difference.

Please use the QR code to make your donation and also send us a short message, which we will add in our book of hope, to be sent to Lebanon in May.



Cyprus Germany Business Association

Eléa GOLF CLUB

May Fair

Craft & Charity Day

SUNDAY 3RD MAY | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Join us at May Fair for a **fun, feel-good day of local creativity and community.**

Browse an amazing array of local crafts including:

JEWELLERY · CANDLES · ION BODYARMOUR · BAGS · SOFT FURNISHINGS · ART · CERAMICS · AND SO MUCH MORE!

- 🎵 Entertainment all day long
- 🍷 Food & drinks available throughout
- 🤝 Supporting several local charities

📍 Eléa Golf Club

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For info contact: Alison Richardson at alrichy5@hotmail.com



Cultural Corner



Image source for Kindergarten

Germany Invented the Kindergarten

Friedrich Fröbel opened the world's first Kindergarten ("children's garden") in Bad Blankenburg in 1837. The word and the concept both originated in Germany and were later exported globally, including to the US by German immigrants fleeing the 1848 revolutions.



Image source for Othello

Cyprus Inspired Shakespeare

Cyprus is the primary setting for Shakespeare's Othello, and the Venetian walls of Famagusta contain a tower still called Othello's Tower today. Shakespeare almost certainly never visited, but drew on accounts of Venetian Cyprus so vividly that the island became permanently woven into world literary history.

THANK YOU!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the generous support of our current annual and event sponsors. Their contribution plays a vital role in helping us offer varied networking opportunities, as well as an array of interesting events that benefit our members.

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Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars! More information on our forthcoming events can be found [here](#)

11 MAY 2026	Annual General Meeting ⌚ 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm 📍 City of Dreams Mediterranean, Cyprus
10 JUNE 2026	Exclusive CGBA Members Event ⌚ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm 📍 Limassol Greens
08 JULY 2026	'Get Connected' Networking by the Sea ⌚ 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm 📍 Sands Beach Club Resto, Limassol
07 OCTOBER 2026	"AI & Data Lab" – Spotlight and Networking Event with Grant Thornton ⌚ 9:00am - 12:00pm 📍 LOFT Nicosia
26 NOVEMBER 2026	Annual CGBA Christmas Gala Dinner 2026 ⌚ 7:00 pm - 11:30 pm 📍 Columbia Plaza Venue Centre

For all our 'Get Connected' Networking events we offer the use of nametags to enhance interaction among our guests. Registered participants can collect their personal tag from the registration desk. As part of our sustainability initiatives, kindly return your name tag to the designated box before leaving the venue, ensuring it is available again when you join us the next time! Thank you.

Step into the Spotlight

Our innovative '**CGBA Spotlight & Networking**' series enables you to showcase your company, putting you and your industry on stage.

There is no fee from the CGBA for hosting such an event. However, we highly recommend that after your presentation, you offer light refreshments for guests to enjoy during the networking part. We kindly ask that you cover the cost of this catering, as we aim to avoid charging our members.

This approach allows your company to gain valuable exposure to your target audience in a friendly and mutually beneficial setting, as we work together to share these objectives and opportunities:

- **Knowledge sharing and exchange:** each event covers a different theme and topic and each speaker will have the opportunity to share their knowledge on a specific sector, or present the dynamic of their company and services offered
- **Connecting and networking:** facilitating connections among members, industry experts and stakeholders
- **Community Building:** fostering a community that collaborates and supports each other
- **Visibility:** enhancing the CGBA's visibility and awareness.
- **Membership Growth:** attracting non-members and showcasing the benefits of becoming part of our association

This newsletter is brought to you by the editorial team **Uta Steffen** and **Carine Khoury Niemann**, design by CGBA's Media Partner **HOB**