

PREFACE TO THE REVISED EDITION

“What you do once, might be an experiment or exception but what you keep doing again and again is a consistent choice.”

Understanding Business Responsibility and engaging in activities with emphasis on sustainability is also not an exception or a one-off decision but a conscious decision, a choice that has to be mandatorily made by the modern-day corporation and businesses. As the global diaspora witnesses a paradigm shift from ‘Profit Focus’ to ‘People-Planet-Profit-Focus’, within the realms of environmental sustainability, the reporting patterns are also finding a sea change – as the world is beginning to make way for non-financial reporting alongside the long-standing financial reporting formats, their relevant structures and standards.

If global organizations have been using standards for the preparation of such reports at macro level, the scenarios in the Indian corporate world are no different. The CSR Guidelines followed by the NVGs and now the NGRBCs are evidentiary proofs of the commitment of the Indian Government and the Regulatory Authorities in instilling a culture of sustainability and a sense of commitment towards imbibing the components of ESG in daily routines.

The transition from Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR) to Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) coupled with the eagerness of Regulatory Authorities like SEBI towards mandating it and with that, on the part of the Industry for complying is a transformation in totality on the governance front.

The Institute with the attempt of giving further impetus to this process had chosen recognition as a mode to guide the corporations towards better compliance and that’s how the BRS Awards were launched. What came to us through these entries was not just heartwarming but regaling to a point where we decided to collate the best practices witnessed and share it with the corporate world by way of a dedicated publication.

I would like to appreciate the thought process of CS Dhananjay Shukla, Vice President, ICSI and CS Ranjeet Pandey, Former President and Chairman ESG & Sustainability Board of ICSI for conceptualizing the idea of coming out with the publication on BRS Reporting and compliment

the hard work and efforts of the entire team who has worked on the execution.

As we roll out the second edition of the **Handbook on Business Responsibility & Sustainability**, I commend the efforts of CS Iqra Ansari Executive (Academics) & CS Richa Gupta, Executive (Academics) under the overall guidance of CS Anamika Chaudhary, Joint Director, Directorate of Sustainability & Governance under the stewardship of CS Asish Mohan, Secretary, The ICSI and CS Manish Gupta, Immediate Past President and Chairman, Corporate Laws and Governance Committee, ICSI.

I am grateful towards CS Priyadarshini Mahapatra, Company Secretary, Syngene International Limited, CS Murli Balasubramaniam, Former General Counsel & Company Secretary, Nestlé India Limited and CS Ranjeet Pandey, Former President and Chairman ESG & Sustainability Board of ICSI, for their incredible inputs in moulding the publication into its present form and if I am to be thorough in my appreciations, I must comment and congratulate all the companies who have portrayed their dedication & commitment to creating a more sustainable future and a better world.

My best wishes to all and I hope that tremendous benefit will be reaped from this publication.

Happy reading!

Regards,

(CS B. Narasimhan)

President

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India