



Clare Woodcraft-Scott
Chief Executive Officer
Emirates Foundation

Clare Woodcraft-Scott is the Chief Executive Officer of Emirates Foundation, the national foundation of the UAE, and is responsible for driving its vision of supporting youth development in the country. The Foundation aims to deliver a positive and permanent impact on the lives of young people through the model of venture philanthropy which calls for a shift from short-term grant making to long-term, measurable and financially viable social investment.

Woodcraft-Scott brings over 20 years of experience working in the field of sustainable development in the Middle East and Africa as a development practitioner, a journalist and a corporate executive specializing in sustainability, social investment and reputation management. She was recently named number 6 on the UAE Brits List 2014 by Arabian Business Magazine and recognized with a special award as one of five 'Most Inspiring Brits 2014'.

Prior to joining Emirates Foundation, Woodcraft-Scott was Deputy Director of Shell Foundation, working on building social enterprises to help address global development challenges. In this role she worked to build the LEAD Africa Fellowship Program that focused on building leadership skills across the continent and also contributed to the Foundation's ten year assessment report Enterprise Solutions to Scale.

Earlier, Woodcraft-Scott worked as the Regional Director of Communications for Royal Dutch Shell in the Middle East and North Africa managing the oil major's social investment portfolio in the region and addressing issues related to sustainability. She previously headed Visa International's public affairs arm in emerging markets (Central Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa) that saw her working closely with governments and financial sectors in Africa and the Middle East looking at the role of electronic payments in economic development.

Woodcraft-Scott also worked in Palestine as a consultant for various development agencies and contributed to several literary studies on the issue of development in a non-sovereign nation. She served as the Finance Editor of Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), an oil and gas journal, where she wrote about regional capital markets, the banking sector, project finance and other aspects of regional economic development.

Woodcraft-Scott is a fluent Arabic speaker holding a bachelor's degree in Arabic and French from Salford University in the UK and a Masters in Development from the London School of Economics.