

private & confidential

Role Description



Head of External Affairs

For further information please contact:

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Job Title: Head of External Affairs
Reporting to: Group Head of Corporate Communications
Salary: £Competitive
Location: London or Singapore
Website: <http://olamgroup.com/>

Organisation

Olam is one of the world's largest agri-business companies, a company at the heart of the global food system; supplying 23,000 customers, many of them world famous brands, with products such as coffee, cocoa, almonds, palm oil, rice and spices.

Opportunity

Working with the Group Head of Corporate Communications, the Head of External Affairs will help to shape and deliver the international strategic and proactive communications strategy. A genuinely important and rewarding role, working at the core of some of the world's biggest development issues.

Responsibilities

Based in London, working collaboratively with the global senior leadership communications team, the role is an exceptionally fast-paced. The Head of External Affairs will be working with colleagues across different time zones, so you need to be smart and efficient in your approach, able to juggle and have a keen eye for detail and accuracy.

The Head of External Affairs will focus on the portfolio of Olam businesses including palm, rubber and wood supply chains. The Head of External Affairs will review and amend Olam's overall communications strategy, working alongside the team to review and implement the management crisis process, readiness and training where appropriate across all relevant issues.

The role will also be responsible for reputation management of Olam's global businesses across cotton, oils, grains and dairy operations.

The right individual will build proactive strategy across the relevant business units, translating issues into compelling messaging. They will work effectively with other communications disciplines and other Media Relations teams to support communications activities for external and internal audiences in line with the reputation drivers.

They will review, benchmark and report on the emerging expectations of business regarding reputational impacts and establish and manage external engagement on these issues at senior stakeholder levels.

Requirements

Experience in agricultural supply chains and food sector and in international business, with a proven expertise handling crises/issues real time, ideally from agency or in-house. This will include a review of Olam's overall crisis process, preparation for crisis readiness, perform crisis training where appropriate and review relevant technology platforms.

The individual will balance commercial and sustainability priorities appropriately and bring technical credibility to decision making. They will balance strategy and vision with the practical operational, delivery and capacity issues. They will have the ambition to expand the quality of regional and international relationships and understand how they interrelate back to core strategy.

Culturally, the individual will be collegiate, have a hands-on mentality and an entrepreneurial spirit. They will be driven to create change through engaging and enabling others. They need to be good listeners, collaborative, courageous and take decisive action. French speaker preferred.

The individual will be a well-respected figure with gravitas, integrity and come with a robust track record of delivery in their relevant specialty.

- Strategic and creative thinker when it comes to issues management specifically and communications in general
- Professionally mature with sound judgment and the ability to gain immediate credibility by provision of counsel / insight to senior leadership on a reactive and proactive basis
- Proven track record of driving every aspect of creating and implementing innovative reputation preparedness and protection programmes across multiple issues and geographic regions, including spokespeople media relations training
- Experience in agricultural supply chains / food sector and in International business
- Proven expertise handling crises/issues real time, either in agency or corporation
- Ability to multi-task and work effectively from top to bottom (and vice versa) with numerous project teams. Excellent organisation and project management skills
- Ability to perform effectively under pressure and in a fast-paced company
- Demonstrate ability to maintain strong relationships with the media, directing media engagement strategy. Specifically, adept at handling adversity and experience challenging reporters/editors to get desired results.
- Fluent across all media channels, including digital and social engagement.
- Exceptional writing, editing, listening and verbal skills, with the ability to learn, understand and simplify business and technical information

- Self-directed and adaptable and willingness to work outside office hours when required.
- Reporting experience such as GRI preferred

Contact

Ellwood Atfield are Europe's leading executive search consultancy specialising in the corporate affairs, communications and sustainability functions. We are delighted to be working in partnership with Olam, supporting their growth through identifying, evaluating and securing the modern blend of skill sets required where performance, purpose and reputation meet.



Rufus is a specialist consultant, supporting the Corporate Affairs, Communications and Sustainability functions. His experience is in working with Boards and the Executive to recruit leaders who shape change through developing and implementing compelling commercial narratives, frameworks and policies.

To discuss this and other similar roles in confidence, please contact Rufus:

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