

# Network News

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Russell Bedford International Annual Global Conference 2024: Rio de Janeiro
- Russell Bedford International Annual Awards 2024
- Kuwait firm Value Plus Business Advisory joins Russell Bedford International
- Success stories from around the world
- Russell Bedford Featured in International Accounting Bulletin's ESG 2024 Supplement
- Taking you further day 2024
- GNL Russell Bedford's 8th 'Just in the Place' golf tournament
- Webinar Recordings

## Russell Bedford International Annual Global Conference 2024: Rio de Janeiro

The Russell Bedford International Annual Global Conference 2024 brought together our worldwide network for an amazing week of insightful discussions, collaboration, and celebration on the fabulous Copacabana in Rio de Janeiro.



Ahead of the conference, Russell Bedford International CEO, Stephen Hamlet, and Events and Member Relations Manager, Kathryn Davis visited the host firm, Russell Bedford Brasil, at their Rio offices. It was a great opportunity to learn more about their practice, hear about their future plans, and meet their incredible team.



The conference opened with a warm welcome at the JW Marriott's Wayana Ballroom, where delegates got to reconnect with familiar faces, form new connections, and celebrate the anniversaries and achievements of Russell Bedford firms. See the award winners and the firms celebrating milestone anniversaries [here](#).



Day one began with executive sessions led by Stephen Hamlet and Global Chair Daniel Ryba, which set the stage for a full agenda. This included talks on unlocking the potential of generative AI, strategies for building cyber resilience, and examining the vital role of accountants in addressing fraud. Delegates also enjoyed a lively speed networking session, which created valuable new connections.





To round off day one, attendees enjoyed a memorable evening at Fogo de Chão, where they experienced an authentic Brazilian churrasco dinner, danced to samba music, and took in the breathtaking views of the Sugarloaf Mountain.



Day two featured more great sessions covering strategies for scaling up your accountancy business through digital marketing, discussions on ESG and how accountants are uniquely positioned to lead the conversation, as well as strategies for future-proofing succession planning and nurturing tomorrow's talent.



The final day included member-led discussion groups offering an open forum for feedback on the network, leading into the Annual General Meeting. This was followed by an exciting look ahead to Madrid – our host city for the 2025 Annual Global Conference.



A special highlight was a heartfelt video tribute to Network Development Director Kempton Bedell-Harper, who is set to retire after 24 years of dedicated service to Russell Bedford International.



The conference closing celebrations took place at the ICRJ Yacht Club, where delegates enjoyed a spectacular gala dinner and dance. As Stephen Hamlet, CEO, shared, "It's been another fantastic Annual Global Conference – an incredible opportunity for our colleagues across the network to reconnect and strengthen relationships. As we reflect on our progress, we're also energised for the future and remain dedicated to delivering the high-quality member support and services that define Russell Bedford International."



We extend a huge thank you to our delegates, speakers, and participants for their valuable contributions this year. Russell Bedford International members are encouraged to visit [the event page](#) for presentation materials and to view the event photos.



## Russell Bedford International Annual Awards 2024



Congratulations to the winners of the Russell Bedford International Annual Awards 2024 and to the firms that celebrated milestone anniversaries this year. Awards were presented at the 41st Annual Global Conference 2024 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



**Award winners:**

- **First to register for the Annual Global Conference: Stolp + KAB, Amsterdam, Netherlands**



- **Person who travelled the furthest for the Annual Global Conference: Yoshitaka Horiguchi, Sapporo, Japan**



- **Entry into top 10 highest referring firms: GNL Russell Bedford, Barcelona, Spain**



- **Social media champion:** *Russell Bedford Poland, Warsaw, Poland*



- **Success story of the year:** *Saint-Honoré Partenaires, Paris, France*



## Anniversaries:

- **15 years – 2009-2024:** *Russell Bedford Brasil, Porto Alegre, Brazil*



- 40 years – 1984-2024: Seward Dawson, Melbourne, Australia



- 50 years – 1974-2024: HBS GmbH, Munich, Germany



- 60 years – 1964-2024: Russell Bedford Sherif Dabbous, Cairo, Egypt



We extend a huge thank you to our delegates, speakers, and participants for their valuable contributions to the Annual Global Conference this year. Russell Bedford International members are encouraged to visit [the event page](#) for presentation materials and to view the event photos.



## Kuwait firm Value Plus Business Advisory joins Russell Bedford International



Value Plus Business Advisory, a professional advisory firm, has joined global accountancy network Russell Bedford International to relaunch Russell Bedford Kuwait.

Founded in 2016 under the leadership of Executive Director Waleed Ehsan, Value Plus Business Advisory provides comprehensive accounting and business advisory services. The firm's team of professionals serves across diverse sectors including retail, technology, manufacturing, education, food and beverages, and healthcare.

Value Plus Advisory's wide range of services includes financial advisory (such as feasibility studies, business valuation, due diligence, and restructuring), accounting (including bookkeeping, management accounting, virtual CFO and financial reporting), and business risk and compliance (encompassing internal audit, risk management, corporate governance, and internal controls).

The firm also provides expertise in business start-up support, offering guidance on budgeting, structuring, and software selection.

Stephen Hamlet, CEO of Russell Bedford International said, "This strategic move allows the network to expand its global reach, strengthening our international capabilities and further solidifying our position in the Middle East."

Waleed Ehsan, Executive Director of Value Plus Business Advisory said, "We are excited to announce the relaunch of Russell Bedford Kuwait and are ready to continue providing expert accounting, tax, GRC advisory and corporate finance services tailored to the Kuwaiti market. At Russell Bedford Kuwait, we leverage global resources alongside deep local expertise to support businesses as they navigate the complexities of both international and domestic markets. With a refreshed focus and renewed energy, we're here to help local and multinational businesses thrive in today's ever-changing business landscape."

## Success stories from around the world

We are delighted to share a number of achievements from Russell Bedford member firms around the world. **If you have an achievement you would like to share with us, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the central office team.**



Huge congratulations to the following:

### Germany

Our member firm Domus AG, based in Berlin, has once again been awarded the title of 'Excellent Employer' for 2024.

Grau Grimm Partner, Frankfurt, and LFK Partner, Stuttgart-Freiburg, have been awarded the designation 'Digital Firm 2024' by DATEV eG which recognises professional services firms for achievements in digital transformation. Grau Grimm Partner were also ranked amongst the most innovative firms in Germany.

### USA

WBL CPAs + Advisors, Atlanta, was named amongst the 'Best Firms to Work For 2024' by Accounting Today and was recognised as an 'IPA 400 Fastest Growing Firm' and a 'Top 400 firm' by Inside Public Accounting.

### Canada

Our member firm Shajani in Calgary was awarded 'Consumer Choice Award 2024 Northern Alberta'.

FBL, SENCRL, our member firm in Montréal QC was also named a 'Top 25 accounting firm in Quebec'.

### France

Pyramide Conseils, the network's member in the Lyon area, has been listed as one of the 'Best accounting firm in France' for 2024.

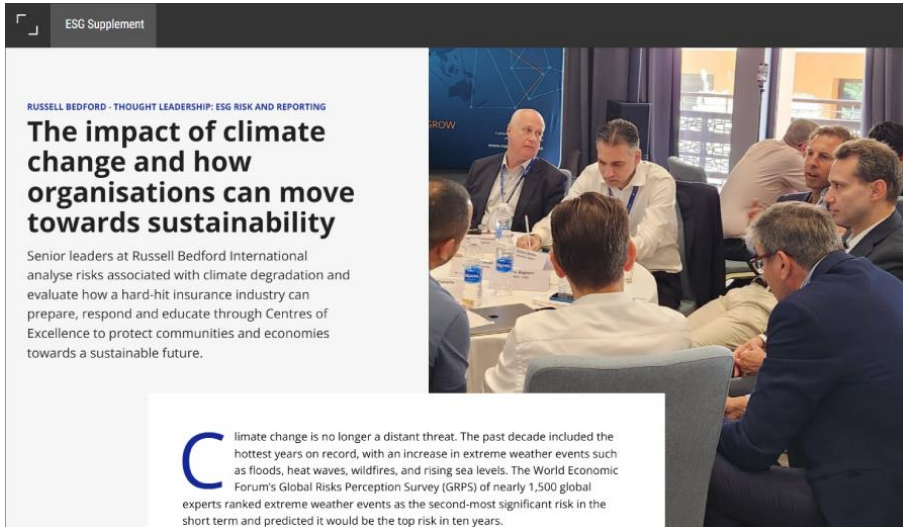
This recognition, published in the magazine 'La Profession Comptable', rewards the most dynamic and innovative companies in the sector.

## Russell Bedford Featured in International Accounting Bulletin's ESG 2024 Supplement



Russell Bedford International is proud to be featured in the International Accounting Bulletin's ESG 2024 supplement, highlighting the pressing impact of climate change.

Our [main article](#) explores the significant social, environmental, and economic challenges posed by climate change, and how organisations are adopting sustainable practices as business risks like natural disasters continue to grow. Industries such as insurance are particularly affected and are responding by integrating climate risks into their strategies and investing in sustainable solutions.



ESG Supplement

RUSSELL BEDFORD - THOUGHT LEADERSHIP: ESG RISK AND REPORTING

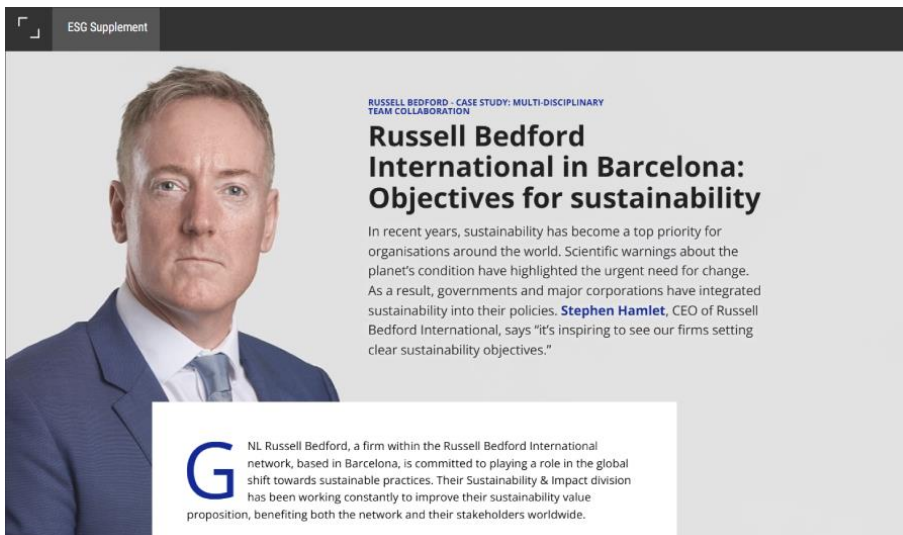
## The impact of climate change and how organisations can move towards sustainability

Senior leaders at Russell Bedford International analyse risks associated with climate degradation and evaluate how a hard-hit insurance industry can prepare, respond and educate through Centres of Excellence to protect communities and economies towards a sustainable future.

Climate change is no longer a distant threat. The past decade included the hottest years on record, with an increase in extreme weather events such as floods, heat waves, wildfires, and rising sea levels. The World Economic Forum's Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS) of nearly 1,500 global experts ranked extreme weather events as the second-most significant risk in the short term and predicted it would be the top risk in ten years.

The image shows a group of men in business attire sitting around a conference table, engaged in a discussion. A large blue 'C' is used as a decorative element for the start of the paragraph.

Russell Bedford International emphasises the importance of collaboration and setting clear sustainability goals. We encourage firms to incorporate sustainability into their core business strategies. Our [case study](#) featuring GNL Russell Bedford in Barcelona illustrates how businesses can work towards positive social impact through leadership, transparency, and a dedication to sustainability.



ESG Supplement

RUSSELL BEDFORD - CASE STUDY: MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM COLLABORATION

## Russell Bedford International in Barcelona: Objectives for sustainability

In recent years, sustainability has become a top priority for organisations around the world. Scientific warnings about the planet's condition have highlighted the urgent need for change. As a result, governments and major corporations have integrated sustainability into their policies. **Stephen Hamlet**, CEO of Russell Bedford International, says "it's inspiring to see our firms setting clear sustainability objectives."

GNL Russell Bedford, a firm within the Russell Bedford International network, based in Barcelona, is committed to playing a role in the global shift towards sustainable practices. Their Sustainability & Impact division has been working constantly to improve their sustainability value proposition, benefiting both the network and their stakeholders worldwide.

The image features a portrait of Stephen Hamlet, CEO of Russell Bedford International, on the left side of the article.

Read our main article and case study in the International Accounting Bulletin's [ESG 2024 supplement](#).



## Taking you further day 2024



Our annual *taking you further day* will be held on the **3 December 2024**. In the run up to the day, we encourage our firms to participate in a charitable or a team building activity that reinforces our core values of connectivity, collaboration, positive impact, and excellence.

On **Tuesday 3 December at 3pm (GMT)**, we will gather for a virtual party where members will be able to showcase their team activities. For those who wish to present their team activities, please send a **3 minute** video or presentation to [hira.asghar@russellbedford.com](mailto:hira.asghar@russellbedford.com) by **2 December 2024**.

Register for the virtual party and view the agenda [here](#).

## GNL Russell Bedford's 8th 'Just in the Place' golf tournament



GNL Russell Bedford held its VIII Just in the Place, an annual golf tournament that goes beyond sport. Each year, this event strengthens the relationship with its clients and inspires them to continue growing together in an atmosphere of partnership and collaboration.

## Webinar Recordings

Thank you to those who attended our recent webinars. We hope you found them useful.

For members who were unable to attend, please see the links below where you will be able to access the recording for each webinar.

[IFRS Common Disclosure Problems](#)

[LinkedIn Tips and Tricks to Broaden Your Network](#)

[Being a Successful Partner or Sole Practitioner](#)

## Forthcoming conferences

For further details about upcoming Russell Bedford conferences and to register, please visit the Events page on the intranet.



### Young Partners and Managers Conference

The 2024 Russell Bedford Young Partners & Managers Conference will be held on 25 - 26 November in Naples, Italy. Please visit our members [Events Page](#) on the Intranet for details.



### North America Conference

The 2025 Russell Bedford North America Conference will be held in January in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Please visit our members [Events Page](#) on the Intranet for details.

## Russell Bedford - key facts and figures

- **More than 40 years** of global service
- **Top 20** global accounting network
- **USD 835 million** global fee income
- **1000 partners** and over **9,900 staff**
- Some **375 offices** in more than **110 countries**

For previous editions of Network News, visit our [Network News](#) webpage.