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ARABIA
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AWARDS

**Press Launch of the
The Arabia CSR &
Sustainability Awards**

22nd January 2024

الشبكة العربية للمسؤولية
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Arabia CSR Network®

**Sustainability
Reporting Training**

Date: 25th - 26th January 2024

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**MATERIALITY MAPPING
WORKSHOP**

29th January 2024

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Note from the President & CEO Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Greetings valued readers and well wishers,

Let me start this newsletter by wishing you a very prosperous, fruitful, bright and sustainable year ahead. We just bid a grand farewell to the tumultuous year, a year filled with great progress in sustainable development but with many challenges as well. The year where COP 28 brought together thousands of entities from the private and public sectors into the United Arab Emirates to take one more leap towards a greener future.

With the outcomes of the COP shining and radiating across the globe, one can truly say that this COP was an inclusive COP. With 84,000 registered attendees, comprising entities from the private sector, public sector, civil society, indigenous societies, academia, activists, and youth, this COP became the biggest and most attended COP in the entire history of climate conferences. The sheer number of voices and opinions of a global community shining through the fabric of sustainable actions was heard by all. A COP that brought about networking opportunities, connecting like-minded stakeholders, changing people's views, and moreover, an opportunity to change for the better. ACSRN, as an entity that pioneered and continues to hone sustainable change in the entities in the region for the last two decades, this event showcased to the broader world that the region is ready and will continue to foster sustainable solutions and practices. This is the aim with which ACSRN was founded: to empower organisations, mobilise them on the right track, and make commitments.

The year 2023 has been a fruitful year here at Arabia CSR Network. Looking back at the last 12 months, the actions undertaken by ACSRN greatly contributed to the CSR landscape. December was not a typical quiet winter month for us here at the network; it was rather bustling with activities. As a leading CSR platform in the region, we were very active at COP 28. CSR and the role of the private sector are becoming more relevant and imperative on the global stage. In my capacity, I attended several discussions, seminars, dialogues, and presentations. On every single day at COP, the presence of ACSRN was welcomed.

With such a massive COP also came countless questions from the public and the media. To address these issues and explain to the general public what was happening during COP and

post, I was interviewed by several TV stations. To share a few, I shared with Al Dhafrah TV insights from COP28 negotiations and commitments addressing global readiness for clean energy alternatives. With Al Mashhad TV, I shared an overview of COP28 outcomes, focusing on renewable energy pledges and climate finance frameworks. The role of a platform like ACSRN is not only to train people but also to spread information on the progress of CSR and sustainable actions.

While this is true, another aspect is to ensure that organisations and entities from all sectors of society are given the opportunity to participate in CSR activities. Activities that unite people and drive change. ACSRN was the proud CSR partner of Emirates Environmental Group's Clean UAE campaign. A massive campaign that brought together over 68,000 participants from all sectors of society in the country: people from all backgrounds, age groups, and nationalities. Coinciding and happening simultaneously with COP 28, perhaps this was an event that garnered the second most participants after COP. This was no easy feat, as hundreds of corporations and government entities participated, levelled up their CSR action, and built the capacity of all their employees, even those who do not directly deal with sustainability. This is how you can make a change for the better.

While the "Year of Sustainability" might have passed, the actions taken and the message it held should not be forgotten. In 2024, celebrating our two decade anniversary, ACSRN will continue to bring in more entities into its loop to widen the network's reach in the region. The month of January brings more opportunities, with two holistic CSR training courses available at your fingertips, and the prospect of showcasing your CSR actions will commence at the press launch of Arabia CSR Awards.

Let us collectively make sure that the visions and outcomes of all sustainable events that occurred in the past year and the progress of new projects launched in earlier years continue to grow and that the Arab region sets itself as a beacon of CSR and sustainability in the coming years. As the world aims to curb the effects of climate change and reach net zero in the coming decades, Arabia CSR Network will continue to play a vital role in making such goals a reality. With this, I conclude with the optimism that 2024 will bring in more opportunities for sustainable growth, and we can take the collective steps forward for positive and sustainable change.





ACSRN News

ACSRN President Attends UAE National Day Celebration at Expo 2023 in Doha, Qatar

The ACSRN Founder & President was honoured to be invited by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs to join a delegation headed by H.E. Noura Al Kaabi –Minister of State for the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs to attend the UAE National Day festivities at Expo 2023 in Doha, Qatar. The prestigious event, hosted at the UAE Pavilion on **December 2nd 2023**, UAE's Union Day, showcased a compelling theme: "Legacy or Impact."



She was warmly welcomed to the official programme as one of the "dreamers". The Dreamers, a visionary group of 12 individuals from the UAE, their stories were each showcased on a full board mentioning their impactful contributions, embodying the spirit of achievement and innovation. Their stories illuminate the UAE's commitment to environmental stewardship, agricultural legacy, and sustainable initiatives. These Dreamers exemplify the nation's dedication to building a resilient and sustainable future for all in six engaging segments. The events commenced with a touching flag-raising ceremony and the national anthems of both the United Arab Emirates and State of Qatar. The UAE Pavilion, a testament to the nation's rich agricultural heritage, became the focal point of the celebration.

A tour through the pavilion provided a comprehensive experience, from historical agricultural practices to visionary sustainability initiatives, and resonated with attendees who engaged in meaningful conversations on the essence of UAE's commitment to sustainability.

The event's agenda included a visit to the Qatar Pavilion, fostering collaboration and cultural exchange between the two nations. The festivities concluded with a reception at Expo House, marking the UAE's 52nd Union Day. The UAE National Day celebration at Expo 2023 in Doha, Qatar stands as a testament to the nation's enduring legacy and its impact on the global stage.

Arabia CSR Network Joins COP28 Side Event Showcasing UAE's Net Zero Strategy 2050

ACSRN Founder & President attended a COP28 side event at the invitation of the Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment, "The UAE Net Zero Strategy 2050". The event, held at Expo City Dubai in the UAE Pavilion on **3rd December**, unveiled the UAE's ambitious roadmap toward achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

The UAE Net Zero Strategy 2050 builds upon the pioneering UAE Net Zero by 2050 initiative, aligning with the Paris Agreement's call for long-term strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The session examined the strategy's details, discussing mechanisms, timelines and the national drive to transition to net-zero emissions.

ACSRN at COP28 Round Table Dialogue on Climate Leadership

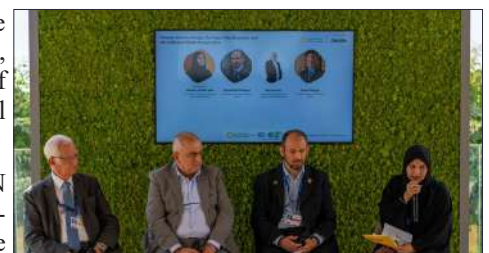
In a distinguished gathering at COP28, ACSRN Founder & President participated in a by invitation only round table dialogue session titled "Designing Capable Governments and Cities Climate Leadership Group 40." Hosted by the Minister of State for Government Development and The Future, in collaboration with, the Bezos Land Fund. The event, held on December 3rd, emphasised the critical role of governments in addressing climate change challenges.

ACSRN President engaged with experts and global representatives, sharing insights and experiences in developing green skills and fostering flexible governments prepared to navigate the complexities of climate change.

Expo City Forum Explores Human-Centric Design

At the Expo City event on **4th December**, ACSRN Founder & President delivered invaluable perspectives during a panel discussion on "Human-Centric Design, the Expo City Example, the UAE, and the MENA Perspective." Leveraging her role as Co-Founder and Treasurer of the Emirates Green Building Council, she brought a wealth of expertise in environmental sustainability, architecture, and building management to the discourse.

Centring on Expo City Dubai as a paragon of sustainable urban development, ACSRN President elucidated the city's noteworthy achievements in sustainable practices, community engagement, and environmental preservation. Her astute observations underscored the





ACSRN News

pivotal role of expo cities as experimental grounds for refining design approaches, emphasising the commitment to sustainability in urban planning. Furthermore, she navigated the intricate intersection of such principles with the diverse cultural tapestry of the MENA region within the realm of human-centric design.

The panels' contributions enriched a broader dialogue on crafting resilient, inclusive, and sustainable urban landscapes. It provided a nexus for discussing actionable steps toward integrated urban sustainability. An eclectic audience comprising academia, business luminaries, and students gleaned profound insights from this engrossing conversation, furthering the discourse on fostering urban spaces that are sustainable and socially and environmentally resilient.

ACSRN President Advocates Sustainable Finance Strategies at SDG Investment Forum

ACSRN Founder & President – a board member of the GISD Alliance joined the 'SDG Investment Forum' during COP28, hosted at Nasdaq Dubai on 5th December. The Forum was co-organised by the UN Global Compact, Dubai Financial Markets, UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative and GISD Alliance, it aimed at exploring the vital contributions of CFOs, investors, and exchangers in addressing the pressing challenges of climate crisis.

ACSRN president participated in the thought-provoking panel discussion, "Linking Climate Targets, Investments, and Financing." Her insights explored the intricate connections between financial strategies and sustainable practices. Providing practical perspectives, she emphasised the importance of aligning climate goals with investment decisions, stressing the need for proactive measures. The discussion explored the challenges faced by CFOs and investors and highlighted ACSRN President's views on organisational responsibilities in achieving meaningful climate transitions. Her nuanced responses to pivotal questions underscored the imperative for responsible financial approaches amid the global climate crisis, inspiring attendees to consider actionable steps toward a sustainable future.

ACSRN Founder & President Featured on DW TV: Addressing Climate Change Challenges

Arabia CSR Network Founder & president joined the Jaafar Talk programme, hosted by Al Aan TV. The episode, shot on **December 6th** focused on critical issues related to climate change and its impact on the Arab region. The interview explored topics ranging from youth awareness initiatives to the transition to sustainable energies.



In a half-hour discussion, she provided insights into the efforts on the ground in addressing sustainability challenges. The interview shed light on projects and activities that she oversees in all the entities that she runs, offering a perspective on the organisation's contributions to environmental and CSR preservation. The conversation covered pressing issues like achieving the Paris Agreement goals, combating water scarcity and pollution, and supporting vulnerable nations affected by environmental hazards. She emphasised the need for collaborative efforts to face climate change, contributing meaningfully to on-going COP28 discussions.

ACSRN President Unveils Insights and Results from COP28 Negotiations and Commitments with Al Dhafra TV

ACSRN Founder & President provided insights into the commitments of negotiating countries post COP 28 and the trajectory for achieving carbon neutrality, in an online interview with Al Dhafrah TV on **12th December** whereby she probed into the aftermath of the international negotiations. The interview contemplated whether countries globally are prepared to relinquish their reliance on fossil fuels and pivot decisively towards clean energy alternatives.

The discussion extended to the opportunities that lie ahead for developing nations striving to transition into more sustainable and resilient economies. ACSRN President shared a vision where climate action becomes a catalyst for economic development and prosperity.

On **11th December** the initial draft of the Global Stocktake Outcomes from COP 28 was unveiled. The report, a culmination of exhaustive discussions, revealed several key points, emphasising the urgent need for global action and support to maintain the 1.5°C target. The report acknowledged both progress and gaps in mitigating climate change and underscored the critical role of transparency and the need for deep, sustained emissions' reduction efforts. The financial commitments stemming from COP 28 were particularly noteworthy, with over \$83 billion mobilised in the initial five days. Declarations on food systems, health, renewable energy, and initiatives to decarbonise industries showcased unprecedented global cooperation. These milestones signal a collective endeavour toward a sustainable future. As we absorb the implications of COP 28, ACSRN remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting global sustainability initiatives and CSR actions, contributing to positive change, and fostering a greener world.





ACSRN News

ACSRN President takes us through details of COP 28 in an Interview with Al Mashhad TV

In a recent exclusive interview with Al Mashhad TV, ACSRN Founder & President shared profound insights into the paradigm-shifting outcomes of COP 28, a landmark summit where global leaders converged to confront the urgent challenges posed by climate change. The COP 28 Presidency, guided by a strategic vision, articulated four pivotal pillars essential for ushering in a sustainable future: expediting a just energy transition, rectifying climate finance, centring efforts on the well-being of people, and fortifying these principles with comprehensive inclusivity.

COP 28 yielded transformative results, notably the ground-breaking Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge, a bold initiative targeting a tripling of the world's renewable energy capacity. Complementary accomplishments, such as the Global Cooling Pledge, Oil and Gas Decarbonisation Charter, and the commitment to triple nuclear energy, highlight a commitment to diverse and resilient sustainable practices. Under the finance pillar, 13 national governments endorsed the UAE Leaders' Declaration on a Global Climate Finance Framework, emphasising the need for financial support in climate action. The focus on people, lives, and livelihoods was evident in endorsements such as the COP 28 UAE Declaration on Climate Relief, Recovery, and Peace, as well as the UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture. Full inclusivity remained a cornerstone, with initiatives like the Youth Stocktake, Gender-Responsive Just Transitions Partnership, and the Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative. With over 170 impactful announcements, COP 28 galvanised a unified global effort toward a sustainable future.

ACSRN President Explores Environmental Advocacy, Challenges, and Sustainable Initiatives in Al Aan TV Interview

In a befitting interview to conclude the year, ACSRN President joined Al Aan TV on **December 28**, shedding light on her commitment to environmental causes. The discussion explored her early interest in environmental issues, recognising her as the first Emirati woman to champion such concerns. The conversation covered her upbringing and the role it played in shaping her core values, challenges faced by women in the environmental space, the impact of campaigns like EEG's "Clean UAE," and the UAE's active role at COP28. The interview also researched the pivotal contribution of clean and renewable energy, specifically solar power, in the global fight against climate change.

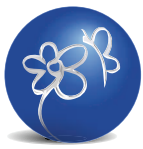
Clean UAE 2023: A Community Success Story with ACSRN as CSR Partner

Marking the conclusion of its 22nd cycle, the renowned national environmental initiative, formerly recognised as 'Clean Up UAE' and rebranded as 'Clean UAE' since 2022, stands as a beacon of sustainable practice. Over two decades, the campaign has successfully embedded eco-conscious habits in the UAE populace. Under the patronage of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and acknowledged by the UAE cabinet as a national event, the 22nd cycle engaged 68,017 participants, including key officials. Spanning 7 Emirates and covering **36.5 km²** from **December 5th to 15th**, the campaign amassed a substantial collection of **36,900 kg** of waste, showcasing a collective commitment to a pristine environment. Participating volunteers displayed exceptional dedication, retrieving diverse items such as vehicle tires, rugs, disposables, broken glass, empty cans and many other waste materials. In collaboration with municipalities and relevant bodies in each Emirate, the collected waste underwent meticulous segregation for proper disposal, while recyclables were entrusted to EEG for processing at local recycling facilities. The 'Clean UAE' has emerged as a trailblazer, fostering collaboration among federal bodies, local governments, private enterprises, academia, and the general public, aligning with the goals of COP28. This success is attributed to the unwavering commitment of government entities and corporate partners.

Gratitude is extended to key entities, including the Municipality and Planning Department of Ajman, Fujairah National Resources Corporation, Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services, Sharjah Municipality, Dubai Municipality, Management of Saih Al Salam Protected Area, RAK Public Service Department, and the Abu Dhabi City Municipality. Special appreciation goes to the Main Sponsor McDonald's UAE, Co-Sponsors Abu Dhabi Terminals, Dubai Investments, Farnek, and Gulf International Bank, with an honourable mention to Support Sponsor CANPACK. ACSRN recognises the impactful contributions of Supporting Entities Al Ain Water, Almarai, Aster DM Healthcare, Byrne Equipment Rental, Fujairah Plastic Factories, Golden Loaf, and Golden Spike.

Heartfelt thanks are also extended to the Media Partner Gulf News whose unwavering support has played a pivotal role in ensuring the resounding success of the "Clean UAE" Campaign over the years.





ACSRN News

Arabia CSR Awards 17th Cycle Press Launch

Commenced in 2008, the Arabia CSR AWARDS (ACSRA), colloquially embraced by the entities in the Arab Region as the Green Oscars of the Middle East will be witness its 17th cycle in the year 2024. This award, which was envisioned, developed and grown all within the MENA region is externally verified by one of the world's most reputed provider of business assurance, DNV. The credibility of the awards was earned due to its competitive and comprehensive and holistic approach, by injecting international frameworks and principles. The UN Global Compact Ten Principles, the GRI standards framework, the EFQM business excellence model, the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance requirements, are among the type of such principles added into the awards model which garnered it a respectable and recognised position in the region.



The objective of the Awards has been clearly defined, to promote and discover the latest international CSR and sustainability developments, trends and standards taking place in the Arab world. In eventuality, the Awards have consistently over the past 16 years, recognised and honoured numerous organisations and corporations representing diverse sectors in the Arab region that demonstrate outstanding leadership and commitment to Corporate Sustainability. The official Press Launch of the 17th cycle of Arabia CSR Awards will be organised by the Arabia CSR Network on Monday - **January 22, 2024**, at the Atlantis the Palm. The event calls upon all the past and potential applicants of the Arabia CSR Awards as well as members of the media to join and discuss the latest in that sphere. The complete outline of the methodology, the categories and useful tips and hints on submitting a successful application will also be discussed at the launch.

Trainings & Workshops in January

Since its inception in 2004, the Arabia CSR Network, the 1st multi-stakeholder CSR and sustainability platform in the region and the foremost leading knowledge and training center in the region. We continue to be committed to engage small and large businesses and government institutions to leverage sustainable development practices.

The Network has been consistently achieving milestones to make CSR and sustainability reporting a standard practices for all companies and organisations. As part of empowering the private and public sectors of the region, ACSRN offers several training courses throughout the year. In the month of January, ACSRN will be conducting 2 training courses.

Sustainability Reporting Training

Thursday 25th to Friday 26th January 2024



Materiality Mapping Workshop

29th January 2024



The Sustainability Reporting training is a very efficient mode of gaining comprehensive knowledge about sustainability and reporting. It helps to clear up common misconceptions about what Sustainability means in addition to understanding how sustainable practices benefit an organisation.

The Sustainability Reporting course covered linkages with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and focused on the essential components of the sustainability reporting process from start to finish. Materiality is the cornerstone of a successful sustainability strategy. Material issues are those that are most important to stakeholders and can affect stakeholders' decisions regarding an organisation; therefore, they are intrinsically linked to long term success. The workshop will be highly effective in building the requisite capacity for CSR/ Sustainability strategy formulation and sustainability reporting.





Member News

Tristar Transport

Tristar is a fully integrated energy logistics business serving the downstream oil and gas industry. Founded in 1998 in Dubai, UAE, Tristar has a global presence in 29 countries across Europe, Africa, Asia, Middle East, the Pacific, and the Americas. Tristar has grown into a global supply chain services leader providing an integrated logistics offering to the energy industry. Concurrently, with a proven track record of safety performance and service excellence, Tristar is a partner of choice for most international oil majors.

Tristar has four business verticals:

1. Road Transport and Warehousing - dealing in surface transport, transportation of cryogenics and gases, and chemical and dangerous goods storage.
2. Maritime Logistics - owns and operates more than 30 chemical, oil and gas tankers as well as bulk carriers transporting clean petroleum products, LNG, LPG, dry bulk commodities, coastal bunkering, river transport, and port and agency services.
3. Fuels - Remote and Commercial - uninterrupted fuel supply to the peace keeping forces, fuel storage facilities, into-plane refuelling, and operating retail fuel stations in East Africa
4. Fuel Farms - owns and operates fuel storage facilities in Guam, Haiti, Africa and the UAE.



A long track record of success for the last 25 years, Tristar is a company which operates not just for profit but also for purpose. An established Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) framework has helped create a positive impact on communities and the environment.

Feature Article

How Mena is moving to sustainable construction

Article written By Valentina Pasquali

The year is 2065 and humans are living in space, in villas of celestial materials mined from asteroids and equipped with infinity pools. Far-fetched? Perhaps, but this model was one of dozens featured last month in an exhibition on the past, present and future of sustainable design in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena). The exhibition spotlighted how existing and planned projects in the region heed to their surroundings. Examples included Expo 2020 buildings in Dubai, Masdar City in Abu Dhabi, a ‘probiotic’ tower in Cairo, and the metro in Qatar’s capital of Doha. Andy Shaw, chair of the Royal Institute of British Architects’ Gulf chapter, which organised the event with Dubai Design District, says discussions about eco-friendly construction were high on the agenda. Sustainable construction remains expensive, Shaw says, but given the pace of technological progress, he believes that what are now cutting-edge materials and techniques could become adopted more widely in the region within a decade. Examples of efforts in the region include research on low carbon concrete, exploring the use of 3D printing and green steel, and various projects using prefabricated construction techniques. “There needs to be a bit of a leap in technology to make things truly sustainable, but there is a clear trajectory and a strong will to get there,” Shaw says.

Super-High Emissions

The global built environment – our cities and their infrastructure – produces nearly 40 percent of CO2 emissions, according to a November report by PWC’s Strategy& and independent consultancy Dar. Countries in Mena plan to pour some \$2 trillion into new development over the next 12 years, including Neom in Saudi Arabia and DP World and Emaar Properties’ Mina Rashid port redevelopment in Dubai. The Strategy& report estimates that adopting sustainable approaches to such construction has the potential to decrease its life-cycle emissions by 50-60 percent. This would secure more than half the emission cuts these countries need to meet their targets to become net zero by 2050 or 2060. Photovoltaics, artificial intelligence and other technologies necessary for this revolution exist and are deployable at scale in the short term, according to Strategy&. Others, like emission-reduction technologies for steel and concrete, will take more time.

Very Ambitious Pledges

Mena is under special pressure to decarbonise its construction industry after hosting two back-to-back Cop conferences, in Egypt last year and Cop28 in Dubai, says Amr Nader, the chief executive of Dubai cement advisory company A³&Co.

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Best Practices 2022 From The Archives Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) Winner - Large Business Category

A Brief about the Organisation

GPIC is a leading joint venture owned by the Oil and Gas Holding Co. of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), State of Kuwait. GPIC manufactures fertilisers and petrochemicals such as Ammonia, Methanol and Urea. GPIC is committed to safe, ethical and environmentally sound management of the petrochemicals and fertilisers it manufactures and exports.

GPIC is a major manufacturer in the Kingdom of Bahrain and is a proactive stakeholder in the region. GPIC's activities include natural gas purchases, empowering Bahraini nationals through training and employment, utilising local contractors and suppliers, energy consumption, and other financial, commercial, environmental, and social activities as part of their core operations in the Kingdom.

Conclusion & Lessons Learnt

Innovation and originality are essential to a company's ability to succeed. Partnerships and collaboration is the key to achieving sustainability. By putting many integrated international management standards into practice, GPIC has been able to systematically control the environmental impacts generated by the company's operations.

When formulating the sustainability strategy, it is important to ensure seamless integration between the interests of stakeholders, significant environmental problems, and the core business.

Difficulties and challenges faced by the company across all categories can be effectively addressed and resolved by stimulating and boosting employee innovation.

The GPIC's strategy is in line with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, the UNGC's 10 guiding principles, and the 17 SDGs. In 2018, GPIC's Corporate Strategic Plan 2030 (CSP 2030) was revised to highlight the prospects for future growth and the Company's strategy in line with global trends and opportunities, as well as to ensure that the GPIC 2030 plan is implemented.

In order to guarantee their strong compliance methods, GPIC also has extensive governance and code of ethics procedures in place. For the entire organisation, they have established specific environmental, social, and governance goals. ESG goals are part of the company's objectives, and the same are distributed to the departments. The corporate and departmental Sustainability Goals, targets, and indicators are divided into 5 categories: security, safety & health, corporate social responsibility, business excellence, economic sustainability and learning & growth.

On the environmental front, GPIC has objectives/tangible targets for recycling, cutting down on paper usage, LED lighting, energy efficiency, cutting back on greenhouse gas emissions, cutting back on water use, etc.

Their social objectives cover issues such as training hours, Bahrainisation and Retention targets, environmental research and innovation programmes and community outreach for environmental literacy.

