Report on SDG17

Partnerships For The Goals

GUST

2022

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Introduction

Internationally it has been discussed that it is necessary that there are changes to ensure a future for all people, therefore a global action plan was made with the purpose of improving the conditions of people and the planet seeking the prosperity of the entire world population, thus the 2030 agenda that proposes for all governments of the world 17 objectives with which to improve food, humanitarian, social and environmental conditions in the world, all this to reach a sustainable society in a period of time of 15 years.

The agenda aims to create a safe and adequate world for future generations, universal food coverage, education, equality, and a clean and prosperous environment, this long-term goal was determined by 193 countries in September 2015, the interconnections and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the 2030 Agenda is respected. If we achieve it, everyone's lives will be profoundly improved and our world will change for the better.

In adopting it, states committed to mobilize the means necessary for its implementation through partnerships with a special focus on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. The 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda were developed during more than two years of public consultations, interaction with civil society and negotiations between countries. The Agenda implies a common and universal commitment, however, as each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development, states have full sovereignty over their wealth, resources and economic activity, and each will set their own national targets in line with the Agenda.

Goal 10 is directly related to reducing inequalities and ensuring equal opportunities irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status among countries to achieve social welfare worldwide.

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) thrives towards achieving goal 10 as a part of the Kuwait Society by applying anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies for staff and students, treating its students, staff and faculty equally and that includes the Bedoon (without nationality) who are stateless people that are found in several Middle Eastern countries, particularly in Kuwait to ensure there is no gender inequality nor income gap, and providing accessible facilities, support services, and access schemes for people with disabilities.

SDG17: Partnerships For The Goals

The high ambition of the SDGs revolves around strong global cooperation and partnerships.

Inclusive partnerships are necessary for a successful sustainability agenda. These partnerships built on principles and values, a shared vision and common goals that put people and planet at the center are needed at global, regional, national and local levels.

Many countries need official development assistance to support their growth and trade. However, aid flows are declining and many donor countries are not meeting their development funding commitments.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy is expected to experience a sharp contraction of 3% in 2020, its worst recession since the Great Depression.

Strong international cooperation is needed more than ever to ensure that all countries have the means to recover from the pandemic, build back better and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Publish progress against SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. GUST doing different collaborations, offering these courses that give knowledge in the fields to students, staff and the general public.

GUST Holds Student-Led Conference on "Increasing Student Motivation and Engagement in Online Courses"

Gulf University for Science and Technology's Department of Education held its third student-led conference this week which was titled "Increasing Student Motivation and Engagement in Online Courses". The event brought together in service and pre-service GUST Education students and alumni members to discuss student motivation and engagement in online courses. The conference, which took place from the 4th to the 6th of January, was held on the Microsoft Teams platform and hosted nine webinars tackling different topics.

The online conference focused on the key considerations needed to ensure an engaging and motivational learning environment when teaching in nontraditional online classes. While online teaching and learning is based in the same solid principles of face-to-face teaching, it requires additional considerations when it comes to increasing student motivation and engagement. Teachers need to tailor a particular nature of content delivery, learning activities, and assessments.

The virtual conference, which was kicked off with a welcoming speech by Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology at GUST Dr. Florentina Halimi, included nine webinars covering several different topics on the matterm, all given by GUST students and alumni. Participating lecturers presented their ideas and various teaching strategies that utilize technology to support student learning, and presented some teacher instructional methods and techniques for online classes. These webinars included subjects such as 'Strategies to Increase Student Engagement in Middle and High School Online Learning' by Leila Farhat and Shahed Almatawha, 'Using Apps to Enhance Distance Learning' by Naser Shahada and Mohammad AlShakhas. 'Boosting Student Participation Online with Collaborative Activities' by Aishah AlMekhaizeem and Maryam Metaeb, 'Tools for Online Learning & Strategies for Student Engagement' by Malak Khalaf, 'Using Imaginary Ball Teaching Strategy in Online Classes to Do More than Gamify a Lesson' by Yara Zukari, and 'Interactive E-Learning Web Apps for Online Classroom' by Athoub Aldhufiri.

The conference successfully showcased the latest and most interesting findings in online teaching and learning, and gave an opportunity for GUST members to share their management approaches, pedagogy, and best practices. It also presented a great opportunity for current GUST students to develope connections in the field by networking with experienced alumni members, further aiding in the development of educational innovation through increased communications and advocacy.

GUST Instructors Present at ELearning & EFLTalks Online Workshop

GUST Math Foundation Program Unit (MFU) Instructors, Shiny Verghese, Waila Al-Essawi and Anwar Al-Zayer, presented at the online event 'EFLTalks: Improving Student's performance in the MENA Region', which took place earlier this month. The event was done in a collaboration between ELearning MENA and EFLTalks.

The webinar focused on strategies and best practices to improve student performance in the classroom, and specifically with students in the MENA region.

Shiny Verghese shed light on a variety of different team-based learning using technology which could encourage students to be more engaged in the material they are learning in class.
Anwar Al-Zayer discussed the rise of PADLET, and the pros and cons of using it in the classroom. GUST's participation ended with Waila Al-Essawi delving into Panopto lecture-capture and how instructors can use it to add value to their curriculum.

Our instructors' participation in the event allowed for the university to be represented in one of the most powerful ways – the quality of our faculty.

The event was organized in a collaboration between Elearning MENA and EFLTalks. ElearningMENA promotes a community in the MENA region by encouraging educators and students to integrate effective, emerging and electronic (3Es) learning skills in ALL fields. Run by volunteers ElearningMENA's activities include; monthly onsite and online professional development sessions, a venue for educational institutions/companies to showcase their technology-based resources and products, publish online publications periodically and expand E-learners networking through collaborations with other entities worldwide. While EFLtalks provides an opportunity for teachers to teach other teachers. It provides a lasting legacy of free, fast and engaging teacher development available anytime, anywhere, through 10-minute videos.

SEED Hosts First Seminar "Are we heading toward changes in water and electricity prices in Kuwait"

The Center for Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) hosted its first seminar of the 2021/22 academic year titled "Are we heading toward changes in water and electricity prices in Kuwait?". The two key speakers of the seminar were Instructor of Economics and Finance, Dr. Osama Al-Falah and Senior Analyst at Al-Khafji Joint Operations, Mr.

Mohammad Ramadhan, who tackled a various questions regarding Kuwait's economic future with water and electricity [3].

Both speakers tackled topics such as why should Kuwait increase its water and electricity prices and how does it compare geographically in the region? This seminar was organized in coordination with the Economics Club, as a part of their "Sustainability Week" shedding light on energy and sustainability.

GUST for SDGs specific researches on sustainability

- Yuan, Yufei, et al. "Dust events and indoor air quality in residential homes in Kuwait." *International journal of environmental research and public health* 17.7 (2020): 2433 [4].
- Dar, Muneer Ahmad, Aadil Askar, and Sameer Ahmad Bhat. "Blockchain based Secure Data Exchange between Cloud Networks and Smart Hand-held Devices for use in Smart Cities." *2022 International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Information and Communication (ICAIIC)*. IEEE, 2022 [5].

Education for SDGs specific courses on sustainability

Have dedicated courses (full degrees, or electives) that address sustainability and the SDGs.

Courses Related To SDGs

CAS = Collage of Arts and Sciences, CBA = Collage of Business Administration [6]

College	Course
CBA	ECON 101 Principles of Microeconomics Topics: Negative Externalities such as Pollution and Global Warming This course is an introduction to the determinants of household demand, production and cost, and market prices. The principles of individual decision-making behavior in relation to understanding goods, services, and resource markets will be examined.
CBA	ECON 102 Principles of Macroeconomics Topics: Growth and Issues of Sustainability This course is an introduction to the determination of levels of, and changes in, aggregate income, output, employment, and prices. Course material will cover economic principles of choice related to the formulation and achievement of public policies that affect national employment, income distribution, and economic growth.
CBA	ACCT 495 Special Topics in Accounting Topics: Sustainability and Environmental Accounting, Chapter 11 The course: (i) describes the commonly used guidelines for sustainability reporting and evaluate the corporate sustainability performance, (ii) outlines the range of stakeholders that can influence sustainable business practices and business can get engaged with these stakeholders, (iii) explains how entities can use environmental management systems to improve environmental performance and reporting, and (iv) evaluate the implications of climate change for accounting education and research.

CBA	ACCT 410: International Accounting and Multinational Enterprises Topics: Corporate Social Responsibility, Chapter 5 The course: (i) emphasizes the importance of reporting to "stakeholders": employees, customers, suppliers, governments, activist groups, the general public, in addition to investors, (ii) explains the measurement and communication of information about a company's effects on employee welfare, the local community, and the environment, and (iii) outlines the integrations of "Sustainability" reports with economic, social, and environmental performance – the so called "Triple Bottom Reporting" which addresses profits, people and planet.

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[2]   [Online] GUST Instructors Present at ELearning & EFLTalks Online Workshop
https://www.gust.edu.kw/event/gust_instructors_present_elearning_efltalks_online_workshop

[3]   [Online] Are we heading toward changes in water and electricity prices in Kuwait
https://www.gust.edu.kw/event/seed_hosts_first_seminar_202122_academic_year

[4]   [Online] Yuan, Yufei, et al. "Dust events and indoor air quality in residential homes in Kuwait." *International journal of environmental research and public health* 17.7 (2020): 2433
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[5]   [Online] Dar, Muneer Ahmad, Aadil Askar, and Sameer Ahmad Bhat. "Blockchain based Secure Data Exchange between Cloud Networks and Smart Hand-held Devices for use in Smart Cities." *2022 International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Information and Communication (ICAIIC)*. IEEE, 2022
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[6]   [Online] GUST Courses https://www.gust.edu.kw/prospective_student/undergraduate_programs