Gulf University Collaboration for SDG Best Practice

Overview
Gulf University (GU) actively engages in international collaborations aimed at reviewing, comparing, and developing best practice approaches to address the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These collaborations involve joint research, comparative benchmarking, international expert exchange, and participation in multi-country sustainable development platforms. GU applies the insights gained to enhance its own sustainability policies, community engagement frameworks, and SDG-aligned academic practices.

1. International Expert Participation & Comparative SDG Reviews
GU's Sustainability & Development Makers Center (SDM-C) organized Sustainability Week featuring speakers and experts from multiple countries. These sessions included comparative case studies on Circular Economy models, global approaches to Net-Zero campus planning, SDG pedagogy, biodiversity, and climate resilience. This enabled GU faculty and students to compare global SDG solutions and adapt them to Bahrain's context.

2. International University Collaborations for SDG Methodology Development
• University of Northampton (UK): Joint AI-based sustainability tools, environmental campaigns, and benchmarking of GU's SDG practices.
• Chechen State Pedagogical University (Russia): Academic exchange on SDG education, community engagement models, and curriculum alignment.

3. Collaboration with International Organizations
• United Nations SDG Collaboration Meeting (June 2024): Discussion of SDG data alignment, international benchmarking methods, and evidence-based SDG reporting.
• Participation in global sustainability forums, including Global Media Congress and international conferences on SDGs, gender, environment, and public policy.

4. Comparative Research & Innovation for SDG Solutions
GU's sustainability-driven research incorporates international benchmarking, including AI-based smart irrigation, AI-driven health analytics, and cross-border sustainability publications. These projects contribute to developing scalable global SDG models.

5. Institutional Best Practice Development
GU used insights from international partners to build sustainability frameworks, SDG-integrated curriculum models, carbon reduction initiatives, and partnership models that reflect international best practice.

Standard 6 – Education & Research *(Sustainability Report 2024-25; Page 7-8)*

Sustainability in Learning and Innovation

Sustainability is embedded across curricula and research, producing measurable social and environmental impact.

Academic Integration: 97 of 291 courses (33 %) address sustainability themes; all colleges participate.

Research Output: 39 sustainability publications by 31 faculty → 1.26 publications per researcher.

Graduates: 610 (2022–25), with 101 (16.56 %) in green employment (sustainability accounting, ESG analysis, environmental law, etc.).

ICT in Education: Cloud-based SIS, LMS, ERP, KOHA, and AI dashboards improve governance and reduce paper use by ≈ 45 %.

Coordination: SDM-C and CECEC manage all education, research, and community programs.

ImpactLevel: Very High (17 SDGs supported).

Linked SDGs: 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17.

Conclusion

Through international research partnerships, global benchmarking, and active SDG engagement, Gulf University contributes significantly to the development and dissemination of global best practice for sustainable development, supporting SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Reference:

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