

2019

GSO REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



هيئة التقييس

لدول مجلس التعاون دول الخليج العربية
GCC Standardization Organization



The letter of GSO President

Dear GSO Partners and Stakeholders,

The GCC Standardization Organization's (GSO)' team had great achievements in 2019 at the regional and international level that have enhanced its position as a regional standardization organization and strengthened its vital role in the international standardization community.

As an observer member in ISO, WTO (TBT, SPS), SMIIC, AIDMO and regularly attends the annual meetings of ISO, IEC, CODEX, OMIL, and many other regional standardization organizations such as CEN-CENELC, AIDMO, ARSO, GSO continuous its international cooperation and work closely with its partners around the world.

GSO has signed more than 50 MoUs and cooperation agreements with several national, regional, and International standardization organizations.

We continue working with our counterparts to explore opportunities for cooperation in order to implement the MoUs and operational programs through annual action plans.

In 2019, GSO signed 11 MoUs and Technical cooperation agreements, with ISO, IEC, ITU, UNIDO, CEN, CENELEC, ARSO, API, BSI, IEEE, and BSN.

GSO was chosen by CEN-CENELEC as one of five most priorities organizations worldwide for technical cooperation till 2022, beside Japan, China, India, and ARSO.

Joint workshops and seminars were organized for our partners and their stakeholders in many countries around the world to raise the awareness of GSO standards and technical regulations that facilitate the trade exchange between regions. Bilateral meetings, harmonization of standards and conformity assessment procedures, technical visits, exchange of information, experts, and best practices are remarkable achievements of this year, 2019.

We would like to thank our partners and participants for their engagements with us throughout this year, and we look forward to continuing our relationships with them in the next year and in the years to come.

Saud Bin Nasser Al-Khusaibi
GSO President

NEW

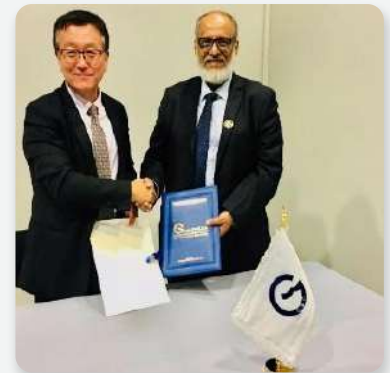
Cooperation Agreements signed in 2019

GSO signed several Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and cooperation agreements in 2019 to further our cooperation with International, regional, and National standardizations organizations.

These MoUs and agreements formalize our partnerships and establish key objectives and strategies, including sharing of knowledge, experience, best practices, and other mutual benefits to drive increased relevance and influence of standards throughout the world.

The following table includes the standardization organizations with which GSO signed MOUs in 2019:

#	Abbriv	Organization
01	ISO	The International Organization for Standardization
02	IEC	The International Electrotechnical Commission
03	ITU	The International Telecommunication Union
04	UNIDO	The United Nations Industrial Development Organization
05	CEN	The European Committee for Standardization
06	CENELEC	The European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
07	ARSO	The African Organization for Standardization
08	BSI	The British Standards Institution
09	API	The American Petroleum Institute
10	IEEE	The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
11	BSN	National Standardization Agency of Indonesia (Badan Standardisasi Nasional)



Highlights



The International Organization for Standardization

The first GSO-ISO signed Memorandum of Understanding MoU was applied until 30 September 2016, its first renewal was until 31 March 2019, and the second renewal was during the 42nd meeting of the ISO General Assembly (ISO Week), which was held in Cape Town from 16-20 September 2019. The term of the MoU is applied until 30 September 2022. It covers areas of cooperation including Access to Metadata, Access to ISO Standards (pdf and xml publications), identical Adoptions, Translating of ISO standards, documents, capacity building programs, exchange of information, mutual meeting.



The International Electrotechnical Commission

GSO signed a cooperation agreement with IEC on 09th October 2016 during the 80th IEC General Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, 10-14 October 2016. This agreement covers many areas of cooperation including the adoption and implementation of IEC International standards by the IEC members and Affiliates in the GSO member countries , access to IEC tools (EMS) and other IT tools, exchange of information at IEC central Office/ GSO Secretariat level , attending the annual IEC General meeting, GSO Technical Council meetings, and organizing joint events. The Regional Adoption Agreement was signed on 24 October 2019 between GSO and IEC during the 83rd IEC General Meeting held in China from 21-25 October 2019. It grants GSO a non-exclusive right to regionally adopt its Standards. Dialogue between IEC, GSO, and GSO Member States is at the final stage to sign an agreement that allows GSO to translate the IEC Standards into Arabic language.



The International Telecommunication Union

The Cooperation Agreement between GSO and ITU was signed on 18th September 2019 during the 42nd General meeting (ISO Week 2019) held in Cape Town, 16-21 September 2019. This agreements aims to promote the adoption and use of ITU standards (including, but not limited to ITU-T Recommendations) taking into account the requirements of the GSO Members and to support long term sustainable economic development, as well as facilitating world and regional trade and integration; and to exchange information on their respective standardization activities.



The United Nations Industrial Development Organization

The relationship agreement signed between GSO and UNIDO was on 14th March 2019. Both organizations have agreed to harmonizing their efforts towards greater effectiveness, as far as possible. By this agreement, UNIDO gives GSO the permission to participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the General Conference and the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO on matters of particular concern to it and the exchange of relevant information and documents. By this agreement, UNIDO funded a project of conducting a survey and workshops for GCC States to identify the challenges facing the SMEs in GCC in applying standards.



The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) & The European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC)

The first memorandum of Understanding between GSO and CEN was signed in 14th September 2006 and another MoU was signed between GSO and ESOs (CEN, CENELEC, and ETSI) in 29 Feb. 2012 to promote communication and mutual understanding of the roles of each organization in their respective regions, it includes adoption, translation, distribution of EN standards, the adoption of homegrown standards, capacity building programs, and technical cooperation between specific Technical Committees.

A framework Copyright Declaration was signed on 04th November 2019 for the review of CEN / CENELEC European Standards by GSO, and vice versa.



The African Organization for Standardization

A memorandum of Understanding was signed between GSO and ARSO on 19th June 2019 during the 25th ARSO General Assembly, Nairobi, Kenya, 19-21 June 2019. Both regional standardization organizations have agreed to promote communication and cooperation, exchange of experts and information about standardization and related activities, capacity Building, and coordinate at regional and international arenas. The main goal of this MoU is to facilitate and increase the level of trade exchange between the two regions.



BSI Group, The British Standards Institution

The MoU between GSO and BSI was signed on 23rd October 2019 during the 83rd IEC General Meeting held in China, 21-25 October 2019, China. Both parties have agreed to promote sharing of views and information and best practices in the areas of standardization activities, operations and programmes, and to work together in support of international standardization (ISO and IEC) and closely cooperate in identified areas to accelerate innovation through standardization in support of the growth of emerging industries. By implementing this MoU through the annual action plan, GSO and BSI Work together to develop and promote standards of mutual interest to both parties, including adopting BSI standards and organising conferences, seminars, talks, workshops, technical symposia and industry round table on subjects of mutual interest.





The American Petroleum Institute

GSO and API had a very deep discussions before coming to finalizing their MoU which was signed in Riyadh on 13th March 2019. The signature ceremony was in front of many US standardization organizations, namely: ANSI, ASME, ICC, ULLLC, ENME, and IAPMO, during their meeting with GSO to discuss the mutual cooperation, and in presence of US embassy in Riyadh.

Both parties have agreed on matters related to standardization, specifically API Standards, and conformity assessments in the oil and natural gas industry through adoption of API standards, Technical Committees cooperation, conducting joint forums, conferences, roundtables, workshops, and other similar activities.



The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

GSO signed an MoU with IEEE, is the world's largest engineering organization. The signature ceremony was organized during the visit of IEEE delegation to GSO head quarter in Riyadh on 29th October 2019.

By signature of this MoU, IEEE and GSO seek to promote communication and exchange of information between them, and to coordinate in regional and international arenas in relation to issues of common interests in the field of mutual interest and avoid duplication of work efforts where possible. It includes exchange of standards annual plan and participation in technical committees works. Also, it included the cooperation in term of capacity building and exchange of information and best practices. This MoU opens the door for adopting the IEEE's standards in the very near future once finalizing the copy right framework.



National Standardization Agency of Indonesia (Badan Standardisasi Nasional)

GSO and BSN have agreed to renew their first MoU which was signed on 02nd December 2014 opening the door to a new area of cooperation. The renewal signature ceremony followed the bilateral meeting held on 17th September 2019 during the ISO week 2019, Cape Town, 16-21 Sep. 2019. GSO and BSN have agreed to continue enhancing the economic cooperation between them through trade facilitation by eliminating the technical barriers to trade (TBT) in the area of standardization and its activities.



EVENTS

ISO

Visit of ISO president, Mr Walter, to the region

Muscat, 23-27 February 2019

Mr. Walter's visit agenda included, his meetings with HE Dr. Ali Alsunaidi, Minister of Commerce & Industry in Sultanate of Oman, DG of DGSM, the Chairman of Public Authority for SMEs and HE Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU). Presentations were delivered during this visit: Standard in Education for teachers and students of SQU, Standards and its role in supporting economy and protecting consumers for employees of Ministry of Commerce and industry and Public Establishment for Industrial Estates – Madayn.

Mr. Walter delivered a key-note speech in the opening of the 5th GCC Proficiency Testing Conference organized by GSO in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Sultanate of Oman and DGSM. More than 400 participants from different organizations. The DG of NSBs, presidents and chairs of international and regional standardization organizations, such as, GAC, AFRAC, GulfMet, NABL, ASTM International, GPCA. Experts from GSO, CEN-CENELEC, SASO, ESMA, KAN, QCC, Aramco, SABIC, ENOC, Bapco, KNPC, Orpic, Pertamina, Chair (ISO TC 69, and Chair CEN TC 19.



ISO POCOSA 2017

Bahrain, 17-19 June 2019

GSO and ISO organized jointly the ISO POCOSA 2017 & Benefits of XML in Standards Publishing- ISO/GSO workshop. The workshop was attended by GSO Member States and delivered by Mr. Nicolas fleury, ISO deputy secretary - general and Mr. Stéphane Châtelet, Director, Information Technology Services (ITS). A side bilateral meeting was held between ISO delegation and GSO delegation discussed the IT cooperation between two organizations.



Chair, ISO Committee TC 283 visits GSO

Riyadh, 26 June 2019

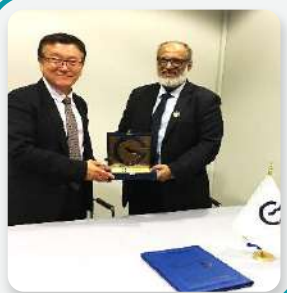
GSO received at its head quarter in Riyadh Mr. Martin Cottam, Chair, ISO Committee TC 283 – Occupational Health & Safety Management. Discussion included cooperation to organized joint workshops in GCC region to raise the awareness of ISO 45001 Occupational health and safety, including train for trainers' programs (ToT). GSO has been invited to participated in ISO TC 283 activities and to encourage GSO Members to enhance their participation in TC 283.



ISO Week 2019

Cape Town, South Africa, 16-21 September 2019

GSO participated in the 42nd ISO General Assembly 2019 and the 53rd ISO Committee on Developing Countries Matters (DEVCO) meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, 16-21 September 2019. During the week, the GSO team signed six collaboration and license agreements and annual action plans with partner organizations; and several bilateral meetings were held with GSO partners including, ITU, CEN-CENELEC, ASTM International, BSN, Malaysian Standards, ANSI, UL LLC, and SADCSTAN.





Task force-Gulf has been formed to enhance this strategic cooperation.

Many virtual meetings of TF-Gulf were organized beside the in-person meetings for the high-level decision makers in both sides in 2019.

GSO's participation in the BRIDGIT Conference, Boosting Innovation through standards 13 November 2019, Brussels Holding meetings with standards specialists in CEN-CENELEC taking an advantage of this visit to exchange information and ideas of future cooperation between two sides either at the CEN and CENELEC Annual Meeting 2019, Bucharest, Romania - 6 June 2019 or during the ISO Week 2019, Cape Town, South Africa in which both organizations signed the copy right license agreements to access both standards.

The CEN-CENELEC and GSO joint-workshop was organized in Kuwait , 09-11 September 2019 about "Vienna and Frankfurt agreements" delivered by high level representatives of both sides and attended by GSO Member States to reach a similar type of agreement between GSO and ISO/IEC.

A joint meeting was held with Toy Industries of Europe (TIE) (06 Nov. 2019, Riyadh) in the presence of representatives of the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) to discuss ways of technical cooperation in order to implement the Gulf technical regulations for children's toys.

The chair of CEN/TC 19 (European fuel specifications), Liesbeth Jansen, had a presentation on the CEN-CENELEC and GSO cooperation within the technical cooperation agreement, during the 5th GCC Proficiency Testing Conference, Muscat, 25-27 Feb. 2019.



The 83rd IEC General Meeting

Shanghai, 21-25 October 2019

GSO Participated in the GM events and workshops. A bilateral meeting was held and many items were discussed including signing the GSO-IEC agreement of adoption, GSO 2020 capacity building programs, finalizing the GSO-IEC agreement for translation, GSO-IEC future cooperation: discussing the proposed activities, projects, and initiatives to be included in GSO-IEC action plan 2020.

During this participation, GSO signed a MoU with BSI and had a bilateral meeting with SAC.



Codex Alimentarius Commission

Switzerland, Geneva 08-12 July 2019

GSO participated in the 42nd Session of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC42).



ARSO Week 2019

African Organization for Standardization (ARSO)

NAIROBI, KENYA, 19-21 June 2019

GSO participated in (The 25th ARSO General Assembly and the African day of standardization).

Many international and regional and national standardizations participated also in this event, including ISO, ITU, UNIDO, CEN-CENELC, and SAC.

Very important topics were presented including Regulatory Framework and Policy - TBT and SPS within the AfCFTA Agreement, Intra Africa Trade - Role of Harmonization of Standards and Conformity Assessment, and 4 Market access - The role of sustainability standard and Eco labelling. In addition to the arrangements of Industrial Visits.

During the event, GSO arranged bilateral meetings and discussions with international and regional organizations invited to the event to enhance their partnership and exploring future areas of cooperation.





14th SMIIC General Assembly (GA) Meeting The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC)

Makkah, KSA, 05 November 2019

Also, GSO participated in the 14th SMIIC General Assembly (GA) Meeting held on 05 November 2019 in Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and had a key-note speech reflecting the GSO and SMIIC cooperation in the framework of the MoU signed between the two organizations.



GSO experts participated in The 6th SMIIC Technical Committee Week:

Istanbul ,15-19 April 2019:

- SMIIC/TC6 Agricultural Products
- SMIIC/TC1 Halal Food Issues
- SMIIC/TC8 Leather and Tanning Material
- SMIIC/TC9 Textiles and Related Products
- SMIIC/TC14 Petroleum and Related Products



The 7th SMIIC Technical Committee Week:

Istanbul , 23-28 September 2019:

- SMIIC Committee on Standards for Conformity Assessment (SMIIC/CCA)
- SMIIC/TC6 Agricultural Products
- SMIIC/TC 1: Halal Food Issues



52/53 meetings of the supreme consultative committee

Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization

Rabat, Morocco

To implement the cooperation Agreement, GSO- AIDMO signed an annual action plan that covered many areas of cooperation in term of standards, conformity assessment, Metrology, and capacity building programs.

Additionally, GSO participated in the 52nd meeting of the supreme consultative committee, 27-28 March 2019, Rabat, Morocco with participation of ISO and IEC and signed the executive framework for 2019, and the 53rd meeting of the supreme consultative committee (28-29 November 2019, Rabat, and the 06th meeting for Arab Committee for Conformity Assessment, 25-26 November 2019, Rabat. GSO proposed the executive plan of the legislative system project to product safety control in the Arab Free Trade Zone and played great efforts in the Arab Halal project approved by AIDMO.



Standards and Codes Program workshop

Kuwait , 25 September 2019

GSO participated in the Standards and Codes Program workshop and closing ceremony held in Kuwait, granted by The U.S Department of Commerce's Market Development Cooperator Program MDCP, to support training focused on standards and codes for sustainable construction standards in GCC, ASTM led the project in cooperation with GSO and support of The International Code Council ICC, and Hosted by Kuwait Municipality. ASTM international supported many training courses included in GSO training plan 2020 either by providing in-person experts or via video conference.

A bilateral meeting held in ISO Week 2019, Cape town discussed the implementation of the MoU and IT integration agreement signed between two organizations.



GSO Week 2019

Riyadh, 14-17 October 2019

GSO in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) organized GCC Standardization Week 2019, taking place in October 2019 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This week came with the celebration of the World Standards Day which comes on (14th October) every year. Many case studies from GSO, GSO Members, and different regional and international organizations. Presentation topics included Gulf standards, Conformity Assessment, facilitating trade exchange as well as the role of media in disseminating standardization awareness MoUs and cooperation agreements, and technology solutions supporting standardization.



The 4th Global Halal Industry Platform

Dubai, 18 February 2019

GSO participated in the 4th Global Halal Industry Platform organized by The Emirates Standardization and Metrology Authority (ESMA), Dubai, 18 February 2019.

Hundreds of Governments, experts and stakeholders from all around the world attended this event. The platform launched the innovative Arab initiative in the halal industry and the Arab Program for Halal which has been adopted by AIDMO, inspired by the UAE system for the Halal and based on Gulf Halal standards and technical regulations.





41st meeting of the Joint Committee of the Regional Metrology Organizations (JCRB)

Dubai, 10 Sep. 2019

GSO's president opened the 41st meeting of the Joint Committee of the Regional Metrology Organizations (JCRB) was held, of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures BIPM, for the 1st time in the MENA region, which oversees and follows up on metrology activities.

GSO and GULfMet participated in OIML meetings, held in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 20-25 Oct.2019, and included the 54th CIML Meeting.



Joint meetings

ANSI, API, ASME, IAPMO, ICC, UL LL, NEMA

Riyadh, 13 March 2019

GSO received high-level representatives of the above -mentioned US organizations in the presence of the US embassy in Riyadh. The highly represented meeting discussed the areas of cooperation between the US Standardization organizations and GSO including standards, conformity assessment, technical committees, capacity building programs, SMEs, Gulf code. The meeting was crowned by signing a MoU between GSO and API.



The first meeting for the Economic Operators

Muscat, 02-03 April 2019

GSO in cooperation with DGSM organized the 1st meeting for the Economic Operators and the opening meeting for the Gulf group for notified bodies for Children toys.



More than 150 participants from economic operators around the world in the field of children's toys, devices and electrical equipment gathered to discuss the Gulf system for conformity and cooperation mechanisms to implement the Gulf requirements in accordance with the requirements of the Gulf technical regulations.

International Code Council ICC

Riyadh, 10 July 2019,

In the framework of the MoU signed between GSO and ICC, GSO received the ICC delegation. The meeting Reviewed the current MoU and evaluating the progress in implementing it. Both parties agreed to renew the MOU to include new areas of mutual cooperation, including organizing joint training courses and events in the region to support the Gulf Building Code, with focusing on the On-line certification programs and Train of the Trainers (ToT) programs on ICC /Gulf Building Codes. GSO agreed to provide ICC with a draft of the Gulf building code, and ICC agreed to grant GSO the right to translating the ICC CODES into Arabic language.



KATS

국가기술표준원

Korean Agency for Technology and Standards

KOREAN AGENCY FOR TECHNOLOGY AND STANDARDS

In the framework of MoU signed between GSO and KATS, both sides have joint events, GSO received Korean delegation to its office, April 13th April 20th, 2019 and held a Bilateral Meeting and joint workshop included the Machinery and RoHS technical regulations of GSO and Cooperation Channel with Korean Companies. Presentation was provided by Korean delegation about Electrical/Electronics (KTC), Cosmetics (KCL), Toy (KTR). Presentation by GSO on LVD, toy, cosmetics, halal and latest development (publication & revision) of GSO Technical Regulations, GSO notification system. The Korean delegation participated in Joint-Workshop "GSO Quality infrastructure Diploma training program", 17 April 2019 and presented the Korean Conformity Assessment Scheme, Safety Management System for Electrical and Household Goods (KTR), and Safety Management System for Children's Products (KTR). KATS's delegation had the chance to Joint The 1st Product Safety Forum (Experiences and Solutions) organized by SASO. On the other hand, another KATS-GSO joint workshop was organized and hosted by KATS in Seoul from 14-15 October 2019. The workshop targeted the Korean stakeholders from both public and private sectors. Technical regulation for Electrical Products (LVD/EMC) and Trends of Conformity assessment in GSO / KOREA were presented.



SAMR, China

State Administration of Market Regulation, The People's Republic of China



GSO and China relationship is being strongly increased and have different channels with standardization agents. GSO had an opportunity to hold a side talk in ISO Week 2019, Cape Town and a bilateral meeting in the 83rd IEC General Meeting, Shanghai, 21-25 October 2019 with SAC Administrator and Vice Minister of SARM, Dr. Tian Shihong. Both sides discussed the ongoing cooperation and ways to enhance collaboration in the future.



Two high level delegations from State Administration of Market Regulation of People's Republic of China (SAMR) visited GSO head quarter on 07 November 2019, and 09 December 2019, and discussed cooperation in different fields specially inspection and testing, market surveillance, and membership of GCC lab.



GSO has been involved in several events to build relationships and partnerships in China. Three workshops and roundtable discussions (11-15 November 2019) were held in Guangzhou, Beijing, and Shanghai (in cooperation with CQC and CNCA) on GSO Conformity Tracking System (GCTS) to meet with local stakeholders and shared knowledge with one another on standards. These workshops targeted Trade and commercial chambers, manufacturer/ exporter, Certification bodies, and relevant authorities (governmental sectors – Accreditation bodies – Notification Bodies- etc).

The workshop series covered many topics including the GSO legal framework for conformity assessment and particular GSO Technical Regulations, the implementation of GSO schemes for LV and Toys technical regulations to Economic Operators, introducing the obligations / rights to the Economic Operators according to the GSO technical regulations, and introducing the rules of GSO Certification Tracking System by manufacturer/ relevant authority/organizations/ Companies.



VCCI-JATMA-JAMA-JEMA, Japan

GSO was invited to VCCI International Forum (Tokyo), 17-18 October 2019 as a key-note speaker to present the "Technical Regulation for Electrical Products reconsidering EMC requirements". Many speakers from EU Commission, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) from U.K, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) from South Africa.

GSO discussed with the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA), 12 March 2019, at GSO head Quarter the latest developments related to conformity certificates and the implementation of their Gulf technical regulations, in addition to presenting the updates made to the GSO electronic certification system.

Another meeting with The Japan Automobile Tyre Manufacturers Association, Inc, (JATMA), was arranged on 08 April 2019 at GSO to discuss Tyre certificates and verification of their compliance with the relevant Gulf technical regulations, in addition to presenting the updates made to the GSO electronic certification system.

GSO also received a delegation representing The Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association (JEMA), Riyadh, 04 Nov.2019 to discuss the optimal implementation of relevant Gulf Technical Regulations.



We are GSO, the Regional Organization for Standardization

- Established by the resolution of the GCC Supreme Council (22nd Session, Muscat, Oman, 30-31 December 2001) and operated in May 2004.
- A non-governmental and not for profit organization.
- Working under the umbrella of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC).
- Working with its Member States to unify the standardization activities and follow their implementation by Member States to protect the consumer, environment, public health, enhance the GCC economy and its competitiveness, and meet the requirements of Gulf Custom Union and Gulf Common Market, in accordance with the international practices.
- **Main activities:**
Standards, Metrology, and Conformity Assessment; Providing capacity building programs, technical assistance, and IT infrastructure.
- We are a regional network of national standards bodies with one member per country.
- **GSO members, namely:**
The State of the United Arab Emirates, The Kingdom of Bahrain, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, The Sultanate of Oman, The State of Qatar, and The State of Kuwait.
- All are members of ISO and are signatory to the WTO TBT Annex III.
- GSO provides a platform for developing practical tools through a sustainable partnership and common understanding and cooperation with all stakeholders.



