



هيئة التقييس

لدول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية
GCC Standardization Organization



2018

GSO REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Sustainable Partnership شراكة مستدامة

 GSO2001
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The letter of GSO President

Dear GSO Partners and Stakeholders,

The GCC Standardization Organization's (GSO)' team had great achievements in 2018 at regional and international levels 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, CEN-CENELC, ARSO and many other regional standardization organizations, GSO continuous its international cooperation and work closely with its partners around the world.

GSO has signed more than 40 MoUs and cooperation agreements with several national, regional, and international standardization organizations. We continue working with our counterparts to explore opportunities of cooperation to protect consumers, environment, public health, and enhance economy and remove any technical barriers of trade through harmonization of standards, conformity assessment procedures and exchange of knowledge, know-how, and best practices.

In 2018, GSO signed (8) MoUs and Technical cooperation agreements, with GHC, GPCA, IHAf, AIDMO, MWL, IIUM, SADC, and ASTM International. 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.

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

Cooperation Agreements signed in 2018

GSO signed several Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and cooperation agreements in 2018 to further our cooperation with international, regional, and national standardizations organizations. These MoUs and agreements formalize its 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 2018:

| # | Abbriv | Organization |
|----|--------|---|
| 01 | GHC | Gulf Health Council |
| 02 | GPCA | Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association |
| 03 | IHAF | The International Halal Accreditation Forum |
| 04 | AIDMO | Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization |
| 05 | MWL | Muslim World League |
| 06 | IIUM | International Islamic University Malaysia |
| 07 | SADC | The African Organization for Standardization |
| 08 | BSI | The British Standards Institution |



Highlights



Gulf Health Council (GHC)

GSO and Gulf Health Council has signed an MoU (Riyadh, April 24, 2018), which establishes working relations and joint constructive cooperation to communicate and coordinate efforts between the two parties in many fields, to protect the consumer and public health, and to support Gulf industries, in a way that supports and achieves lofty goals and objectives.

The signed MoU covers many areas of cooperation, including Gulf standards, technical regulations, studies and research, capacity building programs, awareness activities and information exchange, as well as many items related to areas of cooperation and coordination for the purpose of supporting activities at the Gulf level.

*The Gulf Health Council was established in 1976 to promote and improve the health sector for all GCC Member States



Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA)

GSO signed an MoU with Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) at its headquarter (Dubai, UAE, February 19, 2018) in the presence of His Excellency Nabil Mulla, GSO Secretary General and Dr. Abdulwahab Al-Sadoun, GPCA Secretary General.

The signed MoU between GSO and GPCA aims to strength cooperation in the field of developing international standards for the chemical and petrochemical sector in the Gulf region. It includes cooperation in many other areas of common interest, such as Gulf standards, technical regulations, capacity building, to support Gulf industry and safety of consumer and environmental protection and public health.

*GPCA represents the downstream hydrocarbon industry in the Arabian Gulf. Established in 2006, the association voices the common interests of more than 250 member companies from the chemical and allied industries, accounting for over 95% of chemical output in the Arabian Gulf region. The industry makes up the second largest manufacturing sector in the region, producing over USD 108 billion worth of products a year.



The International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF)

GSO signed an MoU with the International Halal Accreditation Forum at the forum's headquarters (Dubai, February 18, 2018) to enhance cooperation in Gulf standards and technical regulations in the field of halal and cooperation in conducting joint research, studies, and surveys between the two parties to serve the halal industry. This memorandum comes as a general framework for cooperation between the two sides, followed by an annual work plan for initiatives and activities that could be implemented between GSO and the forum in the future.

*(IHAF) is established as an independent, non-government network of accreditation bodies to construct a solid foundation for the global industry and to harmonize accreditation practices in halal filed globally, that in turn, will lead to achieve its ultimate goal of facilitating halal trade worldwide and will consequently impact countries economy.



Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO)

On the sidelines of the 50th meeting of the supreme consultative committee, (Rabat , Morocco 28-28 Feb 2018) and the 8th meeting for Arab Committee for Conformity Assessment, GSO and AIDMO signed a memorandum of understanding as a framework that contributes in strengthening communication and building a sustainable partnership between the two organizations in the field of standards and conformity assessment procedures, quality, capacity building, and exchange of information, and best practices. Both organizations agreed upon coordination their efforts at the international level.



Muslim World League (MWL)

GSO Secretary General He. Mr. Nabil Molla and HE the SG of the Muslim World League Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Alissa and Muslim World League signed an MoU (Riyadh, April 19, 2018). GSO and MWL have desired to focus their joint efforts on cooperation in the field of halal, this includes Gulf standards and technical regulations, conducting joint studies and scientific research to serve the halal sector

*The Muslim World League is a Pan-Islamic NGO based in Mecca, Saudi Arabia that aims to clarify the true message of Islam by advancing moderate values that promote peace, tolerance and love. One of MWL's activities is Halal issues for Muslims all over the world.



International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

GSO signed a MoU with the International Islamic University Malaysian (The International Institute for Halal Research and Training (INHART)) (Putrajaya, Malaysia, April 03, 2018), which includes cooperation in developing standardization in education in universities in Islamic countries, research and studies. The signature ceremony was during GSO's participation in the Halal Conference (Putrajaya, Malaysia, April 01-03, 2018).

*INHART is a center of excellence at IIUM and is expected to be recognized as one of the Higher Institutions' Centres of Excellence (HICoE) at the national level in the near future. Its objective is to provide a platform for IIUM to assist the government's aspiration to put Malaysia as the global halal hub and to assist halal industry efforts globally.



Southern African Development Community (SADC)

During its participation in the 41st General Assembly meeting of (ISO Week 2018), Geneva, 25-28 September 2018, GSO signed a memorandum of understanding with SADC. This MoU covers areas of cooperation including standards and conformity assessment procedures harmonization, capacity building and information exchange.

*SADC is an inter-governmental organization headquartered in Gaborone, Botswana. SADC's goal is to further socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among 16 southern African countries.



ASTM International

IT Integration agreement was signed between GSO and ASTM international during the 41st General Assembly meeting of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO, Geneva, 25-28 September 2018) by which both organizations have the access to each other's standards and give the right for GSO to adopt and sell ASTM standards.

*ASTM International, formerly known as American Society for Testing and Materials, develops and publishes voluntary consensus technical standards for a wide range of materials, products, systems, and services.

Joint Meetings



Codex Secretariat Representatives

(Virtual meeting, 08 January 2018)

GSO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CODEX) held a meeting via closed-circuit television. The two parties discussed the cooperation between Codex and other international and regional organizations setting out standards and / or methods for analysis. Moreover, exchanged information and contributions of CODEX activities as well as GSO contribution and participation in Codex's Technical Committees were also discussed. The CODEX clarification was presented to reconnaissance thoughts and ideas of organizations and partners globally.



GPCA delegation meeting

(Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, January 09, 2018)

GSO received, at its headquarter in Riyadh, a delegation from the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) represented by His Excellency Dr. Abdulwahab Al-Sadoun, Secretary General, GPCA. The meeting was an opportunity to explore areas of cooperation between both sides, including formulation of/ and participation in relevant technical committees /technical sub-committees /working groups) of mutual interest and to strengthen technical cooperation in the field of standards and Technical Regulations. GPCA invites GSO to contribute effectively in one of GPCA's initiatives related to The GCC's Global Harmonized system as there is a lack of regulations in the GCC member countries regarding the classification and labelling of chemicals, their hazards and their impact on human health and environment.

At the end of the meeting, GSO and GPCA agreed to sign an MoU as a framework of cooperation and prepare an action plan to measure the advancement in its implementation.



Joint Energy Efficiency meeting between the European Union and Saudi Arabia

(Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, January 14, 2018)

The activities of the Energy Efficiency meeting and the HVACR Saudi Exhibition took place at Jeddah Centre for Forums & Events, 14-16 January 2018. The meeting was opened by Dr. Sufyan A. Al-Irhayim, Director of Conformity Department, Acting Director of Standardization and Metrology Department at SASO, Lucy Berger, Head of EU Delegation in GCC, and Mr Giorgio Elia, Vice President of UTC Climate Controls & Security.

GSO has presented its role and activities in HVACR and discussed with the EU-Saudi Arabia Energy Efficiency delegation opportunities for cooperation between the two sides on standards, conformity assessment, notification, and capacity building.



Gulf Health Council (GHC) bilateral meeting

(GSO headquarters, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, February 25, 2018)

GSO received a delegation from the Gulf Health Council, headed by H.E. Suleiman Al-Dakhil, Director General of the Gulf Health Council. The meeting discussed a number of common issues between the two sides, including tobacco control issues and the WHO Framework Agreement in this regard. The two parties also discussed the ways to enhance cooperation and coordination concerning technical regulations of the Gulf medical devices project.

A joint group of the two parties was proposed to be formed in order to study the Gulf technical regulations for medical devices and prepare the final draft to reach a common vision between the two parties on this topic enhancing the joint Gulf works.



The 50th Meeting of the Supreme consultative committee

(Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco, 27-28 February 2018)

GSO participated in the 50th meeting of the Supreme consultative committee in Rabat ,27-28 February 2018, which included preparing, adopting and updating the unified Arab standards and the project governance process of the Supreme consultative committee, stressing the importance of coordinating the Arab position in regional and international meetings and forums .The meeting approved the adoption of Arab Standardization and Quality Strategy for the years 2019-2023.



The consultative meeting with the Muslim World League

(GSO headquarters, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 18, 2018)

GSO welcomed a delegation from the Islamic World League at its headquarters in Riyadh. GSO also proposed to provide its experience in term of capacity building through qualifying specialists from Muslim World League in gulf standards and technical regulations related to halal. Both organizations stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination in order to achieve the desired goals and mutual interests. The two sides have agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding as a framework for cooperation.



Visit of the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply

(GSO headquarter, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 26, 2018)

GSO received at its headquarters in Riyadh His Excellency Iumar Novki - Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Food and Supply of Brazil and Mr. Flavio Marega - Ambassador of Brazil in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The highly represented meeting discussed the areas of cooperation between the two sides in the agricultural field and the economic role that Brazil is playing in exporting food and poultry for the GCC Countries as well as the role of Gulf standards and technical regulations related to food and halal, in addition to have a neutral assessment of the studies that have been conducted from the relevant authorities in this area.



2nd Trade and Investment Dialogue

(Brussels, Belgian, June 27, 2018)

The GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) participated in the second trade and investment dialogue between the GCC and the European Union, which was held from 27-29 June, 2018 at the European Commission headquarters Brussels, Belgian. The workshop was attended by several experts from various GCC countries, including the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), the GCC Statistical Center (GCC-Stat), the private sector represented by the federation of GCC Chambers, Confederation of European Business, and specialists from the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

The GSO's delegation delivered a presentation covered GSO activities in term of standards and technical regulations, the conformity assessment scheme, and Halal products and services.



CEN and CENELEC bilateral meeting

(Slovenia, Bucharest, June 21, 2018)

GSO's Secretary General and his accompanying delegation held a bilateral meeting with the delegation of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the CEN and CENELEC, during which copyright license agreements and an action plan for a period (5 years) of cooperation were signed between the two sides.



TSE Visit

(Istanbul, Turkey, Jul 04, 2018)

A delegation from GSO, chaired by the Director of Standards and Metrology Department, visited the Turkish Standards Institute in Istanbul (TSE). In this meeting, many areas of cooperation were discussed including the harmonization of Gulf and Turkish standards and conformity assessment procedures to facilitate trade exchange between GSO member states and Turkey in the framework of GSO-TSE signed MoU.



Japanese VCCI Council visit

(Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, July 10, 2018)

The GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) received, at its headquarters in Riyadh, a delegation from the Japanese VCCI Council (the Voluntary Control Council for Interference by Information). The meeting covered many topics including regulations related to electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) and the Conformity Tracking System.



USTR Visit

(Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, October 02, 2018)

GSO welcomed a delegation of the American Trade Representative Office (USTR) represented by Mr. Jason Pontin, Director of Western European and Middle East Affairs, and his team to discuss food safety issues and halal developments in the gulf region and the role of GSO in coordination with the member states. Both sides agreed to have more coordination at the CODEX meetings.



GPCA bilateral meeting

(Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, October 14, 2018)

His Excellency Secretary General ,Saud bin Nasser Al-Khusaibi received a delegation of the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) chaired by His Excellency the Secretary General of GPCA Dr. Abdul Wahab Al-Saadoun, where it was proposed to continue cooperation on harmonizing the standards in the joint work aspects such as: hazardous materials. In addition, GSO was invited to participate in the Thirteenth forum of the global platform in November 26th and 27th , as well as to the round table in Kuwait in November 2018 to have more discussion between the GSO and GPCA in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed between the two sides.



The 82nd Annual Meeting of (IEC),

(Busan, South Korea, October 21, 2018)

The GCC Standardization Organization (GSO), chaired by the Secretary General, participated in the 82nd annual meeting of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), as well as several bilateral meetings were held on the sidelines of the meeting with IEC, IEEE, and representatives of member states.



IHAF Visit

(Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, November 13, 2018)

GSO Secretary General and the Secretary General of the International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF) and his accompanying delegation held a meeting to enhance coordination and cooperation in the Gulf Halal System project and to discuss areas of cooperation between the two parties.



Meeting with European Commission (European Gulf Project)

(GSO headquarter, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, December 18, 2018)

GSO received a delegation of the European Commission (the European Gulf Project) to discuss the economic diversification project between the European Union and the GCC countries and to complete the discussion of cooperation between the GSO and the European project in the light of the last meeting of the European Gulf dialogue in Brussels, and how to switch from petroleum industries to non-oil industries in the GCC member countries.

Events

GTDW Halal Trade

(Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, February 05-06, 2018)

GSO participated in the GTDW Halal Trade, which highlighted investment in halal industries in emerging halal markets and explore all updates to the global halal system. Tangible benefits and challenges as well as implementation of logistics for halal, unification of the global halal system from a corporate perspective and a review of how to benefit from Social media to create halal awareness and promote positive values in this area were also argued.



The 50th Meeting of AIDMO Supreme consultative committee

(Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco, 27-28 February 2018)

GSO Secretary General participated in AIDMO Supreme consultative committee of the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization in its 50th session which was held at the headquarter in Rabat. The meeting covered many topics including the preparation, approval and updating of the unified Arab standards. The work plan for the technical committees' secretariats for the preparation of Arab standard for 2018 was reviewed.

On the sidelines of the meeting, a memorandum of understanding was signed between GSO and AIDMO to coordinate positions in regional and international forums on standardization issues and related activities, also to exchange information and legislation approved by both parties at the present or planned in the future in the areas of standards, conformity Assessments, and capacity building programs.

The 1st meeting to establish the International Halal Authority Board (IHAB)

(Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 01-03 April 2018)

GSO Secretary-General participated in the 1st meeting to establish the International Halal Authority Board (IHAB) held in Malaysia, 01-03 April 2018, to discuss the cooperation in the field of halal.

A memorandum of understanding was signed with the International Islamic Malaysian University which was represented by His Excellency Dr. Hamza Saleh, Dean of the International Research and Training Institute (INHART) at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).



ISO 41st General Assembly

(Geneva, Switzerland, 25-28 September 2018)

GSO Secretary General and his accompanying delegation participated in the 41st General Assembly meeting of ISO (ISO Week 2018), Geneva, Switzerland, September 25th -28th, 2018. A bilateral meeting was held with the ISO President, Mr. John Walter and ISO Secretary-General, Mr. Sergio Mujica, in which GSO invited ISO to the 5th GCC Proficiency Testing Conference to be held in February 2019, as an honor guest and a key-note speaker.

During ISO Week 2018, GSO signed an MoU with SADCSTAN and IT integration agreement with ASTM International. Bilateral meetings were held between GSO and the British Standards Institute (BSI), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), European Committee for Standardization (CEN), and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC).



The 82nd IEC General Meeting

(Busan, Korea, October 21, 2018)

GSO participated in the 82nd IEC GM hosted by The IEC National Committee of the Republic of Korea represented by the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS), Busan, Republic of Korea, under the theme of "smart cities and sustainable societies". GSO delegation participated in several events and held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the meeting with IEC.

Another bilateral meeting was held with the representatives of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and discussed the future areas of cooperation and the preparation to sign an MoU between the two organizations.



13th SMIIIC General Assembly Meeting

(Makkah, Saudi Arabia, November 05, 2018)

GSO participated in the 13th SMIIIC General Assembly Meeting which was held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah with a generous hosting from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the presence of His Excellency Dr. Saad Al-Qasabi - Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries for the current term, SASO Governor.

A key-note speech was presented by His Excellency the GSO Secretary General, Saud bin Nasser Al-Khusaibi, who presented fields of current cooperation between GSO and SMIIIC and explained the importance of joint efforts and complementarity coordination with GSO's partners to support standardization and quality infrastructure at regional level within the framework of the MoU which was signed between GSO and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIIC) in Antalya, Republic of Turkey on 07 Nov. 2012, and renewed last year during the 12th SMIIIC GA Meeting (Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 26th Nov. 2017) for another five years with an annual action plan in order to enhance and boost standardization activities through harmonization of standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and notification activities, capacity building programs, exchange of information and knowledge, and experts.



International Halal Forum

(Bangkok, Thailand, December 14-16, 2018)

GSO Secretary General, HE. Mr Saud bin Nasser Al-Khusaibi, and his accompanying delegation participated in Thailand Halal Assembly which was held on 09-11 December 2016 at Queen Sirikit National Convention Center (QSNCC) in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand.

In this forum, GSO delivered a presentation on its role in developing Gulf standards and technical regulations related to halal, and participated effectively in the forum's workshops, sessions, and the Halal Products Exhibition, and the Halal Innovations Exhibition. GSO delegation also had the opportunity to have side mutual meetings with representatives of many organizations and bodies participating in this event and discussed aspects of cooperation in issues related to halal.

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.





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