Environment, Society and Governance (ESG) in Alexandria University

Introduction

Sustainability has been incorporated into innovation education and research strategies in Alexandria University to show case how to alleviate human-made negative effect on the environment. To do this, Alexandria university has always been involved in issues of Environment, Society and Governance (ESG) aspects and performance in order to become a green university. It is increasingly important for the university reputation and administration policymakers. Nowadays more and more universities have realized that ESG is a key driver for competitive advantage, efficiency and reputation establishment.

Faced with increasing pressure to implement environmentally friendly university activities, it is essential to improve economic and environmental performance through green innovation in education, research and community development.

Universities labeled as "green" generally tend to get more media exposure, and attract more partners and investments. Renowned university rankings have paid great attention to formulating indicators that can express the degree of social and environmental responsibility based on ESG reports and ratings, performance that can be assessed and measured over time.

The 2021 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) Report by Yale University and Columbia University in collaboration with the World Economic Forum shows that Egypt's EPI ranks 94 out of 180 countries worldwide, and 14 with the 16 countries rated among the greater middle east.

Investment

Alexandria University is a governmental university. However, it conducts its investment consistently in human capacity of students and researchers with both modern practice following the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The university works on reducing as much as possible its carbon footprint and works with the principles of pollution control and resource conservation. This is the principal driver behind the development of the university contribution to the sustainability reports. Since 2016, nearly all rebalancing of the University's investments have been related to improving the responsible investment credentials of the university portfolio. This requires the University to embed responsible investment action to advance its consideration of responsible investment factors including low carbon, low electricity and water consumption and pollution control. The general policy of the university was subsequently updated to reflect these commitments and responsibiles.. Further measures are adopted to align with responsible investment best practice in research and development include Investing in climate change solutions research via a low carbon global, directing investments into infrastructure which include tailored renewable energy students' projects, improvIng the environmental sustainability of its investments, establishing center of excellence in water, energy and other related activities.

Society involvement

Alexandria University values engagement into local community, regional and international affairs. The University is committed to fostering a society that respects peoples, cultures and knowledges, and works towards addressing the legacies of the past. The University's obligations are guided by its policy to use its expertise and resources to involve the the community in its teaching, learning, research and advancement of knowledge. The University's obligations under the UN Sustainable Development Goals also intersect with community matters, through community diversity and belonging, and welcomes, caring, and equitable community where students, faculty, and staff with different backgrounds, perspectives, abilities, and experiences can learn, innovate, and work in an environment of respect, and feel empowered to engage in any community conversation to fit with the place of the University within the broader academic and local community. The university strive to contribute to society through the pursuit, dissemination, and application of knowledge, strategies of conflict resolutions, and Heritage.

Respect for the Natural Environment

Alexandria University value its role in advancing solutions for a sustainable future following the UN-sustainable development goals and Egypt strategic plan for 2030, and support acting in ways to live and work sustainably in a manner that is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable in administration, academic and research programs. Commitment to pursuing sustainable development within and through the university is an important component of the university policy. The university as a body participate in conferences and cross-sectoral dialogue and involve stakeholders and NGOs on SDGs matters and achievements.

Education

Since its start in 1942, Alexandria university is working to strengthen the generic competitiveness of research and education, the university has continued facing the challenge and growth in the education by investing in new programs and having them accredited nationally and internationally. This was achieved by reassessing the higher education mission of the university and its role in the transition to more sustainable societies and building synergies and collaboration nationally and internationally with renowned universities in the search for effective and innovative approaches to solving today's as well as future sustainable development challenges. The objective is Commitment to offering an open, interactive and collaborative forum for discussion and action, to raise awareness and advocate for needed changes in higher education to best serve the goals of sustainable development, (SDGs) as well as building international linkages and cooperation on the basis of core values of academic freedom, institutional autonomy and related local and global responsibilities to society.

Research

Due to the fast-changing environment in research and development it is becoming an industry in itself, with demanding diversity . The university is preparing for future research through sustainable investment and R&D in order to grow and develop to become a sustainable renowned University that creates future value to students and participate in securing their future growth in an information society in which the creation, distribution, and manipulation of information has become the most significant economic and cultural activity. The university will try its best to become a provide new value and expectation for all interested national and international institutes to become our partners including and contribute to the progress of our students and local communities. Growth aspects.

Alexandria is seeking the prominent trends in research, and is planning its investment in establishing new multidisciplinary postgraduate programs in topics like renewable energy systems, health data science, sustainable systems and the like. This is based in a "study abroad" approach through double and joined degrees.

Alexandria university has the most diverse research profile in medical sector, science sector, humanities, ,engineering, business, law media , and arts and design. Each of these disciplines has intersects with environmental, social and governance themes and sustainability. Alexandria university has projects that focus on environmental and social principles, among which are urban planning of Alexandria city, renewable energy resources, petrochemical projects, pharmaceutics and pharmaceutical industries, dental implants and others. These projects   have transformed the university to become larger in scale and ambition, attracting support from multiple international partners. Pioneering research to transform society for the better occurs across every faculty, leading to an array of programs to mobilise communities and industry to adopt sustainable practice.

According to the above, Alexandria university has achieved the following in research and education:

- Projects to infuse sustainability into curricula and research with the target of having at least 70 percent of the courses to include the concept of sustainability in its curricula by 2025
- Graduation projects of Students to be directed to sustainability practices, with the target of 85% of these projects directed to such practices by 2025
- Collaborating with industry sector in an entrepreneurship program to assess and improve the green innovation performance through R&D.with the commitment to provide a solid foundation of career development principles, professional career guidance and employment services through a centralized, comprehensive program by 2025
- Focusing on R&D activities that can improve the efficiency of natural resources and reduce the emission of pollutants, which, in turn, can improve green innovation performance at the university level.
- Directing the research output of Alexandria university towards the implementation of SDGs.

Engagement

Alexandria University hosts an array of internal capability and external partnerships that make it ideally qualified to advance ESG principles, policy and action in health and wellbeing, smart healthy and productive cities, sustainable environments, decent work places, gender equity and reducing inequalities. Alexandria University has two branches in Africa and currently working to establish a third branch in Malaysia. Research and teaching programs in the main campus and its branches contribute much of this engagement through public lectures and community events, art projects and exhibitions, consultation work for industry and the like. Building the strength and scale of the university international profile and international collaboration are core goals for the university. Alexandria university global footprint enables the formation of international partnerships through the international relations that has achieved partnering with leading institutions in Europe, North America, the United Kingdom and Asia. And Africa .