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**Q&A from Building Sustainable Businesses in line with SDGs | 28 May 2021**  
(Training program for Thai listed companies Day 2 of 2)

*Thank you for attending the 2nd session of our beginner workshops. Please refer to below questions and corresponding responses that were raised, for your reference and learning.*

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**Q: Could you please explain more about sustainability risk? Example, economic risk, environmental risk, social risk, and how the sustainable business model should look like from the GRI point-of-view.**

Thank you for your question. The following link will help you to see GRI 201: Economic Performance where climate change risks are aligned with economic performance:  
<https://www.globalreporting.org/standards/media/1039/gri-201-economic-performance-2016.pdf> (you can see GRI 201-2)

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**Q: Should a company disclose TCFD report and GRI report in one consolidate report or separate?**

It became company choice on how to present the report – it can be combined in a sustainability report or stand-alone TCFD report. If in a combined report, the TCFD should be easily tracked on its own.

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**Q: What is the GRI direction about the Integrating report (Annual report and Sustainability report combined)**

The term of “Integrated Report” usually refer to the [International Integrated Reporting Framework \(IIRC\)](#).

As for combining annual and sustainability report is also practice by companies, but you would need to maintain the GRI content index if you prepare the report in accordance to GRI Standard.


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**Q: GRI 200: Economic has the same or different content if compared with TCFD?**

This is covered in [slide 37](#) of the workshop on 28 May.



**Topic: Economic Performance**  
**(inc. Social & Community Development & Support for Local Supplier)**

**How to Report**



- Economic Performance: GRI 201-1
- Indirect Economic Impacts: GRI 203-1
- Procurement Practices: GRI 204-1

**How to Align with SDGs Indicators**

Indicator 8.1 : Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

Indicator 9.3.1: Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added

**Alignment between GRI & TCFD:**  
The processes used by the company to identify, assess, and manage climate-related risks affecting economic performance and [how sustainable finance reduces the environmental risks or protect environment](#) .....and [how local suppliers are assessed or selected for their environmental performance](#)

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**Q: If we disclose TCFD and GRI guideline in a Sustainability Report, is TCFD applied for only climate change topic?**

Slide 89 from the [presentation](#) provides explanation about this.

**Generally, Environmental Performance is all about....**

- Environmental Cost
- Water and energy efficiency
- Emissions reduction
- Less waste / zero waste
- Conservation of biodiversity

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**National Regulation**

**GRI + SDGs + TCFD**

TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE-RELATED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

- GRI is used to report the data/ performance
- SDGs is used to align the data and SDG goal for each environmental aspect
- TCFD is used to report the risk, governance, strategy, and target or metrics for each environmental aspects

**Q: While companies can adopt standards stipulated in GRI etc. Do we need external parties/organisations to audit these results to ensure corporates are really aligned to international standards? If so, how are these implemented and how often do these "audits" need to be made and which organisations can be engaged to do so?**

Audit or assurance is usually based on the request from investor or from national regulations. Like the newest EU regulation on disclosures, it required assurance. Companies that use assurance usually do it annually. Hope this helps to answer your question.

**Q: Is GRI standard a guideline of ESG report?**

If you are preparing an ESG report, the GRI Standard will help you with identifying the metric. If you are preparing it “in accordance to the GRI Standard” fully, you will need to explain about your management approach (GRI 103) beyond the data/metric.

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**Q: How can local SMEs/MMEs apply GRI standards in their own capacity? Do you have any tool/plan to support them as a key part of the company's value chain?**

Thank you for your good questions. In Indonesia, we have a program to support SMEs and SMEs who are the suppliers of large companies. We use GRI Standards to coach them, and to align the key focus areas of the SMEs with the key focus area of the company's sustainability. The challenge is always the data from the SMEs. So, we do it gradually and ask them to fulfil minimum requirements first and slowly moving from that point.

This is mainly because many SMEs still do not have company profile and clear branding/sustainability position strategy. That is why we turn sustainability report into a company profile.

SMEs might prepare their first sustainability report “in reference to the GRI Standard” and limit to selected materiality such as how to manage material sourcing, energy used, waste, customer safety and labelling, and employment with more focus on responding to management approach and gradually provide more relevant data/disclosures.

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**Q: So, for SMEs who report/are proved to align with GRI/SDGs, do you issue a certificate for them?**

At present there is no issuance of certificate or stamp for a report prepared using a GRI Standard or align to the SDGs, even for Large and Multinational Company.

GRI has a reporters-support service that can check your draft report and give selected stamps in accordance to the paid-service that you accessed.

Another way to “prove” alignment with GRI Standard is the “assurance” process by service providers (usually the big 4 public accountant office)

In Indonesia we have a program for SMEs supported by donor, we issued a certificate for those who completed the training course. What is interesting is that those SMEs who completed their company profile, they become trainers for their fellows  
For note, the certificate is a certificate of training completion.

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**Q: Are there any minimum required topics under GRI standard for the companies to ensure that we have disclose sufficient sustainability information?**

There are no minimum requirements. It depends on the stakeholders' engagement and what they expect from your company, and your analysis on which issues/standards are relevant to your business sustainability (materiality). In other words, quantity does not automatically

mean quality. A few key focus areas with clear targets and data are much better compared to too many areas with superficial data.

<https://www.globalreporting.org/how-to-use-the-gri-standards/questions-and-answers/materiality-and-topic-boundary/>

The above is the GRI's reference to materiality analysis to determine the relevant standards you need to choose.

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**Q: Reporting using GRI standards, is there any evaluation take place in terms of the company is doing well or poor or not? I understand that improvement or strategy to improve is more.**

GRI does not do evaluation on whether the company is doing well or poorly. But in terms of doing well or not in your sustainability performance usually company will look to the rating agency such as MSCI or S&P or even local ESG index. Another way to benchmark yourself is by looking at the commitment made by the industrial sector, ie: [Sustainability Charter and Guidelines : GCCA \(gccassociation.org\)](#) for cement and construction; oil and gas see [Sustainability | IPIECA.](#)

Lastly, by looking at the commitment on the SDGs of the Government. Example: Indonesia is committed to 23% mixed renewable energy, as a company you might one to support the same target or even more than that.

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**Q: If gender and diversity is material topic for our industry, however our country is not equality. Should we match this topic with SDGs?**

The example is from ENEL – an energy multi-national company – this is a male dominated industry, but they make a commitment to gender equality (SDG 5) and plan to get 50% women apply in their recruitment by 2023. I think this is beyond on what is required but very strategic. So, in brief, yes please do contribute to the SDGs.

Finding the matching SDGs – this is a quick online tool – you can type the keywords and find related SDG targets and indicators [SDGfinders](#)

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**Q: From the Global Pandemic of Covid-19, the company supports medical equipment, gel, alcohol, masks, and hospital support to our employee, family, partners, and community. Which UN SDGs match with these activities - how to explain under GRI standards.**

For hospital, community – SDG 3 - general health and wellbeing  
For partners, employee – SDG 3 & 8

Note:

SDG 3 Target 13.3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

SDG 8 because you are contributing so that your partner can maintain operation in a safe way. Target 12.8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

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**Q: I wonder why giving medical alcohol and appliances during covid is SDG #8**

Please refer above.

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**Q: For providing school construction and clean water, what SDG# should it fall in to?**

SDG 4 Target 4.a. Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Indicators:

4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)

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**Q: For temple and religious venue restoration and renovation, which SDG# should it fall into**

If it is world cultural/natural heritage like the Borobudur temple – Target 4.11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Indicators

11.4.1 Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)

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**Q: What about any donations related to the org. products? Shall we put them on SDG8 also?**

Depending on the purpose – if this is to improve access to basic services – it will go to SDG 1 – no poverty.

If you are donating health-protective equipment due to covid – it falls under SDG 3.  
As for sharing food – it falls under SDG 2.

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