SUSTAINABLE PLASTIC INNOVATION: CLOSING THE LOOP

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SUSTAINABLE PLASTIC INNOVATION: CLOSING THE LOOP
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PlastiCon is an annual GPCA networking event that caters to the plastics segment of the petrochemical industry. The conference provides up-to-date views, analysis and discussions on the regional and global plastics conversion industry including detailed information on specific trending topics. Held under the theme: ‘Sustainable plastic innovation: Closing the loop, the 9th edition of PlastiCon discussed the changing regulatory environment and pressures on the plastics industry to adopt more sustainable practices that reduce plastic waste in landfills and the oceans, and help realize the superior environmental benefits that plastic has to offer.

On the evening of March 14, GPCA held the 8th Plastics Excellence Awards recognizing companies and individuals for their outstanding achievements in plastic innovation. To learn more about the event visit www.gpcaplastics.com.
I would like to thank GPCA for the excellent organization of the event, and in specific - the level of seniority we have in the room, which both showcases and reflects the important role that GPCA plays on a global level in driving industry growth and sustainability.

Abdulrahman Al-Fageeh
EVP – Petrochemicals, SABIC
Plastic is the material of choice in today’s modern economy, but the real potential of this valuable resource is hardly fully utilized. New technologies are now emerging to increase the circularity of plastic products, while optimizing their efficiency and reducing their environmental impact. Sustainability is one of the key drivers in plastic packaging globally, and many are now pushing for greater focus on plastics recycling. As pressure grows to increase resource efficiency particularly within the plastic industry, the world’s largest brand owners are leading the drive for the circular economy to be applied to plastics packaging.

Recent regulations on the imports of plastic waste into China are also having huge implications on the plastics recycling industry, with many predicting an upward momentum for recycling globally. Despite lagging behind North America and Europe, the Arabian Gulf region is putting efforts in place for best collection practices and vast municipality plastics recycling. Within the GCC, the UAE is leading the way in plastic waste regulations, often setting an example for neighboring countries to follow. Saudi Arabia, which is by far the largest plastics waste market in the region, is also taking key steps in developing its regulations.

Export opportunities remain ripe for GCC plastic producers and converters. Shortage of local supply and growing demand for plastics make Africa a promising destination for polymer exports from the GCC, which is projected to stay a main supplier to the continent with expanded dominance in future years. Asia remains an important polymer market, with countries such as China, India and the ASEAN countries expected to drive future growth. By 2050 the Asian continent is expected to account for more than 50% of global GDP, with middle class consumer spending estimated to increase from USD 4.9 trillion in 2009 to USD 32.9 trillion by 2030.
In 2018, GPCA PlastiCon was attended by 226 delegates from 80 companies in 16 countries. Of these, 42 were academia and 17 were speakers who presented on important industry topics and provided an outlook on the future direction of the polymer industry in the GCC and globally.

“I think the theme of this year’s PlastiCon is very important. It is an eye opener even for us as producers, and brings a lot of attention to what would happen in the world regarding plastic waste.”

Jamal Malaikah
President and CEO, NATPET

The conference in numbers

226 Attendees
16 Countries
80 Companies
42 Academia
17 Speakers
At this year’s edition of PlastiCon, a total of 17 speakers shared their perspectives on where the future lies for GCC polymer producers. Ahmad Omar Abdulla, CEO, Borouge and Chairman, Plastics Committee, GPCA, opened the event on day one, while Abdulrahman Al-Fageeh, EVP – Petrochemicals, SABIC, and Javier Constante, Commercial VP, Packaging and Specialty Plastics – EMEA, DOW Europe, delivered the keynote remarks. Key topics on day one included concepts in the circular economy; and challenges in the GCC plastic recycling industry.

“PlastiCon is an important platform where the industry gathers together to exchange their experiences and concerns, and discuss the opportunities and threats facing the industry today.”

Ahmed Omar Abdulla
CEO, Borouge and Chairman, Plastics Committee, GPCA
The 9th GPCA PlastiCon started with an opening address from Ahmed Omar Abdulla, CEO, Borouge and Chairman, Plastics Committee, GPCA. Mr. Abdulla paved the way for the theme of the conference, by providing GCC industry update and highlighting the benefits of adopting the circular economy. Mr. Abdulla outlined the rapid development of the polymers industry across the GCC, and the expansion of its commodity polymers, which led petrochemical producers to set the objective of diversifying their product portfolio, moving away from traditional commodity polymers towards engineering plastics. Over the past few years, GCC producers introduced a significant number of engineering polymers, and by 2016 there were seven products manufactured in the region (not counting the various grades of the same product). Regional plastic production capacity slightly dropped in 2017, but is expected to pick up again by 1.6% from 29.07 million tons to 29.5 million tons in 2018. Nearly 40,000 employees are currently working in the GCC polymers industry, which is about one quarter (24%) of total chemical jobs, in addition to another 118,000 employees in supporting sectors.

The plastics industry benefits the Arabian Gulf region by fostering demand for education, training of young people and generating employment and career opportunities for Gulf nationals. The industry must continue to collaborate with universities and vocational training institutes in order to help ensure that young people receive the skills and knowledge they need to work in this exciting industry, Mr. Abdulla said.

He further highlighted the move towards the circular economy, which anticipates that plastics do not end up in our oceans or landfills. Governments in the GCC and around the world should start to enforce policies that support efforts to enhance plastics sustainability, he said, highlighting the recently launched Borouge Plastics Circular Economy Program that aims to address the end-of-life application of plastic products and accelerate the reuse and recycling of plastics globally.

Abdulrahman Al-Fageeh, EVP – Petrochemicals, SABIC, delivered a keynote address on ‘Plastics in a circular economy – key concepts.’ Mr. Al-Fageeh’s presentation focused on the important role that the circular economy can play in changing perceptions of plastic as “waste”. Sustainability is rapidly transforming the way we live, and increasingly its focus is shifting away from efficiency to effectivity. What the circular economy does is striving to close the loop and avoid pollution to the environment. A prerequisite for transitioning from a linear to a circular economy model will be the emergence of successful new business models. Therefore, the chemical industry in a circular economy will be radically different from our current industry model, Al-Fageeh said. He further highlighted...
innovations in the field of feedstock recycling, with SABIC being the first in industry to scale up high-quality recycling processes for chemical recycling of mixed plastic waste to the original polymer. Adequate waste management is also needed to reach an acceptable standard of living and for citizens to take responsibility for their waste. The industry must focus on materials consumption and recycling; at each value chain step, circularity must be a key business model criterion.

Javier Constante, Commercial VP, Packaging and Specialty Plastics - Europe, Middle East, Africa, The Dow Chemical Company, presented a study on ‘Redefining plastics production: Disrupting the traditional polymer industry.’ The major issues in the GCC for a successful plastics waste collection and usage is segregation, which can take years to develop successfully. For instance, Germany took approximately 10 years, Mr. Constante said. The industry has to view plastics waste as an important resource and not as just waste, he added. He also highlighted “de-polymerization” where plastics is converted back into feedstocks to be used in more chemical production, rather than just being recycled. Overall, the GCC petrochemical industry must work together to increase waste collection; embrace the right technology; enhance the recyclability of plastic packaging; modernize its Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs); educate and engage consumers on circular economy principals and create new opportunities for making products with recycled plastics.

The circular economy is on the verge of fundamentally transforming existing value chains, decoupling growth and resource consumption. External factors driving the shift towards circularity include technology disruptions, such as electric vehicles; consumption changes (“the shared economy”) and new and emerging regulations, for instance, the EU Circular Economy package, insulation standards, etc. This in turn is driving the shift from a linear economic model, which is based on disposing of molecules at their end-of-life, to an increasingly “bent” model that includes partially renewable feedstock and some level of product recycling; and finally a circular model which is based on total recovery, full re-use of molecules/carbon and design to re-use for end products.

International polymer producer experience in the circular economy

There was great excitement within the plastic processors in the audience with the presentation of Paula Sanabria Luque, Product Manager Circular Economy, Global Sustainability Team, LyondellBasell. With the recent push towards recycling, 11 global brand owners are working towards 100% reusable, recyclable or combustible packaging by 2030. The EU commission in 2018 has deemed by 2030 that all plastics packaging must be re-used or recycled. LYB are collaborating with SUEZ in plastics recycling of around half a million ton per year. This potentially could be an example for all polymer producers to follow in the GCC.
Creating an environment for plastics recycling industry in the GCC

Eng. Othaiba Al Qaydi, Assistant Expert, UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, began her presentation by highlighting the close collaboration between plastics and the national economy. The plastic industry is one of the main industries in modern life, with an estimated 10,000 different types of plastic products used and distributed in industry, agriculture, transportation and medicine. According to GPCA’s 2016 GCC Plastics Industry Indicators Report, the UAE plastics industry is the fastest growing in the GCC, having expanded by over 24% per annum in the past decade. Some of the waste management challenges facing the UAE are related to the incorrect sorting of waste, failure to observe the separation of plastic types, and lack of connection between plastic waste collection and recycling plants in the Emirate, where they are exported, among others. Another challenge is that prices for exports are often 2-3 times that of local prices, so the reuse in the UAE is little currently. In 2016 approximately 22% of plastic waste was recycled and the target is for 75% by 2021. To tackle these challenges, the ministry has developed a comprehensive plan taking the recyclability of plastic into consideration. The UAE Plastics Waste Management Strategy is built upon a circular model, turning waste into materials and more valuable energy. The audience appreciated the efforts by the ministry to work with the industry to develop the right legislation and support to move to the circular economy and commented that the other GCC governments should follow suit.

Abhay Bhargava, Associate Director (Regional Business Unit Head) - Energy and Environment practice - MENA region - Frost & Sullivan, began by providing an overview of plastic waste and reuse in the GCC. According to some statistics, GCC per capita waste is well above the global average of 1.2kg/day at 1.7kg/currently. Nevertheless, the GCC has a vast untapped opportunity in waste recycling. Huge value can be unlocked through recycling and waste to energy processes and an increase in tipping fees would accelerate opportunities. The waste management industry holds high revenue potential, with new legislations resulting in positive evolution of Indian and Chinese markets. The Middle East and Africa region presents large but relatively untapped potential. Key drivers for improvement moving forward will include government initiatives and technological developments such as rapid policy transformations, Big Data, 3D printing, the Paris Climate Change Agreement and UN Sustainability Goals. Furthermore, developing an integrated waste management master plans is expected to boost the potential for recycling in the GCC. A case study from the GCC highlights best practice at Domestic Solid Waste Management Centre (DSWMC) at Mesaieed. The facility designed to treat up to 2,300 tons of mixed domestic solid waste per day, boasts 95% recycled waste or converted to energy; 90% metals and 50% recycled plastics, with remaining waste used to generate steam and electricity.

Impact of disruptive technology on traditional industry

Kris Barber, CEO, DGrade, presented DGrade’s project in Dubai for a PET bottle to yarn to clothing lines via recycling. Mr. Barber highlighted the opportunities within this innovative technology particularly in markets like the UAE, which has the 4th largest PET consumption per capita in the world at an average of 450 bottles per year. In addition, over 2.75 million PET bottles are produced in the UAE annually, and currently less than 6% of these are recycled. There is a major consumer backlash against plastics that must be addressed by the GCC industry. The DGrade clothing line can also, if required, be itself recycled into ‘rougher’ fiber products such as carpets, rope or twine. The message behind this initiative is ‘give PET bottles a second chance’. However, for the project to be successful, PET collection in the UAE must move above 10-12% collection rate, a target that is yet to be fulfilled across the country.
Impact of a changing global landscape

David Lines, Principal – Energy and Chemicals Advisory – Europe, Africa and the Middle East, Nexant, opened day two of the 9th GPCA PlastiCon with a presentation on the impact of environmental and political landscape changes, and how to adapt to a changing market. Mr. Lines began by highlighting growth opportunities within existing polyolefin markets. Demand growth for polyolefins has varied over time, yet the trend remains linked to economic growth. Polymer demand is driven by industrial production and consumer trends, varying by country maturity. As developed markets are maturing to lower rates of consumption growth, global polyolefin demand is expected to be driven by emerging growth markets. China dominates Asia Pacific demand, underpinning future polyolefin consumption growth in the region. Moving forward, consumption growth will be driven by use in a wide range of market segments including consumer, automotive, construction, general industrial and agriculture. To satisfy demand, China will continue to be the largest importer of polyolefins. North America is increasingly geared towards exports as new wave of polyolefin plants come online, while Middle Eastern export growth is slowing.

Sustainability within the plastic industry is increasingly growing in importance. With rising consumption patterns, the industry would need to look at new ways to meet environmental, social and technology challenges. Innovation is required across the plastic value chain, from resources to operations, through consumer use to end of use, innovation must be embedded in the re-design, re-use and recycling of plastic products.

Klaus Wohnig, Managing Director, APK, presented an innovative new process called Newcycling® and designed to support the move towards circular economy. The plastics recycling problem is acute, worldwide, with almost 80 million tons of packaging plastic waste generated p.a. in 2017 alone. By 2050, there will be an estimated 320 million tons p.a., but less than 10% of plastic packaging waste is being recycled. The result is a growing demand from governments and consumers for more sustainable packaging and new recycling technologies with the target to create a circular economy. To help meet the challenges ahead, countries will need to invest in more sophisticated plastic recycling solutions, decrease downcycling and adopt a cradle-to-cradle approach. APK’s unique solvent-based physical process recovers virgin-quality polymers from mixed plastics waste and even from multilayer films and separates individual polymer types at a quality that strongly out-performs mechanical recycling. The focus is on PE, PP and PA, but also PET, PS, PLA and pure aluminum could be technically recovered.

Leadership with recycling in the global plastics industry

Adrian Griffiths, Founder and CEO, Recycling Technologies, highlighted both opportunities and challenges within the plastic industry globally. With the current traditional model of produce-use-dispose, almost 90% of plastics ends up in landfill or in the environment. What the chemical recycling process does is present a new opportunity to introduce plastic back into the loop. With this, as much as 50% of plastic can be reused and recovered, with an additional 40% brought back into the cycle through mechanical recycling, leaving just 10% of plastic waste. Chemical recycling technology is mass producible, transportable, globally scalable solution that makes waste plastic valuable. The technology can be used in many high value applications involving comprehensive recycling and recovery processes.

Twin approaches to environmentally friendly plastics

Roger Lee – Managing Director, Technon OrbiChem, presented a twin approach to environmentally friendly plastics involving both recycling and raising bio-content. Mr. Lee told the audience that the plastics industry should work with the consumer goods and retail industries to promote the use of returnable containers. It should also promote recyclable plastics where possible. Replacing multi-layer packaging with homopolymer may be another effective alternative for sustainable plastic production. Labels can play a key role in ensuring mixed polymers are not being fed to recycling installations. The plastics industry makes a huge contribution to reducing carbon emissions, improving carbon footprints, promoting hygiene and avoiding food waste, and it must continue to take an active role in promoting and supporting sustainable products and practices. Failure to take the initiative will result in governments imposing restrictions that may be unwelcome.
Wouter Boomsma, Executive Director, Harwal Group, presented a multi-stakeholder approach to solving some of the challenges in waste management and recycling in the GCC. One of the first steps, according to Mr. Boomsma, is to create awareness and educate producers, legislators and consumers about the seriousness of the challenge. Coordination and cooperation is an absolutely must for governments, municipalities, international organizations, waste management companies, raw material producers, converters, packaging conglomerates, and even supermarkets and shops to drive change in this rapidly changing market. There also needs to be an investment in adequate infrastructure, as well as research and development (R&D) of technical and economically sustainable solutions. And finally, governments in the region must embark on a gradual transition from linear to circular economies; practice and implement the 4R’s – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover energy, and introduce plans and policies that promote zero landfill targets.

In the UAE, two waste to energy projects by Bee’ah in Sharjah and the Dubai Municipality are scheduled to become operational in 2020. Waste to energy can be instrumental for sustainable waste management and energy systems in a clean circular economy. It can also help divert waste from landfill and treat polluted waste in an environmental way, while at the same time producing cost-effective energy for citizens and industry.

Export opportunities for the GCC plastics processing industry

M’hamed Younes Lahlou, CEO of Yomar Group, highlighted the export opportunities in Africa as a future key market for the global plastic industry. Growth in some of Africa’s key polymer markets is projected to increase significantly. With market size of over 600,000 tons and its competitive free trade agreements, Morocco is an important hub for polymer production in the North-West. Five main sectors driving growth across the industry include construction, agriculture, packaging and technical pieces. The plastic industry in West Africa is comprised of three strong players – Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Senegal.

Rakesh Singh, Director Corporate Strategy and Operations Development, Srithai Superware Public Co., discussed export opportunities for polymer producers. Home to over 4.5 billion people accounting for 60% of the world’s population, Asia is a global economic powerhouse, with markets such as China, India and the ASEAN countries expected to drive future growth. By 2050 the Asian continent is expected to account for more than 50% of global GDP. In Asia, middle class consumer spending is estimated to increase from USD 4.9 trillion in 2009 to USD 32.9 trillion by 2030. China’s project of the century One Belt One Road is estimated at USD 3-5 trillion covering 68 countries in three continents and 62% of the global population. Flagship projects in Pakistan and Sri Lanka are also taking shape, creating significant opportunities for the Asian plastics industry, particularly within construction and transportation segments.

India’s GDP growth rate has surpassed China, but the country would need to raise its competitiveness to sustain growth. The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) comprising Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei, enjoy a competitive single market and strong production base with a free flow of goods and services in addition to skilled workforce. The ASEAN countries are a growing hub for consumer demand, offering raw materials, labor, strategic production base and technology access.
Leaders of Tomorrow, an initiative by the Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (GPCA) aimed at building local human capital in the Arabian Gulf region, entered its 3rd year during the 5th GPCA Research and Innovation Summit and 9th GPCA PlastiCon at the Oberoi Hotel, Dubai.

The 6th edition of the initiative, sponsored by SABIC, was attended by 42 students from across the GCC. During the events, students were able to attend all conference sessions, network with senior industry leaders and learn about the innovation landscape and plastic industry in the region and globally.

A dedicated student-only seminar on the 13th of March presented an opportunity to hear from senior industry leaders Fahd Al Sherehy, VP Innovation and Technology, SABIC, who shared his experience building a career in the chemical industry in the GCC, and Dr. Moayyed Al Qurtas, Chairman, GPCA Research and Innovation Committee, who highlighted the role of innovation in the polymer industry. In addition to the presentations, Dr. Alaa Idris, a professor from the American University in Cairo (AUC) engaged with the students in an interactive session where the students were presented with a series of questions related to the conference and were requested to submit their findings in the form of a presentation.

The seminar opened with a presentation by Dr. Abdulwahab Al Sadoun, Secretary General, GPCA, who emphasized on the significance of the chemical industry in modern day life, and the numerous career opportunities within the burgeoning petrochemical sector. Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) is an initiative by GPCA in partnership with its stakeholders that aims to bridge the gap between academia and the industry and promote STEM education. With its first edition launched during the Annual GPCA Forum in 2016, 319 students from across the GCC have participated in the program since inception.
In a star-studded ceremony on the sidelines of the event, GPCA announced the winners of the 8th GPCA Plastics Excellence Awards sponsored by SABIC. The award ceremony took place on March 14, 2018 and opened with a speech by Abdulrahman Al Faqeeh, EVP Petrochemicals, SABIC.

SABIC and United Accredited Company won in the ‘Joint development or improvements of a new product or application – resin producer and plastic converter’ category for their PET FIBC production start-up in Saudi Arabia. UAC will be the first producer of PET FIBCs in the world. This initiative illustrates how technology partnerships between resin producers, machine companies and converters create new business opportunities for the region.

Borouge was awarded in the ‘Innovative and new plastic products and processes’ category for its AnteoTM-Borstar® Bimodal Terpolymer LLDPE. The technology is unique in combining smart catalyst design and a superior process (two-reactor system) with two comonomers giving superior flexibility
in polymer design. SABIC also received a notable mention for ‘Best sustainability initiative in the plastics conversion industry.’

Meddad Abderrahmane from SABIC Plastic Applications Development Center (SPADC) was named ‘Best researcher in plastics and plastic conversion’ for his work in polyolefin products development. The special student category ‘Fikra: Rising stars of the plastics industry’ went to Mousa Alqarni and Khaled Abdullah from King Saud University.

Now in their 8th edition, the GPCA Plastics Excellence Awards provide much needed recognition for individuals and organizations who have demonstrated outstanding performance and achievements in the areas of sustainability, product development, research and innovation across the entire polymer value chain.

For the fourth consecutive year, the awards featured a special student category: ‘Fikra: Rising Stars of the Plastics Industry Competition.’ GPCA congratulates all winners, particularly our young students, for demonstrating ingenuity in this highly competitive industry.

The awards series received as many as 259 entries from both commercial and private sectors including organizations, students, suppliers and OEM manufacturers since inception in 2011.
The 9th GPCA PlastiCon was held in the Oberoi Hotel, Dubai on 14-15 March, 2018. Besides the main conference program, a large exhibition area provided delegates with an opportunity to meet new and existing clients, network and showcase their services and products.

Networking opportunities

Each year PlastiCon attracts a large number of c-level executives from the GCC and globally, making it the region’s foremost platform for meeting senior decision makers and doing business in the Middle East.
GPCA released two new publications during its 9th GPCA PlastiCon. ‘Circular Economy and Plastics’ is a co-branded report with leading consultancy Nexant which offers in-depth information about the global plastic industry, trends in plastic sustainability and the role of plastic in the circular economy. The 43rd edition of GPCA’s quarterly publication Insight was also released during the event.

The summit’s mobile app offers a reliable and instant way to stay up to date with any event updates, the summit program and speakers and engage across all social media channels.
Some of the event’s key highlights were captured in a selection of videos available on GPCA’s official YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/GPCAorg.

GPCA PlastiCon 2018 curtain raiser

To set the stage for the event, a curtain raiser video highlighted six key mega trends impacting the industry today, and the role of sustainability in driving the circular economy in the GCC and globally.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDx8lgsUE1o

Conference highlights

With over 226 delegates from around the region and the world attending the event, the 9th GPCA PlastiCon was one of the most successful and well attended editions.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLWLGm71tKI

Awards curtain raiser

GPCA announced the winners of the 8th GPCA Plastics Excellence Awards during an official ceremony on the sidelines of the event. The ceremony opened with a presentation by Abdulrahman Al-Fageeh, EVP Petrochemicals, SABIC.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fDWiqjvuiI

Awards highlights video

Among the winning companies and individuals were Borouge, SABIC, United Accredited Company, Meddad Abderrahmane from SABIC Plastic Applications Development Center, Mousa Alqarni and Khaled Abdullah from King Saud University.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5f18q3JC8
The conference in the news
In the first three months of 2018, GPCA gained 1,131 new followers across all of its social media channels. In March Twitter followers exceeded 3,000, while total engagement on LinkedIn increased by over 395%. The top posts during PlastiCon focused on the winners from Plastics Excellence Awards and the well-attended student seminar as part of GPCA’s Leaders of Tomorrow program.
Sponsors and exhibitors

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS
GPCA PlastiCon is the GCC’s main platform to explore key international industry trends with a focus on where sustainable growth can be created within the GCC polymer value chain. Each year, CEOs from some of the region’s largest companies set the tone for discussion followed by industry experts who present their ideas about sustainability, innovation, and value creation within the sector.

**Why attend?**

**BE THE FIRST TO OBTAIN UNIQUE MARKET INTELLIGENCE**

PlastiCon offers an opportunity to gain unique in-depth market data and grow your business opportunities in and out of the region. Each part of the conference is highly focused and the result of individual and original research.

**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS**

Find out how to take advantage of the economic developments to maintain and grow your business from the leading local and international experts in the field of resin manufacturing and utilization.

**LEADING SPEAKERS FROM THE REGION AND THE WORLD**

Each year, renowned world-class speakers present extensive and detailed industry assessments on new plastics resins, high-tech polymers, conversion market factors and trend analysis on costs improvements through emerging technologies and the impact of global price development.

**KEY CUSTOMER MARKETS COVERED**

This conference will not just look at supply and demand trends for polymers but will also provide a detailed analysis of the plastics processing industry and its customer markets (e.g., packaging, automotive, building, etc).

**BUILD ON YOUR EXISTING KNOWLEDGE**

Connect with over 150 companies in the industry participating at the event. Participating companies include, but are not limited to plastic converters and compounders, resin producers, additives and masterbatch producers, plastic collectors and reclaimers, consumer of recycled resins, technology providers, machine manufacturers, petrochemical producers, oil producers, consultants, investors, traders, governments, logistic operators and others.

**UNRIVALED NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS**

GPCA PlastiCon 2017 is your opportunity to network with clients, prospective partners, colleagues, vendors and industry leaders all in one location. In 2018, 226 delegates from 80 companies in 16 countries attended the event.
The Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association (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 Gulf region. The industry makes up the second largest manufacturing sector in the region, producing over US$ 108 billion worth of products a year.

The association supports the region’s petrochemical and chemical industry through advocacy, networking and thought leadership initiatives that help member companies to connect, to share and advance knowledge, to contribute to international dialogue, and to become prime influencers in shaping the future of the global petrochemicals industry.

Committed to providing a regional platform for stakeholders from across the industry, the GPCA manages six working committees - Plastics, Supply Chain, Fertilizers, International Trade, Research and Innovation, and Responsible Care - and organizes five world-class events each year. The association also publishes an annual report, regular newsletters and reports.

For more information, please visit www.gpca.org.ae