

Global Child Forum ranks Golden Agri-Resources an Achiever in Child Rights

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Golden Agri-Resources (GAR) has been ranked as an Achiever in Global Child Forum's latest benchmarking study of around 700 companies globally. Using publicly available data, [Global Child Forum](#), along with the [Boston Consulting Group](#), carried out the assessment of how companies address children's rights.

GAR achieved a score of 5.9 out of 10, with the Global Child Forum's assessment acknowledging that GAR has developed and implemented policies and practices that address its impact on children's rights. GAR's score put it above the industry and all companies' average score of 5.6.

GAR also realises that while policies are important, in order to create change those policies need to be embedded into company practice, and followed-up through monitoring, transparent reporting and programmes to create action for children's rights.

"We believe that safeguarding child rights is non-negotiable. That's why many of our community and social policies focus on child welfare and betterment, especially education. This ranking will help spur us to continue to improve our policies and practices in this area," said Franky O. Widjaja, Chairman and CEO of GAR.

Areas in which GAR scored highly included the prohibition of child labour, zero tolerance for abuse and harassment, identifying child rights as a material issue, having a grievance mechanism and conducting supplier assessment on compliance with GAR policies on child rights.

The company has a long history of providing various programmes and projects designed to reduce the risk of child labour and improve child welfare and development. In particular, GAR believes that education is key to breaking the poverty cycle and improving the lives of future generations, and supports educational facilities for children who live in and around all its estates.

Currently, GAR supports over 250 schools which employ 2,100 teachers and is attended by over 36,000 students. Free education is provided for employees' children. Free bus services for schoolchildren are also available and the company donates books and learning materials to thousands of recipients annually.

Aside from schools, GAR also provides day care centres for workers' children to ensure that parents have somewhere safe to send their children and do not feel the need to take their children to work with them. This helps reduce the risk of child labour.

Other community programmes focused on children include providing free vaccinations and programmes on child health and nutrition to over 9,000 beneficiaries last year. Over 5,000 mothers and children also benefited from child health education programmes in 2018.

GAR has constructed 36 Rumah Pintar or Smart Houses since 2011. These serve as community resource and training centres focussing on early child education and women's educational programmes.

GAR is also engaging its supply chain on its stand against child labour, helping its supply chain comply with GAR policies and adopt responsible practices.

About Golden Agri-Resources Ltd (GAR)

GAR is one of the leading palm oil plantation companies with a total planted area of 495,247 hectares (including plasma smallholders) as at 30 September 2019, located in Indonesia. It has integrated operations focused on the production of palm-based edible oil and fat.

Founded in 1996, GAR was listed on the Singapore Exchange in 1999 and has a market capitalisation of US\$2.1 billion as at 30 September 2019. Flambo International Limited, an investment company, is currently GAR's largest shareholder, with a 50.35 percent stake. GAR has several subsidiaries, including PT SMART Tbk which was listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 1992.

GAR is focused on responsible palm oil production. In Indonesia, its primary activities include cultivating and harvesting of oil palm trees; processing of fresh fruit bunch into crude palm oil (CPO) and palm kernel; refining CPO into value-added products such as cooking oil, margarine, shortening, biodiesel and oleo-chemicals; as well as merchandising palm products throughout the world. It also has operations in China and India including a deep-sea port, oilseed crushing plant, production capabilities for refined edible oil products as well as other food products such as noodles.

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