Final Executive Report

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Global Research Council
18th – 22nd May 2025 (20-24 – 11 -1446)
Riyadh – Saudi Arabia

13th GRC
Annual
Meeting | Riyadh
2025

September 2025

Contents

INTRODUCTION

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC) took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from May 18 to 22, 2025. The Meeting was co-hosted by the Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA), King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) of Saudi Arabia, and the Scientific and Technological Research Institution of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), aiming to bring together heads of research funding agencies worldwide to foster exchange and share good practices.

This report is intended to inform GRC Participants about the key milestones of the organization of the 13th GRC Annual Meeting 2025 in Riyadh, specifically registration, program, and the Statement of Principles, to enhance the delivery of future GRC annual meetings. Furthermore, the report concludes with survey findings that highlight a remarkably high level of participant satisfaction, affirming both the success of the 13th Annual Meeting and the strength of its governance framework.

REGISTERED PARTICIPATIONS

More than 200 participants, representing 55 research councils from 51 countries, attended the meeting and actively contributed to dynamic discussions throughout the Annual Meeting program. These attendance figures underscore the Global Research Council's strong appeal and global significance. Figures 1 to 4 illustrate, respectively:

1. The distribution of registered participants by GRC regions,
2. The breakdown of participants by roles and functions,
3. The distribution of registered Heads of Research Councils (HORCs) by GRC regions, and
4. The gender distribution of registered HORCs.

Annex 1 provides a detailed list of the participating organizations, categorized by GRC region.
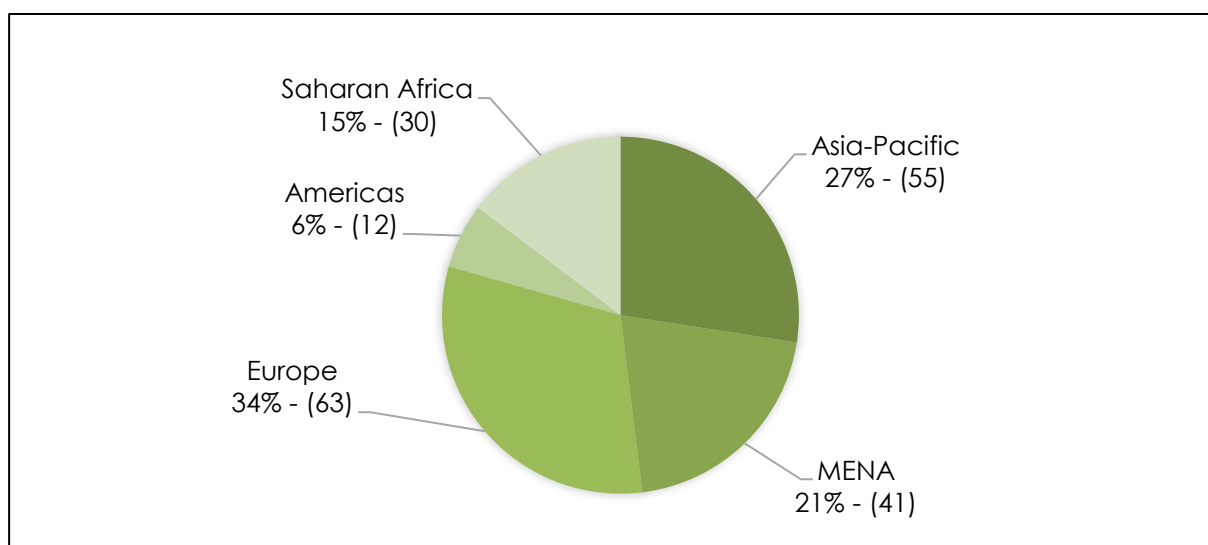

Figure (1). The distribution of registered participants by GRC regions
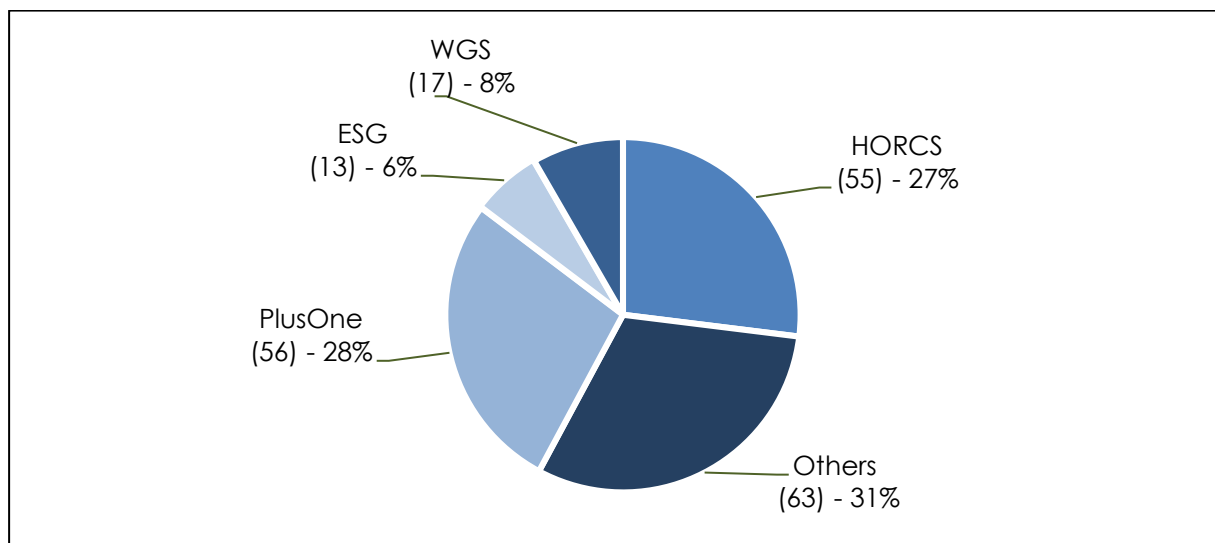
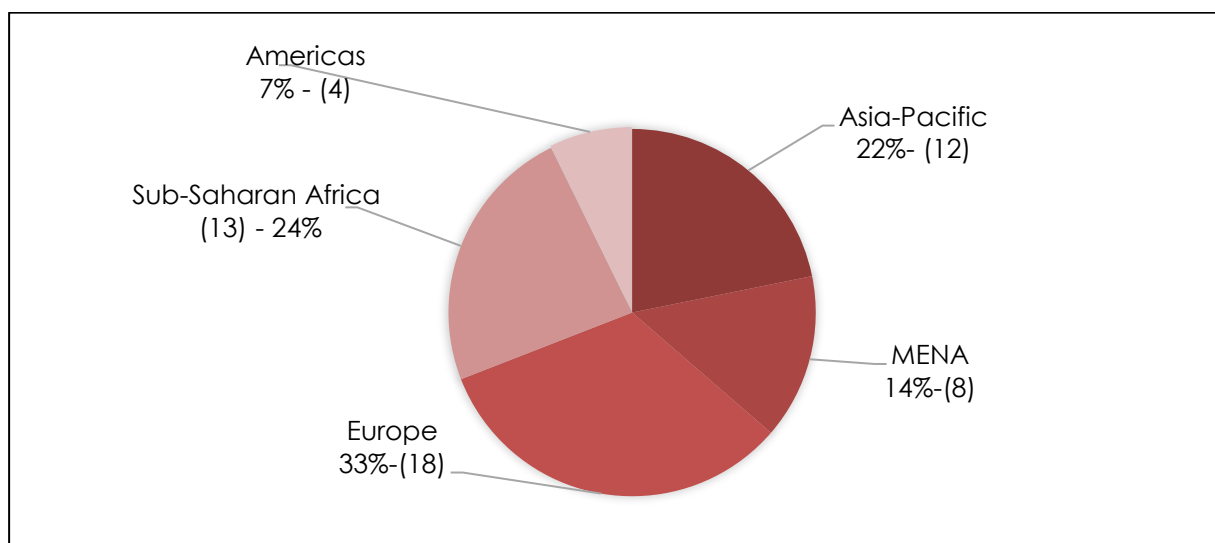Figure 2: The breakdown of participants by roles and functions

Figure (3). The distribution of registered Heads of Research Councils (HORCs) by GRC regions
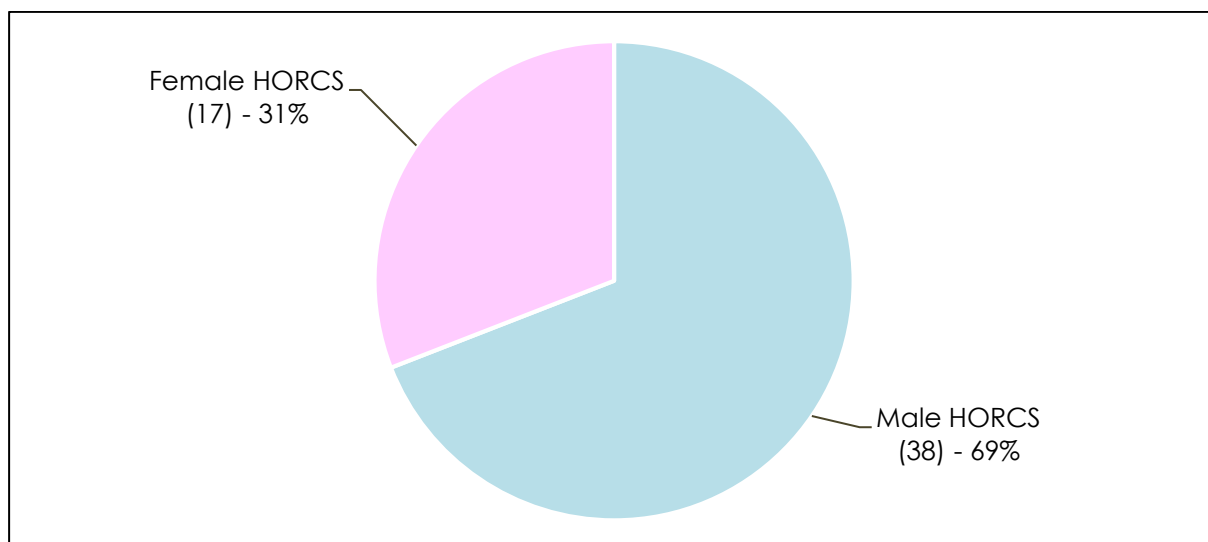
Figure (4): The gender distribution of registered HORCs

ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM:

The 13th Annual Meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC) was organized around three key building blocks:
1. Pre-Meeting Activities
2. Main Program.
3. Technical and Cultural Visits.

1. Pre-Meeting Activities

This segment took place during (May 18–19, 2025), to accommodate the GRC governance and working group meetings, regional consultations, and side events, providing a platform for preparatory discussions and strategic alignment.

Six **side events** were organized and hosted by various participating organizations during the first two days of the Annual Meeting. These events focused on topics aligned with the current 2025 GRC thematic cycle, as well as emerging themes anticipated for the 2026 cycle. The side events provided valuable platforms for in-depth discussions, knowledge exchange, and collaborative exploration of key issues shaping the global research funding landscape. In addition to the six side events hosted by participating organizations, three additional side events were organized by the GRC Working Groups. These sessions aimed to update participants on the progress of each Working Group's mandate, highlight key challenges encountered, and outline the next steps in their respective work plans. Together, these side events enriched the Annual Meeting by fostering deeper engagement with ongoing GRC initiatives and strategic priorities (Annex 2).

Moreover, the **Collaboration and Neutrality Task Group (CNT)** held a dedicated town hall workshop on May 19, 2025. The session was designed to

inform participating Heads of Research Councils (HORCs) about the newly established CNT and its mandate. The CNT is tasked with developing a process to establish clearer guidelines on how the GRC can maintain its role as a neutral, trusted international forum—one where participating organizations can engage in open dialogue on shared research and science policy issues, grounded in impartiality, trust, and mutual respect. The town hall provided an opportunity for HORCs to exchange perspectives and offer insights on how best to fulfill the CNT's mandate, ensuring that the GRC continues to serve as a collaborative and inclusive platform.

2. Main Program:

The main program of the 13th Annual Meeting took place during May 20–21, 2025, it was organized around four core sessions, in addition to the Opening Ceremony. These sessions addressed the two thematic topics of the 2025 GRC Annual Meeting:

- Research Management in the Era of AI
- Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges

Each of the first two sessions introduced one of the above topics through a keynote address delivered by a globally recognized expert. Following the keynote, participants engaged in five parallel breakout groups, each exploring a specific dimension of the topic in greater depth. Each session concluded with the endorsement of a Statement of Principle (SOP), reflecting the collective insights and commitments of the participants.

The third and fourth sessions focused on internal GRC matters. The third session provided updates on ongoing GRC activities, while the fourth session looked ahead to future initiatives, including the announcement of the 2026 Annual Meeting co-hosts and thematic topics.

Further details on the main program sessions are provided in Annex 2.

3. Technical and Cultural Visits
The final day (May 22, 2025) offered participants the opportunity to engage in curated technical and cultural visits, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the host country's research and innovation landscape.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES (SOPS):

1. Research Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence (AI) (link).
- This Statement of Principles outlines a comprehensive framework for integrating AI into research funding and management processes. It underscores the pivotal role of Research funding agencies in shaping research through funding, peer review, and policy-making. In addition

to the ceneral role of AI in enhancing these processes, if governed responsibly. It highlights the recommended core principles for the potential applications of AI in Research Management, including:

- AI Adoption: AI offers efficiency and innovation in research workflows, and Adoption must be regulated, governed, and aligned with best practices.
- Decision Making: Final decisions must remain human-led, and AI should support, not replace, human judgment.
- Bridging the Digital Divide: Ensure equitable access to AI tools and infrastructure, and promote open-source AI, inclusive training, and connectivity in under-resourced regions.
- International Collaboration: Share best practices, resources, and expertise globally, and Support capacity-building in regions with limited AI capabilities.
- Bias and Fairness: Train AI on diverse datasets to avoid marginalizing underrepresented communities, address linguistic and bibliometric biases, and ensure AI aligns with impartial review policies.
- Transparency and Accountability: clearly define when, where, and by whom AI is used, and ensure explainability, validation, and reporting of AI outputs.
- Privacy, Data Security, and Intellectual Property: protect sensitive data and proprietary ideas, require author consent for data use and AI training, and prevent misuse of generative AI on submitted proposals.
- AI Literacy: Train users on AI systems and their limitations, and promote compliance and responsible use.
- Sustainable Development: AI use should not harm the environment, and encourage energy-efficient AI models.

- Also, it puts forward some Recommended Actions to enhance the implementation of AI in research management, including:
  - Promote open-source AI and support low-resource AI research.
  - Maintaining public trust through transparency in AI training and data handling.
  - Encourage the publishing of public training data with privacy safeguards.
  - Conduct continuous evaluation of AI systems and publish performance metrics.
  - Consider the formation of a GRC working group on AI, led by experienced participants.

2. Co-Creation for Addressing Global Challenges (link)

- This Statement of Principles outlines a strategic framework for integrating co-creation into research and innovation systems to address complex global challenges, including climate change, pandemics, and energy transitions.
- It defines co-creation as the collaborative generation of value by engaging diverse stakeholders, academia, industry, policymakers, and civil society throughout all stages of research and development.
- It highlights the key principles of integration of co-creation in the research and innovation ecosystem as follows:
  - Inclusivity and Equity: Empower underrepresented voices and ensure equitable access to resources.
  - Stakeholder Engagement: Foster trust and long-term impact through active participation and capacity building.
  - Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Promote cross-sectoral and transdisciplinary approaches to problem-solving.
  - Citizen Science: Enhance transparency and societal relevance through public involvement.
  - Emerging Technologies: Leverage AI, blockchain, and IoT ethically to support collaboration.
  - Sustainability: Align initiatives with environmental, social, and economic goals.
  - Governance: Establish robust structures for accountability, resource allocation, and stakeholder rights.
- This SOPS puts forward some recommended implementation strategies:
  - Develop inclusive co-creation platforms with multilingual and virtual collaboration features.
  - Introduce adaptive funding mechanisms for multi-stakeholder partnerships.
  - Advocate for supportive policies and regulatory frameworks.
  - Strengthen global collaboration through joint funding and shared infrastructure.
  - Apply comprehensive monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

SATISFACTION LEVEL OF PARTICIPANTS:

As part of the broader initiative to implement governance standards for event management, a specialized survey was conducted to evaluate the satisfaction levels of attendees and participants at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Global Research Councils. This assessment aimed to capture a comprehensive understanding of the overall experience by soliciting feedback across several key dimensions:

- **Quality of Planning and Organization:** Effectiveness of logistical arrangements and event coordination.

- **Clarity of Presented Content:** Accessibility and relevance of materials shared during sessions.
- **Efficiency of Services and Facilities:** Responsiveness, professionalism, and adequacy of support services.
- **Venue Suitability:** Appropriateness of the location in terms of accessibility, comfort, and functionality.
- **Overall Experience:** General impressions and perceived value of attending the event.

The survey results were highly encouraging, indicating a strong level of satisfaction among participants.
Overall satisfaction reached approximately **94.6%**, with particularly high ratings in key areas:

- **98.2%** for the quality of scientific content and the diversity of speakers and topics
- **96.3%** for logistical arrangements
- **85.5%** for the clarity of pre-event communications, including invitations, agendas, and instructions

These findings underscore the effectiveness of the event's planning and execution, and provide valuable insights for future enhancements.

How satisfied are you with the overall organization of the event
55 responses

Rating	Count
Very satisfied	38 (69.1%)
Satisfied	14 (25.5%)
Neutral	3 (5.5%)
Dissatisfied	1 (1.8%)
Very dissatisfied	0 (0%)
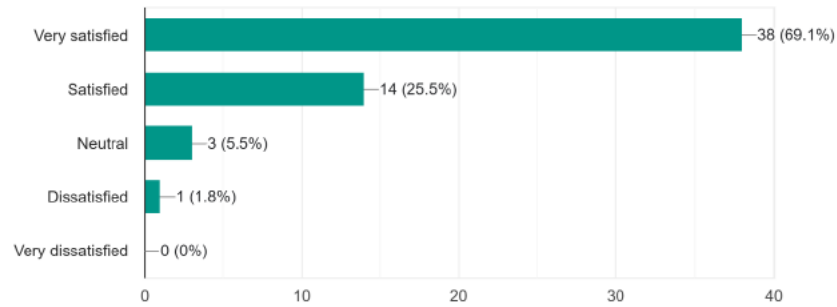
How would you rate the quality of the scientific content presented
55 responses

Rating	Count
Excellent	37 (67.3%)
Very good	14 (25.5%)
Good	3 (5.5%)
Fair	1 (1.8%)
Poor	0 (0%)
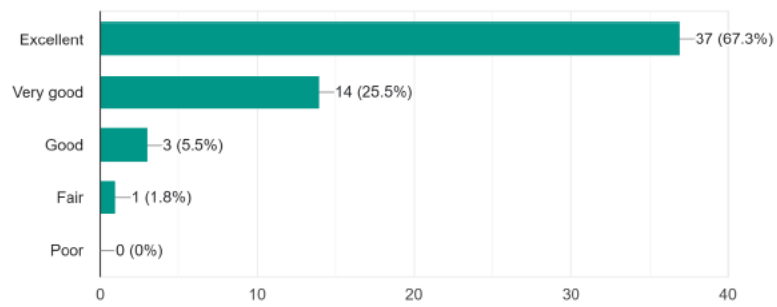
How satisfied are you with the diversity of speakers and topics
55 responses

Very satisfied	37 (67.3%)
Satisfied	17 (30.9%)
Neutral	2 (3.6%)
Dissatisfied	0 (0%)
Very dissatisfied	0 (0%)
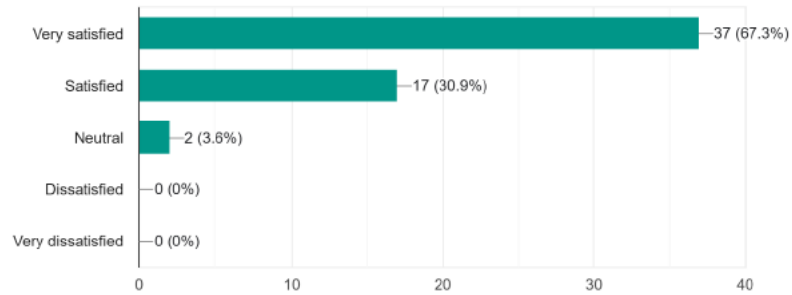
How would you rate the logistical services (registration, hospitality, transportation, venue facilities)
54 responses

Excellent	40 (74.1%)
Very good	8 (14.8%)
Good	4 (7.4%)
Fair	2 (3.7%)
Poor	0 (0%)
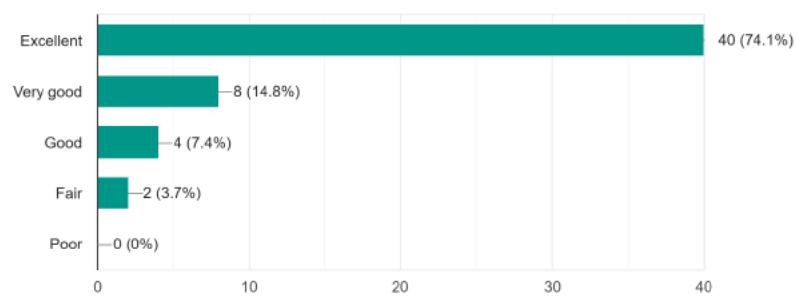
Were the pre-event communications (invitation, agenda, instructions) clear and sufficient?
55 responses

Yes	47 (85.5%)
No	5 (9.1%)
Maybe	4 (7.3%)
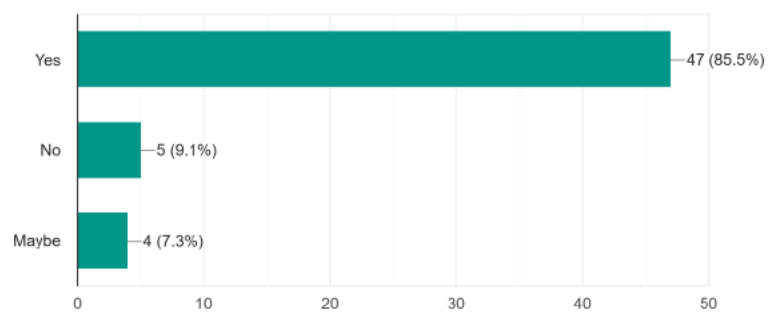
VISUAL LIBRARY DOCUMENTING MEMORABLE MOMENTS

We are also delighted to share with you a visual library documenting memorable moments we shared during the the 13th GRC Annual Meeting through the attached link.

https://kacst-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/salharbi_kacst_gov_sa/ElgLtZGzvFdHtR7h5-ICE2sBsKR-YdKHV2DLHB1RztdPig?e=P1fdyV

Thanks

For more information or questions, please reach out:

PROF. AHMED MOHAMMED ALABDULKADER
SECRETARY OF THE 13TH GRC ANNUAL MEETING STEERING BOARD.
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MENA REGION,
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT GROUP – THE GLOBAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.
KING ABDULAZIZ CITY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
akader@kacst.gov.sa

ANNEXES

Annex (1). List of the registered participating organizations by the GRC Regions

Americas Region
1. Agencia Nacional de Investigación e Innovación (ANII)
2. Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo (ANID)
3. Concejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONCYTEC)
4. Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT)
5. Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología de Paraguay (CONACYT)
6. Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET)
7. Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq)
8. Costa Rican Promoter of Innovation and Research
9. Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (Minciencias)
10. National Science Foundation (NSF)
11. National Secretary for Science and Technology of Guatemala (SENACYT)
12. São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP)
13. Science, Humanities, Technologies and Innovation Secretariat (Secihti)
14. Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación (SENACYT)
15. Secretariat of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (SENESCYT)

Europe Region
1. Academy of Finland (AKA)
2. Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)
3. Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI), State Research Agency
4. Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW)
5. Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
6. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
7. Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ)
8. Czech Science Foundation (GACR)
9. Estonian Research Council (ETAG)
10. European Research Council (ERC)
11. Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)
12. Foundation for Polish Science (FNP)
13. Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS)
14. Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia ()
15. German Research Foundation (DFG)
16. Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA)
17. Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN)
18. Independent Research Fund Denmark (DFF)
19. Latvian Council of Science (LZP)

20. Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR) - Fonds National de la Recherche Luxembourg
21. National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN)
22. National Science Centre (NCN)
23. Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
24. Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)
25. Research Ireland
26. Science Europe
27. Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia
28. Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (SRNSFG)
29. Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA)
30. Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS)
31. Swedish Research Council (VR)
32. Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development (FORMAS)
33. Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
34. The Research Council of Norway (RCN)
35. UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

Asia–Pacific Region
1. Australian Research Council (ARC)
2. Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
3. General for Scientific Research and Technological Development (DGRSDT)
4. Indonesia National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)
5. Iran National Science Foundation (INSF)
6. Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
7. Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
8. National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
9. National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)
10. National Research Foundation (NRF)
11. National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF)
12. National Science Foundation (NSF)
13. Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI)
14. National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NFSTD)

MENA Region
1. Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT)
2. Agence National de la recherche scietifique et de l'innovation (ANRSI)
3. Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (CNRST)
4. King Abdulaziz City for Science and technology (KACST) – Saudi Arabia
5. Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS)
6. Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
7. Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
8. Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (TRC) / MoHERI

9. National Council for Scientific Research Lebanon (CNRS-L)
10. Qatar Research, Development, and Innovation Council (QRDI); Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)
11. Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA)

Sub-Saharan Africa Region
1. Association of African Universities
2. Department of Research, Science and Technology
3. Fundo Nacional de Investigação (FNI)
4. Le fonds National pour la Recherche et de l'Innovation pour le Developpement (FONRID)
5. Ministère Enseignement Supérieur et Recherche (MESR)
6. Ministry of Science and Technology (MIST) / Foundation for Scientific and Technological Development/Fundação para o Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (FUNDECIT)
7. Ministry of Technical and Higher Education
8. National Commission of Science and Technology (NCST)
9. National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST)
10. National Research Foundation - SAIAB
11. National Research Foundation (NRF)
12. National Research Fund (NRF)
13. Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)
14. Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund)

Annex (2). Program of The 13th Annual Meeting

13th Annual Meeting   ([link](#))

Riyadh – the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

18-22 May 2025

Sunday, 18 May 2025		
Venue: KACST_The Garage		
08:00-18:00	Registration	
Parallel Sections		
09:00 – 10:30	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group (EDI-WG) Meeting Venue: Red Sea Hall	Side-event (1) Topic: Responsible and Effective Global Research and Innovation Index. Host (s): Research Development and Innovation Authority (RDIA). Venue: Tuwaiq Hall
10:30 – 12:00	Side Event (2) Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group (EDI-WG) Venue: AlUla Hall	Side-vent (3) Topic: Sustainable research through multilateral collaboration and transdisciplinary research in the era of AI. Host (s): Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), The Dutch Research Council (NWO), National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) Venue: Tuwaiq Hall
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00 – 14:30	Side-event (4) Topic: Regional Perspectives on	Side-event (5)

	Open Science and Open Access Initiatives. Host (s): The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) and the National Academic Network and Information Centre (ULAKBIM). Venue: AlUla Hall	Topic: Greater Impact: Experiences, Best Practices, Opportunities, and Challenges of Using AI in Research Funding. Host (s): Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia. Venue: Tuwaiq Hall
14:30 – 14:45	Coffee Break	
14:45 – 16:15	<u>Side-event (6)</u> Topic: AI-Powered Collaboration Databases for Enhanced Research Utilization. Host (s): National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) Venue: Tuwaiq Hall	
16:15 – 17:45	<u>Side-event (7)</u> Multilateral Engagement Working Group (MLE-WG) Venue: AlUla Hall	
17: 45	End of the Business Day	

Agenda

Pre-meeting: GB meeting, Regional meetings, and Side-events

Monday, 19 May 2025		
Venue: KACST_The Garage		
08:00-18:30	Registration	
Parallel sessions		
9:00 – 10:30	Side-event (8) Responsible Research Assessment Working Group (RRA-WG) Venue: AlUla Hall	Side-event (9) Topic: Enhancing Global Collaboration through AI in Research Impact Evaluation. Host (s): Department of Science and Technology (DoST) – Philippines Venue: Tuwaiq Hall
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 – 12:00	Collaboration and Neutrality Task Group Meeting (CNT) Town Hall (by invitation only) Venue: Innovation Tower – 6-7 Floor	
12:00-13:00	Lunch Break - CNT Town Hall Lunch (by invitation) Venue: Innovation Tower – 6-7 Floor	
	Lunch Break - GRC Participants Venues: KACST - The Garage	
13:00 – 14:30	Parallel Regional Meetings: 1. Americas (Soudah Hall) 2. Asia-Pacific (Turaif Hall) 3. Europe (Neom Hall) 4. MENA (Red Sea Hall) 5. Sub-Saharan Africa (Al Ahsa Oasis Hall)	
14:30 – 14:45	Coffee Break	
14:45 – 15:15	Bilateral meetings and networking (1)	
15:15 – 17:15	Governing Board Meeting (closed meeting) Venue: Innovation Tower – 17th Floor	
17:15 -17:30	Break	
17:30 – 18:30	Collaboration and Neutrality Task Group Meeting (CNT) (closed)	

Monday, 19 May 2025	
Venue: KACST_The Garage	
	Venue: Innovation Tower – 6th Floor
18:30	End of the Business Day
18:30 – 19:00	Gathering and departure to the welcoming reception
19:00 – 22:00	Welcoming Reception KARAMNA Restaurant ([link])

13th Annual Meeting (link)

Riyadh – the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

18-22 May 2025

GRC Annual Meeting (by invitation only)

Tuesday, 20 May 2025		
Venue: KACST_The Garage_Tuwaiq Hall		
08:00 - 18:00	Registration and Welcome Coffee	
Opening Ceremony		
09:00 – 09:40	09:00 – 09:25	Welcome Remarks • Prof. Alejandro Adem - Governing Board Chair President of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada • H.E. Dr. Munir M. Eldesouki – co-host of the 2025 AM Governing Board Co-Chair, President of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), Saudi Arabia • Dr. Mohammed Al-Otabi – co-host of the 2025 AM Director General, Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA), Saudi Arabia • Prof. Orhan Aydın – co-host of the 2025 AM President of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK).
	09:25– 09:40	• Success Stories of Saudi Arabia's RDI (4 cases * 3-4 munites)
09:40 – 09:45	Transition Break	

09:45 – 10:30		Introduction of Participants and Observers • Session Chair: Prof. Ute Roessner Chief Executive Officer, Australian Research Council
10:30 – 10:35		Transition Break

Session 1: Research Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence
Session Chair: Prof. Anicia Peters CEO, National Commission of Research, Science and Technology (Namibia).

10:35 – 13:40	10:35 – 10:45	Introduction to Topic 1: Research Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence • Dr. Waleed Alsanie King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) – Saudi Arabia
	10:45 – 10:50	Transition Break
	10:50 – 11:25	Keynote speech followed by Q&A • Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala - Rector of the United Nations University and UN Under-Secretary-General
	11:25– 11:30	Transition Break

	11:30 – 12:30	Five break-out groups on Topic (1) - Parallel Sessions
		  Chairs:
		• Americas: Dr. Karen Marrongelle
		  Chief Science Officer, The National Science Foundation, USA
		  Venue: Soudah Hall
		
		• Asia-Pacific: Dr Prue Williams

Session 1: Research Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence		
Session Chair: Prof. Anicia Peters **CEO, National Commission of Research, Science and Technology (Namibia).**		
		General Manager, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), New Zealand Venue: Red Sea Hall • Europe: Prof. Mari Sundli Tveit Chief Executive, The Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway Venue: Turaif Hall • MENA: Dr. Saif Alhaddabi Under Secretary Ministry- Higher Education and Scientific Research and Innovation – Oman. Venue: Al Ahsa Oasis Hall • Sub-Saharan Africa: Prof. Fulufhelo Nelwamondo Chief Executive Officer, National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa Venue: Neom Hall
	12:30-12:45	Coffee break

Session 1: Research Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence
Session Chair: Prof. Anicia Peters CEO, National Commission of Research, Science and Technology (Namibia).

12:45 – 13:00	Reporting from the break-out groups on Topic (1) by rapporteurs (5 x 3 min) • Americas: Dr. Kori St-Cyr – Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council NSERC, Canada. • Asia-Pacific: Mrs. Danette Lisa Olsen (TBC) General Manager Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) - New Zealand • Europe: Ms. Frances Wood UKRI - United Kingdom Research & Innovation • MENA: Dr. Sadim Jawhar Qatar Research, Development and Innovation Council, QRDI (Qatar) • Sub-Saharan Africa: Mrs. Dirce Madeira Fundo Nacional de Investigação (FNI), Mozambique

Session 1: Research Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence		
Session Chair: Prof. Anicia Peters CEO, National Commission of Research, Science and Technology (Namibia).		
	13:00 – 13:30	Panel discussion and reflections on Topic (1) • Americas Panelist: Dr. Benjamín Barán Cegla CONACYT President- Paraguay. • Asia-Pacific Panelist: Dr. Enrico Camero Paringit Executive Director, Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) Philippines • Europe Panelist: Dr. Jörg Schneider Head of International Affairs - German Research Foundation (DFG) • MENA Panelist: Prof. Jamilah Alalami. Director, Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (CNRST) - Morroco. • Sub-Saharan Africa Panelist: Dr Martin Ongol Acting Executive Secretary, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) - Uganda • Keynote Speaker: Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala Rector of the United Nations University and UN Undersecretary-General.
	13:30 – 13:40	Endorsement of Statement of Principles on Research Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence Session Chair: Prof. Anicia Peters CEO, National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST).
13:40 – 13:45		Transition Break

Session 1: Research Management in the Era of Artificial Intelligence	
Session Chair: Prof. Anicia Peters CEO, National Commission of Research, Science and Technology (Namibia).	
13:45 – 14:15	Group Photos
14:15 – 15:15	Lunch Break
15:15 – 15:45	Bilateral meetings & networking (2)

Session 2: Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges		
Session Chair: Prof. Orhan Aydin President, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)		
15:45-18:40	15:45 – 15:55	Introduction to Topic 2: Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges • Dr. Fatih Sinan Esen Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)
	15:55 – 16:25	Keynote speech followed by Q&A • Prof. Ibrahim DİNÇER, Yıldız Technical University - Türkiye
	16:2 5 – 16:3	Transition Break
	16:30 – 17:30	Five break-out groups on Topic (2) – Parallel Sessions Chairs: • Americas: Prof. Alejandro Adem Governing Board Chair, President of Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada Venue: Soudah Hall • Asia-Pacific: Dr. Agus Haryono Deputy Chairman for Research and Innovation Facilitation, National Research & Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia Venue: Red Sea Hall

Session 2: Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges
Session Chair: Prof. Orhan Aydin President, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)

		• Europe: Prof. Marcel Levi President, Dutch National Research Council (NWO), Netherlands Venue: Turaif Hall • MENA: Mrs. Riham Taher Executive Director QRDI - Research Development and Innovation Council Qatar Venue: Al Ahsa Oasis Hall • Sub-Saharan Africa: Dr. SANGARE YAYA. Secretary-General, Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI), Côte d'Ivoire Venue: Neom Hall
	17:30 – 17:4	Coffee break
	17:45 – 18:00	Reporting from the break-out groups on Topic 2 by rapporteurs (5 x 3 min) • Americas: Dr. Sharapiya Kakimova Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo (ANID) - Chile • Asia-Pacific: Mr. Osamu Kobayashi Director of International Affairs, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) • Europe: Dr. Lidia Borrell-Damián. Secretary General, Science Europe • MENA: Dr. Oumar Elyoussoufi Attou National Center for Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST) Morocco • Sub-Saharan Africa: Dr. Thandi Mgwebi. National Research Foundation (NRF) – South Africa

Session 2: Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges		
Session Chair: Prof. Orhan Aydin **President, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)**		
	18:00 – 18:30	Panel discussion and reflections on Topic (2) • Americas Panelist: Ms. Ana Vásquez Head of International Unit, National Research and Innovation Agency of Uruguay (ANII) • Asia-Pacific Panelist: Prof. Dou Xiankang President, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) - China • Europe Panelist: Professor Christopher Smith Executive Chair International, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), United Kingdom. • MENA Panelist: Dr. Ameenah Rajab Farhan Director General, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). • Sub-Saharan Africa Panelist: Dr Cephas Adjei Mensah Director, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Ghana • Keynote Speaker: Prof. Ibrahim DİNÇER, - Yildiz Technical University in Turkiye and Ontario Tech University in Canada - Türkiye
	18:30 – 18: 40	Endorsement of Statement of Principles on Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges Session Chair • Prof. Orhan Aydin The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)
18:40		End of the Business Day
18:40 – 19:00		Gathering and departure for the guided visit and Galla dinner

Session 2: Working Together in Co-Creation to Address Global Challenges
Session Chair: Prof. Orhan Aydin President, Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK)

19:00 - 22:00	Guided cultural visit and gala dinner Bujairi Terrace Drop-Off ([Link])

13th Annual Meeting (link)

Riyadh – the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

18-22 May 2025

GRC Annual Meeting (by invitation only)

Wednesday, 21 May 2025	
Venue: KACST_The Garage_Tuwaiq Hall	
07:30 - 08:30	Governing Board Breakfast (closed) Venue: KACST_The Garage_Sindalah Hall

Session 3: Reporting of the GRC Activities			
Session Chair: Dr. Marcus Wilms ESG Co-chair – DFG, Germany			
09:00 - 10:30	09:00 – 09:15	• Reporting from the Executive Secretariat Mr. Mike Bright – Acting GRC Executive Secretary (UKRI)	
	09:15 – 09:30	• Reporting from the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group (EDI-WG) Dr. Ana Maria Fonseca de Almeida (FAPESP, Brazil) Mr. Adrien Braem (Science Europe, Europe)	
	09:30 – 9:45	• Reporting from the Responsible Research Working Group (RRA WG) Prof. Mohammed A. Al-Shamsi (RDIA, Saudi Arabia) Mr. Shawn McGuirk (NSERC, Canada)	
	09:45 – 10:00	• RRA Survey results Prof. James Wilsdon Research on Research Institute (RoRI), UCL	
	10:00 – 10:15	• Reporting from the Multilateral Engagement Working Group (MLE WG) Mr. Osamu Kobayashi Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST, Japan) Dr. Prudence Makhura National Research Foundation (NRF, South Africa)	

	10:15 – 10:30	• Q& A
10:30– 11:00		Bilateral meetings & networking (3)

Session 4: Future GRC Activities		
	Session Chair: H.E. Dr. Munir M. Eldesouki Co-chair of the Governing Board. President of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) – Saudi Arabia	
11:00 – 12:00	11:00 – 11:15	• New GRC Secretariat update Mr. Mike Bright– Acting GRC Executive Secretary (UKRI)
	11:15 – 11:30	• Report from the GRC Governing Board Chair Prof. Alejandro Adem, President, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada
	11:30 – 11:45	• Presentation from the Hosts of the 2026 Annual Meeting Prof. Sompong Klaynongsruang President, Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), Thailand Prof Alejandro Adem President, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Canada.
	11:45 - 12:00	Remarks on the value of the GRC and inspiration for the future as the GRC moves ahead in its second decade (5 HORCS * 3 minutes) • Americas Panelist: Dr. Karen Marrongelle Chief Science Officer, National Science Foundation, USA • Asia-Pacific Panelist: Mr. Tsuyoshi Sugino

		President of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) – Japan. • Europe Panelist: Professor Christopher Smith, Executive Chair International, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) • MENA Panelist: Dr. Rami Niazy Vice Governor - Research, Development, and Innovation Authority – RDIA – Saudi Arabia • Sub-Saharan Africa Panelist: Dr. Amos Nungu Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH - Tanzania).
12:00– 12:15	Final Remarks and Farewell • Co-hosts of the 13th GRC Annual Meeting 2025	
12:15 – 12:30	Transition Break	
12:30 – 13:00	Bilateral meetings & networking (4)	
13:00 – 14:00	Farewell Lunch Buffet (hosted by TÜBİTAK - Türkiye)	
14:00	End of the Annual Meeting	
14:00 – 14:30	Coffee break	
14:30 – 16:00	Program Committee meeting (closed) Venue: Soudah Hall	Multilateral Engagement Working Group (MLE-WG) meeting (closed) Venue: Al Ahsa Oasis Hall
16:15 – 17:15	Executive Support Group (ESG) & International Steering Committee (ISC) meeting (closed) Venue: Turaif Hall	
17:15 – 18:15	Executive Support Group (ESG) debrief (Closed) Venue: Turaif Hall	

13th Annual Meeting

Riyadh – the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

18-22 May 2025

Technical Visits

Thursday, 22 May 2025	
08:30 - 09:00	Gathering and departure for the guided visits
09:00 - 15:00	Guided Visits: Please visit the recommended technical visits link
End of the Annual Meeting	