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Grupa Azoty awarded at COP24

At the COP24 Climate Summit held in Katowice, Grupa Azoty was recognised for its pursuit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact. The award was presented by Jerzy Kwieciński, Minister of Investment and Development, and Javier Cortez, representative of the UNGC in New York, to Sławomir Lipkowski, President of the Management Board of Grupa Azoty Kędzierzyn.

'Last year was a very important one for Grupa Azoty in terms of sustainable development. It was exactly a year ago that Grupa Azoty joined the partnership for implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, initiated by the Ministry of Development. Since then, we have been working hard on the new sustainable development strategy. We were proud to present our best practices at the High Level Political Forum in New York. Grupa Azoty shares the United Nations' values in the approach to sustainable development and joins in active pursuit of the values,' said Sławomir Lipkowski, President of the Grupa Azoty Kędzierzyn Management Board.

The UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals are a certain universal action plan for the Grupa Azoty Group. The recently presented updated business strategy of the Grupa Azoty Group until 2020 focuses on innovation in the chemical industry and investments in start-ups. In line with the updated strategy, by 2020 the expenditure on research, development and innovation will reach 1% of the Grupa Azoty Group's revenue, in response to Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure. The Grupa Azoty Group is continuing its efforts to achieve other SDGs: to end hunger through promotion and education for sustainable agriculture, responsible consumption and production, education, reduction of environmental impacts, as well as efficient use of water.

The Grupa Azoty Group's initiatives focusing on efficient use of water were discussed in more detail by Sławomir

Lipkowski during the panel called 'Leading innovations to reduce pollution in water and on Earth' organised by Global Compact Network Poland and the Ministry of Investment and Development as part of the Urban Summit by COP24. In its global operations, the Grupa Azoty Group strives to use water in a reasonable way. As a responsible corporate citizen, it is also aware of the problem of water shortage, which is why it strives to increase the efficiency of water consumption in production processes. Wherever possible, the Grupa Azoty Group has in place solutions that enable water reuse. It also educates farmers on efficient and sustainable fertilizer application with a view to achieving more efficient use of natural resources.

The Grupa Azoty Group has adopted a strategic approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Sustainable Development Strategy for 2018–2022 implemented by the Group takes into account the UN Sustainable Development Goals with the highest level of materiality for the fertilizer and chemical industry. In July 2018, as a member of the Polish government delegation, the Grupa Azoty Group presented its best practices in the area of sustainable development at the UN High Level Political Forum 2018 in New York.

In September 2018, the Grupa Azoty Group joined the United Nations Global Compact, a CSR initiative launched by UN Secretary General. Thus, the Group made a commitment to adhere to and promote UN Global Compact's 10 principles and to report on the progress of their implementation. The United Nations Global Compact is the world's largest corporate responsibility initiative. It calls upon businesses to develop strategies and actions based on the ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption as well as to take steps to help achieve the social goals of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Grupa Azoty Group is the undisputed leader of the fertilizer and chemical market in Poland and one of its key players in Europe. It is the second largest EU-based manufacturer of nitrogen and compound fertilizers, and its other products, including melamine, caprolactam, polyamide, oxo alcohols, plasticisers and titanium white, enjoy an equally strong standing in the chemical sector, with a wide range of applications in various industries. In May 2017, the Group unveiled its updated strategy until 2020. The key development areas include completion of the Group's consolidation, reinforcing its leadership in agricultural solutions on the European market, strengthening the second operating pillar through expansion of the non-fertilizer business, as well as generating and implementing innovations to accelerate growth in the chemical sector. The Grupa Azoty Group key companies in Poland are located in Tarnów, Puławy, Police, and Kędzierzyn-Koźle. The Group is also present on international markets. Its foreign assets include ATT Polymers of Guben, Germany, operating in the plastics segment, and the COMPO EXPERT Group with production plants located in Krefeld, Germany, and Vall d'Uixó, Spain, a leader of the global market of specialty fertilizers for professional customers, acquired by the Grupa Azoty Group in 2018.

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