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ESG as a Risk Management Tool in WHA Corporation Plc

WHA Corporation Plc ("WHA"), a major operator in Thailand's industrial estates, logistics, utilities and power, and digital services sectors, has integrated Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into the core of its corporate strategy. This approach is not simply a commitment to sustainability but also a deliberate mechanism for managing legal, financial, operational, and possible risks. By embedding ESG into its long-term vision, WHA has positioned itself as both a market leader and a model for corporate resilience.

On the environmental front, WHA has actively pursued initiatives aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions and transitioning to renewable energy. Through its Mobilix platform, the company has introduced electric vehicle rental and charging services, with a target fleet of 20,000 EVs by 2029 that is expected to reduce emissions by 280,000 tons of CO_2e per year. Its renewable energy projects, implemented through power purchase agreements under WHA Utilities and Power Plc, aim to increase total capacity to 1,200 megawatts by 2029, which would cut 683,000 tons of CO_2e annually and generate more than 5.6 billion baht in revenue. In addition, WHA has expanded into waste-to-energy initiatives, such as the Chonburi Clean Energy project, and recycling schemes under its WeCYCLE program, which reduce landfill waste and repurpose materials into useful products. These measures reflect compliance with Thailand's environmental regulatory framework while also addressing risks linked to climate change and tightening emission standards.

From a governance and financial perspective, WHA has leveraged ESG as a value driver to secure access to capital and reduce exposure to investment risks. With increasing global emphasis on green financing and climate disclosure, the company's proactive adoption of sustainable projects enhances its attractiveness to lenders and investors. Its investment plan of 29 billion baht between 2025 and 2029 into renewable energy and clean technology is an example of how ESG can strengthen financial resilience and align with regulatory and market expectations. WHA's transparent and responsible governance approach is consistent with the Thai Securities and Exchange Commission's Corporate Governance Principles for Listed Companies, which prioritize accountability, fairness, and sustainable growth.

On the social dimension, WHA has recognized the role of human capital in sustaining business continuity and minimizing operational risks. It has implemented employee welfare programs such as WHA Care and WHAppy Friday, alongside occupational health and stress management initiatives. By offering benefits that exceed statutory minimums under the Labor Protection Act, the company not only enhances employee satisfaction but also reduces turnover risk, mitigates the likelihood of labor disputes, and builds a reputation as a responsible employer. These practices are essential to strengthening the social pillar of ESG and ensuring long-term workforce stability.

Overall, WHA's adoption of ESG principles demonstrates how sustainability initiatives can function as a comprehensive risk management framework. Its environmental projects reduce exposure to climate and compliance risks, its governance policies strengthen financial security and investor confidence, and its social programs reinforce labor relations and employee retention. By aligning business operations with ESG, WHA illustrates how Thai companies can balance profitability with resilience, ensuring sustainable growth while meeting both legal obligations and market demands.

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact us via info@bgloballaw.com