

DECEMBER 2018

# Society & Environment

A monthly publication issued by Zayed International Foundation for the Environment



إكسبو 2020  
دبي الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
DUBAI | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



Issue 190

creating green communities for a better tomorrow



UAE Union a 'dream that became  
a bright reality for all':  
UAE President

Place youth at the forefront of Expo 2020's mission: HH Sheikh Mohammed





## **Emirates Appreciation Award for the Environment**

**Together for a green home**



**Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad**  
Executive Editor

This year's UAE National Day celebrations holds greater significance as it falls in the Year of Zayed, as we celebrate the birth centenary of the nation's late Founding Father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. As a leader with great visionary foresight, he took forward the country's aspirations further than anyone could have ever imagined enabling the UAE to achieve extraordinary growth in just a few decades.

The UAE is today recognised as a model of overall development, due to its scientific, economic and social accomplishments. The country has taken a leading role in consolidating Arab sovereignty while its active foreign policy in dealing with various international issues has enhanced the country's stature and strengthened its friendships across the globe.

Under the nation's leadership that follows the vision of our Founding Father, the UAE has entrenched itself as a centre of knowledge, innovation, culture, tourism, logistics and trade. In October this year, the UAE entered the age of space manufacturing when KhalifaSat, the first satellite built entirely by Emirati engineers, was launched. Its leadership in the space sector is ensuring that it is on the right track to reach Mars in 2117.

According to a study from the World Bank Group and the World Economic Forum, the UAE has emerged as the most competitive economy in the Middle East and North Africa, thanks to its strong rankings in infrastructure, goods and market efficiency, labour market efficiency, financial market development, business sophistication and the country's macroeconomic environment, among other factors. It has also consolidated its leadership in the region as the main tech and innovation hub.

As we enter the 48th year of the formation of the Union, we have every reason to be optimistic in the nation's continued success and prosperity.



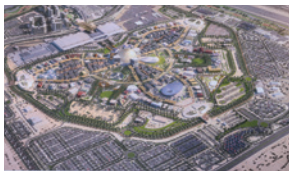
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*“The woman is half of the society, any country which pursues development should not leave her in poverty or illiteracy. I am on the woman’s side; I always say this in order to uphold her right to work and participate in the building process of her country.”*

*Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan*

e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

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## From the **Managing Editor**



**Dr. Meshgan Al Awar**  
Secretary General  
Zayed International Prize  
for the Environment

As we enter the final month of the Year of Zayed celebrations in the UAE during which we have showcased to the world the vision and foresight of the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan in laying the foundations of a thriving, sustainable economy, it gives me great pleasure to announce that I have been honored and recognised by the Arab Women’s Council (AWC) in Cairo, Egypt, with the 2018 Outstanding Golden Shield Award for Advanced Leadership.

Presented at the conclusion of the AWC Annual Regional Forum on Social Responsibility that took place from 12-14 November in Cairo under the theme Leading Women: The Path from Empowerment to Entrepreneurship and Innovation, I dedicate this recognition to the leadership of the country, especially Sheikh Zayed, for whom women’s education, emancipation and empowerment were among his core principles. Investment in women has been a top priority of the UAE government since its inception, and forward-thinking progressive laws and legislation that seek to empower women continue to be enacted under the leadership of the President of the UAE HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

To be receiving this award as an UAE citizen in the momentous Year of Zayed is a matter of great pride for me. I owe deep gratitude to the President and Prime Minister of the UAE for their visionary leadership that has ensured equal opportunity for women of the UAE. I would also like to thank HH Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak, wife of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who has been a pioneering force on behalf of women’s rights and empowerment since the inception of the Union.

I am also grateful to the Dubai Police and the Zayed Foundation for their continuous support in enabling me to be an achiever. I also wish to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Arab Women’s Council President and Board members for this honor.

As the New Year approaches, let us all work together to build on the momentum for achieving the sustainable development agenda for a greener and more inclusive economy.

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## Cover Story

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UAE Union a  
'dream that  
became a bright  
reality for all': UAE  
President



[UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed says on the occasion of the UAE's 47th National Day that the Union was a reflection of a "deep desire" held by the citizens and the country's leadership.](#)

President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has described the establishment of the United Arab Emirates in 1971 as a "dream" that became a "bright reality" for the citizens, the nation, the region and the world at large, adding in his statement on the occasion of UAE's 47th National Day that the Union was a reflection of a "deep desire" held by the citizens and the country's leadership.

In a statement to 'Nation Shield', the UAE Armed Forces' magazine, Sheikh Khalifa added that the establishment of the country was

a "groundbreaking" initiative by the UAE's Founding Fathers under the visionary leadership of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. He said: "The Union was a reflection of a deep desire held by our citizens and represented an exceptional harmony between the leadership's vision and the people. This gave our experiment special characteristics as well as the determination to achieve success, and now it has become a global model of development, progress and prosperity."

The second of December is a historic, glorious occasion

"on which we learn lessons, draw strength and recall the insightful lives of the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and his fellow Founding Fathers, who laid the solid foundations of justice and equality, and dedicated themselves for the good and benefit of the people and country," he said.

"They also laid down the pillars of a successful modern country where all people enjoy prosperity, security and happiness. With its remarkable achievements and good reputation, the UAE has





IN THE past 47 years, the UAE has succeeded in presenting itself as an example of growth, prosperity and success, reflecting the vision of Sheikh Zayed and the Founding Fathers.

become a role model for other countries of the world.

“The UAE is living today a great period in its history, firstly thanks to Allah, and then thanks to the far-sighted vision of the Founding Fathers, the wise decisions of the prudent leadership and the sincere efforts of its loyal people. The UAE is blessed for having a government that engages citizens in the decision-making and policy-making processes. It has a world-class infrastructure, high-quality health, education and housing services, and highly-efficient justice, security and defence

institutions. The government has also built an open society, which works diligently to empower women and enhance the role of the young female leaders.

“The UAE has made remarkable achievements at the international level in the areas of competitiveness, innovation, human development, diversity management, labour market efficiency and the rule of law, in addition to other indices that showed the marked progress our country has made in various fields, including the advanced ranking of passport as one of the world’s

most powerful travel documents. All these achievements reflect the respect, recognition and excellence our country has regionally and globally.

“On this great anniversary, we affirm that maintaining the spirit of the Union will remain our top strategic goal, which we strive to deliver through a coherent vision, specific objectives and comprehensive developmental and progressive policies. It is also achieved through regular coordination between the federal and local institutions, and through performing their responsibilities



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properly. The spirit of the Union keeps our country strong as it implements its free will and holds its distinct place among the nations.”

President Sheikh Khalifa further added that the country of the future that the UAE is building “is a country of science, innovation, law, leadership, achievement, originality, values and ethics. It is a country that nurtures talented, gifted and creative minds, invests in young energies, conserves its natural resources and biodiversity, and improves its infrastructure.”

He added that the country is proud of its origin, identity, language and history, and that since the country is going

through a transformational change, it requires early monitoring of opportunities and challenges to build an environment that incubates and stimulates progress, accomplishes achievements, and provides high-quality life for the present and future generations.

“In addition to that, we seek to maintain sustainability and conservation of the environment, resources and wealth,” he stated.

“Our natural resources do not belong to a specific generation, rather they are owned by the nation and its future generations, therefore, these resources should be wisely invested to guarantee the rights of those generations.”

**‘National Day celebrations are a message of duty, loyalty to the homeland’: Abu Dhabi Crown Prince**

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, said that celebrating National Day is a “message of duty and renewal of loyalty” to the nation and its founders for their efforts to realise the dream of the Union.

In a statement to Nation Shield, the Armed Forces’ magazine, His Highness added that the celebrations are also “a message of determination to continue working to preserve the achievements of our united nation, strengthen its pillars and





always fly its flag high.”

He added: “The 47 years since the UAE was established embody development, success, progress, achievement, determination, willpower and overcoming of challenges in a spirit of unity. They reflect the power and ability of Emiratis to contribute positively to the march of human progress.

“On this national anniversary, we remember with pride, appreciation and loyalty the early founders of our state under the leadership of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who laid the foundations for the advancement of the country and the establishment of the UAE” he added.

Stating that the true wealth of the country is human wealth, HH Sheikh Mohamed said that “the UAE is entering the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the age of artificial intelligence, armed not with money and oil, but rather with educated and qualified Emiratis who possess the skills of the time. Our people possess the ability to innovate and create through science and technology in an era of rapid transformation, where knowledge has become the basis of wealth, and technology the standard for excellence.”

The Year of Zayed 2018, he added, “is an occasion to celebrate Zayed’s sharp thinking, his philosophy and insight and his genius in governance and

leadership. We need to keep this rich heritage alive in the minds of future generations, because the Zayed school is a source of infinite wisdom, with valuable lessons for the present and the future. The most important Zayed lesson is that unity, patriotism, hard work, good planning and clear vision is the recipe for progress and continued success.”



## Cover Story

10 creating a better, more united community

### UAE leaders attend 47th National Day celebration in Abu Dhabi

The official celebration of the 47th National Day was held on December 2nd at the Zayed Sport City in Abu Dhabi under the theme 'This is Zayed. This is the UAE'.

Under the patronage of UAE President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, Their Highnesses Supreme Council Members and Rulers of the Emirates, Crown Princes and Deputy Rulers, attended the official celebration of the 47th National Day on December 2nd at

the Zayed Sport City in Abu Dhabi.

Held under the theme 'This is Zayed. This is the UAE', the event saw the attendance of Their Highnesses Supreme Council Members and Rulers Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi of Sharjah, Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi of Ajman, Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi of Fujairah, Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mualla of Umm Al Quwain, and Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi of Ras Al Khaimah.

In attendance also were H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed

bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, H.H. Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Crown Prince of Fujairah, H.H. Sheikh Rashid bin Saud bin Rashid Al Mu'alla, Crown Prince of Umm Al Qaiwain, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Rashid Al Mu'alla, Deputy Ruler of Umm Al Qaiwain, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Saud

**THIS IS ZAYED  
THIS IS THE UAE  
2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2018**







e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

THE 47TH National Day held added significance as it falls in the Year of Zayed, marked by events nationwide celebrating the birth of the late Founding Father.

bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region, and a host of other prominent dignitaries, Sheikhs, ministers and senior officials.

Their Highnesses the Supreme Council members and Rulers of the Emirates, Crown Princes and Deputy Rulers, extended greetings to President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the occasion, praying Allah Almighty to grant him good health and keep him for his nation and people so as

to pursue the comprehensive development process and lead the country towards more building, progress and prosperity.

The celebration, attended by over 22,000 people, opened with a tribute to the rich legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, marking 100 years since his birth. The event also saw rare photos, chronicling Sheikh Zayed's life, his love to the nature and the people, displayed for the first time.

The event also highlighted poems written by the late Sheikh Zayed

bin Sultan Al Nahyan and other poems. One of the poems, written by the late Mohammed bin Hamm, a long-time companion of the UAE Founding Father, in which he referred to how Sheikh Zayed looked like his grandfather Zayed the First and how he inherited from him the leadership qualities. Also highlighted was Sheikh Zayed's relations with his late mother Sheikha Salama bint Butti and how she helped shape his strong personality and his wisdom.

Ahmed Khalifa Al Suwaidi, the President's Representative, who



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was also UAE's first Foreign Minister, recalled his time with Sheikh Zayed.

As the National Anthem played, a panoramic human map of the UAE federation map, as envisaged by Sheikh Zayed and the other founding fathers, was formed by 300 of the UAE Armed Forces personnel.

The event also saw statements by His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance, Dr. Sultan bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of State, Sheikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed

Al Nahyan, UAE Ambassador to Bahrain, Sheikh Shakhboub bin Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Ambassador to Bahrain, Sheikh Khalifa bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan, Executive Director of the Martyrs' Families' Affairs Office of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court and Sheikh Zayed bin Hamad bin Hamdan Al Nahyan and an archive statement by the late Mubarak bin Quran Al Mansouri, former member of the National Consultative Council.

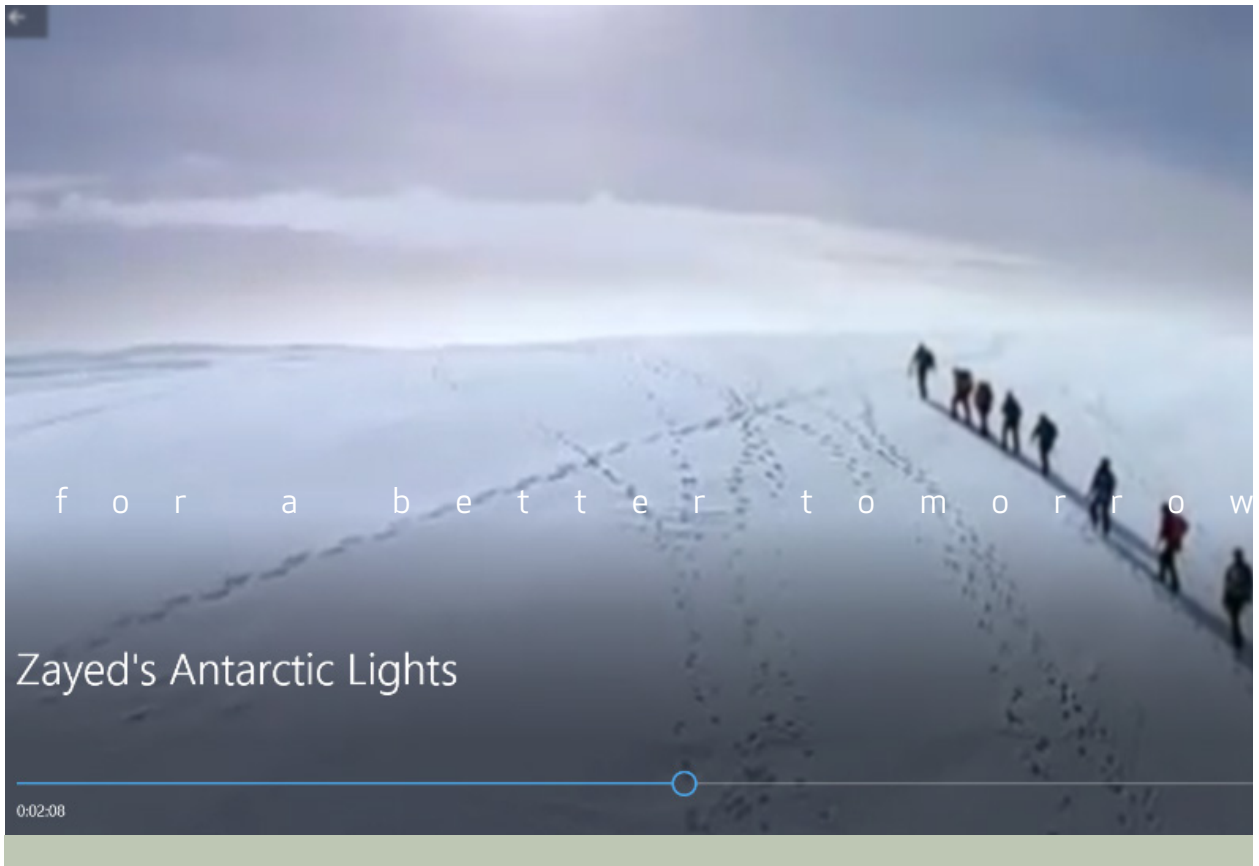
The event closed with a footage of the late Sheikh Zayed addressing his people and a tweet by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, using the hashtag: #zayed\_

taught\_me, calling on the citizens and residents to express what values they have learnt from Zayed.

The hashtag will remain open to the public to express their love for the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, bring the 'Year of Zayed into a worthy culmination.







## ***Zayed's Antarctic Lights* showcases effects of global warming**

**T**he Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) premiered *Zayed's Antarctic Lights*, a documentary that chronicled a two-week expedition to Antarctica by three EAD staff members as they witnessed and studied first-hand the impact of global warming and climate change, at VOX Cinemas in Yas Mall, Abu Dhabi on 20 November 2018. The audience included school students and representatives from the Abu Dhabi Government.

The UAE is one of the countries vulnerable to the effects of climate change. With nearly 1,300 kms of coastline, it is imperative that the UAE undertakes collaborative efforts to mitigate the risks of rising sea levels.

The film features Rashed Al Zaabi, a mammologist at EAD; Mariam Al Qassimi, Communication Specialist at EAD and the UAE Co-ordinator of Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots programme; and Winston Cowie, the Agency's Marine Policy Manager - who are part of EAD's 'Team Zayed' - as part of the Climate Force International Antarctic Expedition led by Sir Robert Swan, the first explorer to walk to the North and South poles.

During their expedition, 'Team Zayed' lit up the Antarctic sky with 100 solar lights, sending a message of unity, hope and action on climate change to mark the Year of Zayed and celebrate the living legacy

of the UAE founding father's environmental stewardship. Each light represented a pledge of commitment to engage in community initiatives that will tackle climate change and global warming.

The screening was followed by a light discussion on Abu Dhabi's efforts to mitigate climate change and the importance of collaborative action on it.





## Cover Story

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HH Sheikh Mohammed affirms the importance of placing youth at the forefront of Expo 2020's mission



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid has called on the UAE's next generation to use Expo 2020 Dubai as a launchpad to help shape the future after paying a royal visit to the rapidly-developing site of the global fair.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has affirmed the importance of the involvement of youth in the Expo 2020 journey. Expo 2020 presents opportunities to inspire youth to be active contributors in shaping the future, His Highness said.

Sheikh Mohammed's remarks came during a visit to the site of Expo 2020 on 3rd December. He was accompanied by H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince

of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council. This is the latest of several of His Highness's visits to the Expo 2020 site to review the progress of the project since the UAE won its bid to stage the event in 2013.

Also present was H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Expo 2020 Higher Committee, Chairman of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group.

Sheikh Mohammed, who was visiting the Expo 2020 site a day

after the UAE celebrated its 47th National Day, was briefed by Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemy, Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director-General of Dubai Expo 2020 Bureau about the progress of the Expo 2020 project and key initiatives including the Expo School Programme launched in 2016 to create initiatives and resources to enable school students to explore Expo 2020 and its global vision in an engaging way.

As the first World Expo to be held in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, MEASA, region in the





THROUGH ITS theme 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future', Expo 2020 aims to encourage creativity, innovation and collaboration.

167-year history of the event, Expo 2020 provides a unique opportunity to inspire the youth to own their future and contribute to shaping a glorious future for the nation. This is in line with the UAE's vision of empowering youth and providing them with platforms for growth.

His Highness expressed his appreciation for the School Programme as it targets the new generation. He pointed out that building the future starts with developing the younger generation. "The event is one of the largest global gatherings

that bring together the world's greatest minds to discuss how we can shape the future. The youth should play a key part in this mega event and get opportunities to observe, learn and contribute creative ideas so that they can develop innovative solutions for creating a better future for our region and the world," Sheikh Mohammed said. Expo 2020 Dubai plans to give every school student in the UAE a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to benefit from the event.

"Sheikh Zayed directed us that youth should be supported and

motivated to participate in the process of nation building. Today, the youth represent a top priority for the UAE. This approach has enabled us to achieve a leading status among the developed nations of the world and made us a frontrunner in shaping the future," His Highness continued.

In October this year, the Expo School Programme launched the Expo 2020 Dubai Visitor Centre as part of its outreach programme, attracting students from both government and private schools across the UAE. The Centre provides an insight into



the Expo and offers exciting workshops for students on the Expo themes.

The School Programme is supported by other Expo 2020 initiatives that aim to involve UAE youth including the Volunteer scheme, which has so far attracted around 25,000 expressions of interest. Expo 2020 has also launched internship and apprentice schemes, including a project that offers people of determination opportunities to work at the Expo.

Sheikh Mohammed's visit took place in one of the anchor buildings on the site overlooking the iconic Al Wasl Plaza. The visit followed a momentous week for Expo 2020 Dubai during which it

was confirmed that 190 nations will be participating in the event.

Eighty percent of the Expo-built structures on site will be retained as part of District 2020, an integrated community that will be a new destination in the city of Dubai. The new development is set to open in late 2021.

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said, "The Expo will be a destination for all nations to share their collective visions of the future, specifically for the UAE. It will be happening on the eve of the nation's 50th Jubilee Anniversary when we will share with the world our vision for the future, our culture and the values we stand for as a nation. Led by

our youth, we will celebrate with the world our progress."

Through its theme 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future', the event will provide a platform for encouraging creativity, innovation and collaboration. This is underpinned by Expo's three pillars seen as key to tackling humanity's key challenges: Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability.

Expo 2020 Dubai will open on 20th October 2020 and close six months later, on 10th April 2021. More than 200 participants, including nations, multilateral organisations, corporations and educational institutions, are expected to take part in the landmark event.





## Etihad Airways, EAD launch Abu Dhabi Birdathon to commemorate Year of Zayed

Etihad Airways and the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, EAD, launched the Abu Dhabi Birdathon at the Al Wathba Wetland Reserve on 14th November 2018. The initiative celebrates the Year of Zayed by honouring and commemorating the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan's deep connection to sustainability.

10 Greater Flamingos were tagged and released at a special ceremony to commence the Abu Dhabi Birdathon and enable tracking of these migratory birds in order to raise awareness around wetland conservation.

The flamingo which has migrated the furthest by 4th March 2019, coinciding with World Wildlife

Day, will be declared the 'winner'. Etihad Airways and EAD invited several strategic partners to participate in the event by tagging their own flamingos. Etihad Airways Engineering and Etihad Cargo also tagged birds to enter the event.

Tony Douglas, Group Chief Executive Officer, Etihad Aviation Group, said, "We are thrilled to launch this project with the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi to honour a great visionary's passion for wildlife release programmes.

"As these beautiful birds take flight, satellite transmitters will not only allow us to observe their migratory patterns as they travel towards the Caspian Sea, but

also preserve the emirate's rich biodiversity."

Over the next four months the flamingos are expected to migrate to breeding grounds over 4,000 kilometres away in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, with [www.adbirdathon.ae](http://www.adbirdathon.ae) tracking their journey home.

In 1998, it was the late Sheikh Zayed who observed the successful breeding of the Greater Flamingo in Abu Dhabi for the first time, and recognised the potential of Al Wathba as a safe breeding ground for the species. Today, Al Wathba sits proudly among 18 other protected areas, as part of the Sheikh Zayed Protected Areas Network.

## Dubai Police, Zayed Foundation unveil 'Zayed in the Eyes of the World' in Khartoum, Sudan



The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment in association with the Dubai Police and in collaboration with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the United Arab Emirates Embassy in Sudan and the Sudanese-Emirati Friendship Society, celebrated the birth centenary of the late Sheikh Zayed on 26th November 2018 at the "Police Home" in Khartoum, under the theme, 'Zayed in the Eyes of the World'.

The Dubai Police and the Zayed International Foundation have jointly organized a one day celebration in Sudan, in tandem with the 'UAE Week' organized by the UAE Embassy in Sudan and the Sudanese-Emirati Friendship Society, in commemoration of the Year of Zayed activities to mark the centennial birth anniversary of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father of

the UAE.

The initiative titled 'Zayed in the Eyes of the World' was held in cooperation with the UAE Embassy in Sudan, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, AOAD, and the Sudanese-Emirati Friendship Society, at the Police Home in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, on Monday, the 26th of November 2018. The event paid tribute to the significant role played by

the late leader in the fields of environment and sustainability, and in the evolution and development of the agricultural sector in the country.

The event was attended by H.E. Prof. Ibrahim Adam Ahmed Al-Dukheiry, Director General of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development; H.E. Hamad Al Junaibi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Sudan; H.E. Ali bin Hassan Jafar, the Saudi





THE YEAR of Zayed celebrations in Khartoum included speeches and poems and a folkloric presentation by the UAE band and a lecture titled “The Environmental Heritage of Sheikh Zayed”

ambassador to the Republic of Sudan; Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment; and Dr. Abdulazim Mostafa Ahmed, Managing Editor of the Arabic Society & Environment Magazine. The event also witnessed the presence of a large number of participants from the agriculture and environment sectors in Sudan, as well as representatives of the diplomatic missions and international organizations in Sudan and also officials from the public and private sectors in addition to media personnel from

across the country.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Ibrahim Al-Dekheiry said that since its inception in the early 1970s, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development has been assisting Arab countries in realizing the vital role of agriculture within the region’s economy. Recognising the need for coordination between their different policies in agriculture, natural and human resources as well as economic development, the organisation has played a major role to achieve the ultimate goal of fully integrated Arab

economies, he added.

He pointed out that Sheikh Zayed had been the pioneer in this regard and had a “great understanding for the important role agriculture plays in the advancement of humanity.” His visionary foresight in investing in areas related to agriculture, the environment and water has helped turn large tracts of desert green, added Al-Dukheiry. “The UAE has thus become one of the first countries globally to actively address environmental concerns and raise awareness on the issue and implement measures in



response to such challenges.”

H.E. Al-Dukheiry also added that Sheikh Zayed had harnessed all his efforts in minimizing the exploitation of natural resources and called for encouraging government and private investments in the date palm plantations, thus enabling the UAE to become one of the leading producers and exporters of the crop. His efforts helped to transform large tracts of the desert into fertile agricultural land, particularly well-suited for the production of date palm, a symbol of life in the Near East and North Africa Region. In 2015, the Emirates’ date palm oases were recognised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) as agricultural world heritage

sites for their contribution to “dynamic conservation” of culture and biodiversity.

Al-Dukheiry referred to the international awards and certificates of appreciation received by the late Sheikh Zayed, which reflect the regional and international roles played by the founder of the UAE in promoting sustainable development of agriculture.

Speaking on behalf of Dr. Mohamed bin Fahad, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Dubai Police and Chairman of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, H.E. Hamad Al Junaibi said that the ‘Zayed in the Eyes of the World’ initiative comes in response to

the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and Patron of the Zayed Foundation, to deliver a message to the world in 2018 that “Sheikh Zayed is present and that he will remain alive in the hearts and minds of the UAE citizens & friends”.

H.E. Ambassador Ali bin Hassan Jafar spoke about the role of Sheikh Zayed and his efforts in transforming the UAE from a desert to green land, which was achieved with incredible ambition and far-sighted vision. “The late Sheikh Zayed was a true champion of the environment and adopted trends and policies supportive



“Give me agriculture and I will give you civilisation.”  
*Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan*



of agricultural growth. The UAE thus plays an important role in environmental protection and natural resources conservation and is an active global partner with the international community in finding solutions to environmental challenges and ways to mitigate risks,” he said.

The celebration included speeches and poems and a folkloric presentation by the UAE band (Al Tarab al Harbia) and a lecture titled “The Environmental Heritage of Sheikh Zayed” that highlighted the building of the modern state of the UAE under the wise leadership of Sheikh Zayed.

The event concluded with the honoring of Sudanese leaders

and personalities working in the field of environment and agriculture. Zayed International Foundation for the Environment presented its shield to HE Ibrahim Al-Dukheiry, Director General of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development and H.E. Hamad Al Junaibi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Sudan. The Sudanese-Emirati Friendship Society, the Arab Bank in Sudan, and a number of environmental personalities in Sudan were also honored at the event.

Dr. Mohamed bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, was also honored and Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif,

Chief Technical Advisor, Zayed Foundation, graciously accepted the memento on his behalf.





## Ceremony

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### UAE rulers attend 'Commemoration Day' ceremony at Wahat Al Karama



HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Rulers of the Emirates and Crown Princes attend 'Commemoration Day' ceremony at Wahat Al Karama in Abu Dhabi.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and the Supreme Council Members, Their Highnesses Rulers of the Emirates, and Their Highnesses the Crown Princes, attended the "Commemoration Day" ceremony that was held at Wahat Al Karama in the emirate of Abu Dhabi on 29th November, 2018.

A number of Sheikhs, ministers, members of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi, senior Armed Forces, Ministry of Interior, and police officers, officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and others, were also present.

On the arrival of the UAE leaders and rulers of the Emirates' at Wahat Al Karama, the official Commemoration Day ceremony began. Their Highnesses the Sheikhs then headed towards the Martyr's Monument as the army band played. This was followed by a 21-gun salute.

Their Highnesses placed wreaths in front of the monument in loyalty and gratitude to the sacrifices of the UAE's martyrs. Afterwards, the UAE's national anthem was played.

At the event's conclusion, UAE leaders honoured the parents of several martyrs and handed them the "Martyr's Medal," to appreciate their sacrifice and giving for the nation.

In his opening speech, Mohammed Al Murr said, "With pride and honour, we celebrate the memory of our righteous martyrs, whose





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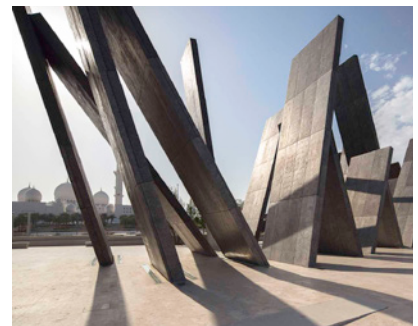
UAE LEADERS honoured the parents of several martyrs and handed them the "Martyr's Medal," to appreciate their sacrifice and giving for the nation.

names and sacrifices will remain in the nation's history and memory and are brightly illuminated in the minds of its children. This national occasion is not just a day to remember the feats of our martyrs but an appreciation and honouring of those brave men, our citizens, who were true to their pledge and gave their souls to defend our nation against those threatening its security and safety. They answered their call of duty and national responsibility to deter aggressor and return righteousness to its people. We salute, with gratitude, our righteous martyrs, whose souls

embraced glory and wrote the most marvellous epics of honour, sacrifice and dignity."

"On this day, we show the values of loyalty, belonging, giving, responsibility and dedication, as our martyrs, whose pure blood spilt in the battlefields and the fields of heroism and dignity, were not afraid of death or the dangers that threatened them, but they raised, with unrelenting resolve, the UAE's flag to defend righteousness and justice, and they offered sacrifices and displayed the true values of patriotism and the

highest meanings of bravery. Thus, honouring the nation's brave martyrs is an honouring of their resolve, determination and sacrifice, for the nation's flag to fly high and with honour," Al Murr added.





“On this day, we salute, with loyalty and gratitude, the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who established the values of patriotism, dedication, goodness and reverence, to defend the nation and its capabilities and offer aid to others. The courage of our martyrs has armed them with faith to ensure the nation’s security and stability, and has made them undermine the malevolent people who have tried to destroy its gains,” he stated.

“Celebrating our martyrs this year coincides with the Year of Zayed, which requires us to recall the meanings of heroism, giving, patriotism and belonging. The late Sheikh Zayed left us a rich

heritage of values and principles, which we, the Emirati people, are proud of, including being prepared to sacrifice what’s most precious for our beloved nation,” he further added.

Al Murr saluted President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa, HH Sheikh Mohammed, and HH Sheikh Mohamed for

their efforts to develop the capabilities of UAE’s military and security forces, as well as to ensure the country’s overall advancement and modernisation.

Several UAE Air Force aircraft flew over Wahat Al Karama and formed the “lost soldier panel,” to appreciate the sacrifice and heroism of the country’s martyrs.







## Sheikh Zayed's statue unveiled in India on eve of UAE's National Day

A statue of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, unveiled at the 47th National Day celebrations in India was on display at the UAE Embassy in New Delhi for a week. The statue will later be shifted to a museum.

The statue, sculpted by a famous Indian artist in Mumbai, Arzan Khambatta, was unveiled jointly by India's Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation, Vijay Goel and the UAE Ambassador to India, Dr. Ahmed Albanna.

The statue was the key attraction at the National Day reception in New Delhi's diplomatic enclave. Ambassadors from scores of countries, many of whom have

previously served in the UAE or interacted closely with the UAE, admired the sculpture and discussed the late Sheikh Zayed's legacy.

The ceremony featured a gala dinner with Emirati cuisine and traditional dances and a tent with traditional UAE handicrafts, showcasing the country's cultural heritage.

### **Celebrating 47 Years of the UAE in New York City**

Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, UAE's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, and Majid Al Suwaidi, UAE Consul-General in New York, co-hosted a reception to celebrate the 47th anniversary of the founding of the UAE.

In attendance were the President of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly, Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, ambassadors and delegates of UN Member States, senior UN officials, business and civil society leaders.

"In 1971, Sheikh Zayed led the unification of the Emirates with a vision of prosperity, tolerance, and peace - not only for the UAE and the Middle East, but for the whole world," Ambassador Nusseibeh said. "His vision for a dynamic and diverse nation embraced people from all walks of life and offered everyone a genuine opportunity to succeed. 47 years later, we are proud to celebrate our visionary leader and the values he instilled."

## Campaign

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### DEWA launches social media campaign and contest in honour of Sheikh Zayed



[DEWA's campaign theme Zayed #AlwaysInOurHearts summarises what the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan means to each Emirati.](#)

In celebration of the 47th UAE National Day, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) launched Zayed #AlwaysInOurHearts campaign to mark the centennial birth of the UAE's founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

The campaign includes a video of an Emirati child and his friends from different nationalities performing simple actions in their daily lives that contribute to the sustainability drive initiated by the late Sheikh Zayed. The video, which features lyrics that reflect

the wisdom of Sheikh Zayed, is available on DEWA's channel (DEWAOfficial) on YouTube.

Commenting on the campaign, Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, MD & CEO of DEWA, said, "DEWA's campaign theme Zayed #AlwaysInOurHearts summarises what the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan means to each Emirati. This National Day is special during the Year of Zayed, as we are reminded of the efforts of the late Sheikh Zayed, the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, and the rest of the Founding Fathers who

consolidated the foundations of the UAE, which tops international indicators in various areas. The UAE's sustainable development has become an inspiration for other countries in the region and around the world.

"The UAE has become a global role model for peaceful co-existence, tolerance, cooperation, and acceptance. Zayed #AlwaysInOurHearts campaign underlines the noble values and principles that Sheikh Zayed instilled in the citizens and residents of the UAE, especially on conservation of natural





ZAYED #ALWAYSInOurHearts campaign is part of DEWA's ongoing efforts to spread environmental awareness across all segments of society.

resources and protecting the environment. The campaign also focuses on the exceptional model of the UAE as a global example of solidarity and community cohesion with over 200 nationalities living in harmony.”

“Zayed #AlwaysInOurHearts campaign is part of DEWA's ongoing efforts to spread environmental awareness across all segments of society. Conserving electricity and water is a national duty as well as a lifestyle, and a way for us to express our gratitude and love for the UAE. This is the idea

behind the short video which DEWA has produced. It features four children, portraying their love for the late Sheikh Zayed and their belonging to this country through conversational actions that contribute to a sustainable lifestyle, protect natural resources and support the sustainable development that was initiated by the late Sheikh Zayed,” said Khawla Al Mehairi, Executive Vice President of Strategy and Government Communications at DEWA.

The campaign also featured a wide range of activities and

events, including visits by DEWA employees to the homes of Hatta citizens, during which DEWA employees decorated homes with UAE flags and handed out National Day souvenirs.

The Conservation Team also conducted a series of field visits to offer advice and familiarise citizens with best practices in rationalising water and electricity. DEWA's buildings and offices were decorated with the #AlwaysInOurHearts logo. The campaign used sign language in its YouTube video to express the campaign's slogan.

## Conference

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School students lead conversation about future cities



At Expo 2020's inaugural Next Gen World Majlis, young people from across the UAE gather to debate the future of urban living.

School students from across the UAE have contributed to the global development agenda by engaging in a meaningful conversation about the future of urban living at Expo 2020 Dubai's first ever Next Gen World Majlis.

Expo 2020's World Majlis series is designed to address 21st century challenges through the long-established Emirati and Arab tradition of the majlis – a highly valued meeting space where people gather to gain different perspectives and share informed opinions that help shape decisions

on subjects that matter to communities.

The inaugural youth-focused World Majlis, titled 'CityZen 2030: Gen Z and the Future of Cities', saw 17 students, aged 14 to 17, come together to discuss opportunities and challenges related to the urban areas of tomorrow, and share ideas that could help improve cities for future generations.

Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General, Dubai Expo 2020 Bureau, said:

"We are committed to placing young people at the centre of Expo 2020 Dubai. The future belongs to our youth, so it is crucial we provide platforms such as the Next Gen World Majlis to give them the opportunity to shape the next World Expo through their opinions, ideas and solutions."

Marjan Faraidooni, Senior Vice President – Legacy Development and Impact, Expo 2020 Dubai, who chaired the session, said: "The students who participated in the first Next Gen World Majlis showed impressive passion,





EXPO 2020 Dubai has committed to hosting 50 World Majlis sessions in the lead-up to and during the event.

awareness of global issues and ability to actively listen to each other. Hearing their insightful perspectives on what future cities, and the people in them will be like, was truly encouraging. These insights are especially important as we design District 2020, which will be one of the most connected and tech-enabled destinations, complemented with spaces that promote meaningful conversations post-Expo.”

While cities have catalysed human imagination and creativity, helping to accelerate social and economic progress, new challenges have

arisen as the pace of urbanisation has increased. Participants at the Next Gen World Majlis were asked to consider whether cities still hold the key to humanity’s future.

Students from both public and private schools in the UAE discussed ways to provide improved housing, employment and mobility for ever-growing populations, while combatting challenges such as climate change and depleting resources through technology and innovation. Students also debated whether future urban spaces can continue to replicate the architectural

beauty of historic and contemporary cities.

The students concluded that enhanced cultural exchanges, the integration of sustainable living, empowerment, self awareness and collaboration were all key elements needed to create prosperous future cities. Some students also suggested that the proper implementation of advanced technology would enhance human connectivity and interaction in future cities.

Rashed Abdukhalil, a Grade 10 student at Al Jazeera Al Hamra



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School in Ras Al Khaimah and a participant in the Next Gen World Majlis, said: "I've been inspired by the World Majlis because it showed that young people from different cultures and backgrounds can unite and have meaningful discussions about real things, including the future role of technology in our lives, which is in fact a double-edged sword. Technology will continue to play a large part in how we communicate in society, and platforms like this World Majlis enable us to address such topics and achieve real results."

Alya Hammadi, a Grade 12 student at Al Mawakeb School in Dubai, said: "This World Majlis has been such a valuable experience to connect with my

peers. The idea of a Majlis is a great way for us to enhance our cooperation as we truly listen to each other and debate important issues, while still respecting each others' varied opinions. I also believe the UAE is on the right path to building future cities."

Part of Expo 2020 Dubai's World Majlis initiative, the Next Gen World Majlis was hosted in collaboration with the Expo School Programme. The series aims to spark meaningful conversations between young people on themes that impact their future, and the ideas, questions and solutions that arise during these discussions will inform other World Majlis sessions. In line with Expo 2020 Dubai's theme of 'Connecting

Minds, Creating the Future', and underpinned by its three key subthemes of Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability, the World Majlis series brings together current and future thought leaders from a range of backgrounds for conversations that matter. The initiative aims to generate new perspectives and forge connections between people and ideas, which may not have otherwise occurred.

Expo 2020 Dubai has committed to hosting 50 World Majlis sessions in the lead-up to and during the event, including six that will be youth-led. The next World Majlis will be held in Shanghai, China on 14 December 2018, on the sidelines of the first World Expo Forum.





## Exhibition showcases the best of UAE's biodiversity

The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) inaugurated the Al Wathba Photo Exhibition at Warehouse421 in Mina Zayed on 27th November which features striking images that capture Al Wathba Wetland Reserve's natural beauty and rich biodiversity.

The photos were selected from previous photography competitions hosted at the Reserve that celebrated Al Wathba's thriving natural ecosystem, whilst raising awareness around wetland conservation. EAD had received over 500 photographs from both professional and amateur photographers since the competition was launched in 2014.

The exhibition at Warehouse421 featured 70 photographs submitted by nearly 200 participants.

The photos were categorised into five different zones, each focusing on a significant element of the Reserve; these included the Welcome Zone that showcased Sheikh Zayed's contributions to environmental conservation and the Good Neighbours Zone that highlighted the efforts of EAD's partners in the maintenance and rehabilitation of the Wetland Reserve.

The exhibition also hosted interactive learning sessions by H.H. Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Founder of Beacon of Hope UAE.

On the opening night, a special photography workshop was conducted by Dr. Richard Perry, a Senior Advisor at EAD, who is also a specialist in fine art landscape photography.

Set up in 1998 by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Al Wathba Wetland Reserve was the first in Abu Dhabi to be internationally recognised as a Ramsar-protected site and was recently placed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Green List. The Reserve is home to over 4,000 Greater Flamingos, 260 other birds, 320 invertebrates, 35 plant species, 16 reptiles and 10 mammals. It has attracted approximately 20,000 visitors since it first opened in 2014.



## Exhibition

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### Abdullah bin Zayed inaugurates 'Sheikh Zayed and Europe: A Journey' exhibition



The exhibition takes visitors on a sentimental journey that includes rare photos, short films, personal items and quotes from the Founding Father's trips to Europe starting in the early 1950s.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan inaugurated the 'Sheikh Zayed and Europe: A Journey' exhibition at The Founder's Memorial in Abu Dhabi on 24th November.

Organised by the European Union Delegation to the UAE and the Austrian and Bulgarian Presidencies of the Council of the EU for the year 2018, the exhibition will run until 31st December 2018.

Dr. Antonella Mei-Pochtler,

Special Advisor to the Austrian Federal Chancellor attended the opening ceremony along with Dr. Amal Al Qubaisi, President of the Federal National Council, Zaki Nusseibeh, Minister of State, government officials, the Ambassadors of 25 EU Member States present in the UAE, and 150 other VIP guests.

The exhibition was organised in collaboration with more than 16 Emirati and international organisations.

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed stressed the importance of the

exhibition and its role in shedding light on Sheikh Zayed's pioneering efforts in establishing a strong and strategic relationship between the UAE and EU countries.

In a statement on the occasion, Sheikh Abdullah said, "Sheikh Zayed was inspired by what he saw in Europe, and wanted the same for his people. And with the new revenues generated by oil sales, he was able to embark upon major construction and development projects at home, to ensure that the people benefitted from their wealth, and to work for





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A LINE of workshops and talks about different topics will be held on the sidelines of the exhibition.

unity and federation in the region.”

In his welcoming address, EU Ambassador to the UAE, Patrizio Fondi said, “In celebration of the Year of Zayed, we are very happy to be organising this exceptional exhibition to allow the residents of the UAE to revisit Sheikh Zayed’s historic relationship with Europe and to know more about the UAE’s strong ties to the European Union.

“The EU and the UAE are both united in diversity and the exhibition has been specially designed to take visitors on a

sentimental journey that includes rare photos, short films, personal items and quotes from the founding father’s trips to Europe starting in the early 1950s.

“The exhibition features more than 50 items to question our eyes and minds: among the special items is Sheikh Zayed’s vaccination card including his hand writing dating to 1951! Visitors will also get the chance to try Sheikh Zayed’s perfume.”

Minister of State, Zaki Nusseibeh said, “This exhibition is very special to me as it pays a special

tribute to Sheikh Zayed, who was instrumental in establishing strong ties between the UAE and the EU, based on the key values of friendship and unity in diversity.”

Yousef Al Obaidli, Director General of The Founder’s Memorial, said, “The founding father travelled extensively, extending a sincere hand of friendship and cultivating personal connections throughout Europe and beyond. This exhibition will enable visitors to learn more about Sheikh Zayed’s journey as a renowned global statesman!”



## International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace honours Sheikh Zayed

The Albanian Parliament and the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace, IPTP, honoured the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in Tirana, Albania, on 18th November. The members of the parliament stood in respect for the UAE Founding Father, in appreciation of his contributions to promoting tolerance and peace around the world, during the second session of the Albanian Parliament.

Taulant Balla, IPTP President, said: "On this special day, the International Day for Tolerance, and in the name of the Albanian Parliament and all members of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace, we stand to honour a historic figure and

national leader, who believed in the importance of tolerance and peace and was a model of a true leader of tolerance."

"During the Year of Zayed, we are celebrating the immortal legacy of Sheikh Zayed, who was a man of peace and a visionary who promoted the values of tolerance and dialogue around the world," he added.

### Photo exhibition of late Sheikh Zayed in Poland

The UAE Embassy in Poland organised a photo exhibition of late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in collaboration with the Asia and Pacific Museum in Warsaw. Held in line with the Year of Zayed, the exhibition displayed a collection of photos

for late Sheikh Zayed to acquaint the Polish society with the achievements and global stature of the Founding Father.

The exhibition aimed to shed light on the establishment of the UAE and the solid basis laid down by the late UAE leader, Dr. Youssef Issa Hassan Al Sabri, UAE Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, said in a statement delivered on his behalf by Sawsan Al Olawi, the acting chargé d'affaires at the embassy. The exhibition showcased 30 photographs.

The launch of the activities was attended by Dr. Joanna Wasilewska, Director of the Asia and Pacific Museum, and a number of diplomats, eminent persons and journalists.





## Mohammed bin Rashid honours national achievements echoing Zayed's spirit

**H**is Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has given directives to honour UAE national achievements that fall in line with the spirit of late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and his prosperous reign, in conjunction with the UAE National Day celebrations and to mark the Year of Zayed.

The directives by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed shed light on national projects that reflect Zayed's development journey during his life and his approach that has become a characteristic of the UAE. Sheikh Mohammed said, "This year, we celebrate UAE Pioneers differently. We

will not focus on characters, but on achievements. We will celebrate projects that have left a mark on the history of the UAE. Projects that would have made the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan proud, whether cultural, social, economic, scientific, or infrastructure."

Citing remarkable project examples, Sheikh Mohammed mentioned the Louvre, Burj Khalifa, Dubai Metro, the Arab Reading Challenge, Prince of Poets, the Million's Poet, Khalifa University, American University of Sharjah, the Union Museum, and Hope Mars Probe to name a few.

Encouraging the public to nominate achievements, Sheikh Mohammed said, "Voting will be

open for everyone to nominate projects that have enriched the development march of our beloved country. Projects that Zayed would have applauded."

Under the hashtag #UAE\_Pioneers, winning projects will be selected by public voting. The UAE Pioneers initiative is aimed at promoting the concept of honouring in the Emirati society and achievements, and giving an opportunity to nominate people who are pioneers in various fields.

This social media campaign has elicited unprecedented enthusiasm from members of the public and in less than 24 hours following its launch, the [www.uaepioneers.ae](http://www.uaepioneers.ae) received more than 4,000 entries.

## Conservation

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### UAE's Al Wathba Wetland Reserve wins coveted spot on IUCN's Green List



The IUCN Green List is a global standard for protected areas that ensures all certified sites fulfil three major criteria: good governance, effective management, and sound design and planning.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has placed the Al Wathba Wetland Reserve in Abu Dhabi on its Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas. The global recognition underscores the efforts of EAD in developing the Reserve since its designation as a protected area in 1998, and is a realisation of the vision of the UAE's founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan to provide a safe environment for migratory birds and breeding area for the Greater Flamingo. This is not the first time Al Wathba has received

international recognition; in 2013, it became the first area to be designated a Ramsar site in Abu Dhabi for protecting the Emirate's natural biodiversity and several endangered species.

Al Wathba is the first site in the region to make the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, after completing a series of comprehensive evaluations and assessments that have confirmed EAD's success in managing Al Wathba in accordance with internationally-benchmarked models of governance, design and planning, management and

conservation. The announcement was made during the Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 14) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, which was held from the 17 - 29 November 2018.

Stressing the significance of this important milestone, HE Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, commented: "To see Al Wathba secure its status as a globally recognised Green List Area is a matter of great pride for Abu Dhabi and





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AL WATHBA Wetland Reserve is home to over 4,000 flamingos and 260 other birds, 320 invertebrates, 35 plant species, 16 reptiles and 10 mammals.

the UAE. The conservation of protected areas, natural resources and local biodiversity continues to be a key priority for the Agency. Biodiversity is an integral part of our cultural identity too, and something we want to preserve for present and future generations to come.”

The IUCN Green List is a global standard for protected areas that ensures all certified sites fulfil three major criteria: good governance, effective management, and sound design and planning. In addition, the standard requires that the site

demonstrate successful results from conservation efforts. The certificate is valid for 5 years, where the site should continue making improvements to the protected and conserved area on the Green List. The programme includes a set of 17 criteria that measure several indicators for the protection of wildlife and ecosystems, as well as an assessment that evaluates the role of protected areas in providing services to people and communities.

Dr Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Executive Director of EAD’s

Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector, commented: “EAD was one of the first organisations to adopt the Green List initiative when it was officially launched at the IUCN World Parks Congress in Australia in 2014. Since then, EAD has worked closely with IUCN to activate and implement the Green List Standards for Protected and Conserved Areas in the Arab region. The Agency also provided the necessary technical support and hosted the first training programme for IUCN Green List Expert Assessment Groups, allowing them to evaluate and



assess regional applications from protected areas wanting to gain Green List status.”

Al Wathba Wetland Reserve, the first area to be designated, is home to over 4,000 flamingos and 260 other birds, 320 invertebrates, 35 plant species, 16 reptiles and 10 mammals. It is the only site in the Arabian Gulf where the Greater Flamingo breeds regularly; this year, 601 flamingo chicks hatched at the Reserve – the highest number ever recorded at Al Wathba.

“Al Wathba is an amazing example of what can be achieved with hard work by men and women working to protect and manage the environment” comments James Hardcastle,

IUCN’s lead on the Green List programme. “This was possible through the vision of EAD and the strong political will to help turn their plans into reality. IUCN recognizes the significant results of their work, as demonstrated by the outstanding numbers of flamingos that breed here”.

Since opening to the public in October 2014, Al Wathba has attracted approximately 20,000 visitors and bird watching, hiking and photography enthusiasts alike. The Reserve re-opened for the 2018-2019 season on 1 November and is welcoming visitors from 8 am to 4 pm (last entry at 2 pm) every Thursday and Saturday. Guided tours for students and other large groups can be organised by

prior request by emailing EAD’s Customer Service Office at [customerhappiness@ead.ae](mailto:customerhappiness@ead.ae); Tuesdays and Wednesdays are reserved for school trips.







## MoU to boost aquaculture industry in the UAE

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Dubai World Central (DWC), also known as Dubai South - on November 25, to scale up the aquaculture industry in the UAE through establishing a fish farm. His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, and His Excellency Khalifa Suhail Al Zaffin, Executive Chairman of Dubai World Central, signed the MoU at DWC headquarters.

Under the agreement, MOCCA will facilitate the registration and licensing procedures for the DWC fish farm and provide consultancy advice and know-

how on the aquaculture industry to the technical cadres of DWC. Following a feasibility study of proposed species with regard to their local market value, the Ministry will select the species best suited for cultivation based on their key attributes. Furthermore, MOCCA will test the Recirculating Aquaculture System used on the farm to identify the key challenges that the aquaculture industry faces in the UAE and share the findings with DWC.

DWC will outline the project's concept and core objectives for the Ministry's review. DWC will also enable access to all the necessary requirements for study, experimentation and production.

Speaking on the partnership with DWC, Dr Al Zeyoudi said: "National enterprises that are based on top-notch research studies and technologies are key drivers in our efforts to diversify food sources and increase the share of food produced at home to meet the needs of the local market. Fish is an important component of our local cuisine in the UAE, and we need to make sure our fisheries and fish stocks can continue to support the growing demands of our population."

Al Zaffin said: "Our new collaboration will help establish aquaculture as a prosperous industry that contributes to making the UAE's fisheries more secure and sustainable."

## Exhibition

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### Stunning artworks commemorate Year of Zayed at Abu Dhabi Art 2018



[Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation unveiled a selection of artworks by eight Emirati and UAE-based artists reflecting the core values of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan at Abu Dhabi Art 2018.](#)

As part of Abu Dhabi Art 2018, the Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation, ADMAF, displayed at its pavilion a selection of artworks by eight Emirati and UAE-based artists reflecting the core values of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Aligning with the celebration of the Year of Zayed, ADMAF's pavilion was themed "Zayed: The Soft Power" and was opened by Huda I. Alkhamis-Kanoo, Founder of ADMAF and Artistic Director of the annual Abu Dhabi Festival.

The specially curated exhibition

showcased the works of Abdelghani Al Nahawi, Ebtisam Abdulaziz, Dr. Ahmed Al Faresi, Nayef AlBalooshi, Maha Ali Abdullah, Hussain AlMoosawi, Patricia Millns and Ranim Orouk. Each artist was selected following an open call across the UAE for submissions of proposals or completed artworks.

Upon visiting the fair, Alkhamis-Kanoo said, "In the past decade, the UAE has made great strides in the promotion and sharing of creative and artistic knowledge. Abu Dhabi's cultural identity is built on the importance of

safeguarding our heritage and development for the future, and 'Soft Power' has played an integral role in the development of our nation. In keeping with the commemoration of Sheikh Zayed's legacy in this Year of Zayed, ADMAF is proud to dedicate its Abu Dhabi Art Pavilion theme to celebrating 'Zayed: The Soft Power', which features eight unique and diverse masterpieces inspired by his core values: Wisdom and Peace, Tolerance and Respect, Unity, Sustainability and the Environment, Human Development and Knowledge. The foundation's unwavering support





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THEMED 'ZAYED: The Soft Power', the selection of artwork featured eight unique and diverse masterpieces inspired by the core values of the UAE's Founding Father.

and nurturing of Emirati and UAE-based talent continues to be a force for good in delivering on the promise of culture."

During the fair, ADMAF also displayed an emotive and unique piece of art by the Ewa'a Shelters for Victims of Human Trafficking in Abu Dhabi. Conceptualised by the artist Jennifer Simon in collaboration with ADMAF, Skittles, was the result of an intense two years of work by more than 20 survivors of human trafficking. It featured 10 individually painted and decorated, human-sized bowling

pins standing before a ball featuring the word 'life' in English and Arabic. The artwork embodies the struggles of the survivors, inspiring them to rise up in the face adversity.

Visitors to the pavilion were invited to participate in a programme of free sessions alongside students from many of ADMAF's university partners. The programme was held over 14th and 15th November, with specially designed student tours for young and aspiring creatives to gain valuable exposure to inspiring contemporary artwork from the

Middle East and Northern Africa, MENA, region and beyond.

Budding photography enthusiasts were also taken on a "mobile photography tour" led by Mahra Almheiri for insights and guidance on how to take interesting photographs of artworks.



## Congress

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### UAE recognized as role model for development of peaceful nuclear energy



The 23rd edition of Nuclear Inter Jura Congress concluded in the UAE capital following four days of discussions; UAE recognized as home to one of the world's leading peaceful nuclear energy programs.

**T**he UAE Peaceful Nuclear Energy Program has been recognized for its unique achievements and coordinated development during the 23rd Nuclear Inter Jura Congress.

Held for the first time in the Middle East and hosted in Abu Dhabi by the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC), the congress was organized by the International Nuclear Law Association (INLA) in partnership with local and international sponsors, including the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR).

The congress brought together legal specialists, government representatives, executives and academics from the local and international nuclear energy industry including Peri-Lynne Johnson, Legal Advisor and Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Office of Legal Affairs, Mr. David Scott, Advisor to the Chairman of the Executive Affairs Authority, Dr. Zoryana Vovchok, Director of the Department of Legal Affairs at FANR, and Obaid Al Mutawa, Deputy General Counsel at ENEC.

During a special UAE Session at

the congress, the UAE Peaceful Nuclear Energy Program was highlighted as a role model for nuclear energy development worldwide, having set a new standard for new nuclear construction.

The UAE has illustrated its ability and commitment to diversifying its energy mix and has exhibited the benefits of operational transparency, international cooperation, and the development of local human capital, during its development of the UAE Program.

The UAE Program is built on





ENEC is working to deliver safe, clean, efficient and reliable nuclear energy which is needed to support the UAE's social and economic growth.

the most rigorous standards of safety, security and quality, and through its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other relevant international organizations, has demonstrated its commitment to non-proliferation, as outlined in the UAE Policy on Nuclear Energy document released in April 2008.

On the sidelines of the congress, ENEC's Barakah Youth Council comprised of employees from ENEC and its subsidiaries, organized a Youth Circle. The event, entitled 'Energy Gap – The Way Forward', brought together

international experts and students from Khalifa University to discuss the importance of developing peaceful nuclear energy.

The Youth Circle was the result of ENEC and its subsidiaries' ongoing commitment to providing young people with a platform to share their ideas and engage with energy leaders to shape the UAE's future.

During the four days of discussions at the congress, participants considered a wide range of topics including

international conventions, nuclear liability, the nuclear fuel cycle, new nuclear energy plant construction, sustainable development and international safeguard regimes.

The non-profit International Nuclear Law Association was founded in 1970 to strengthen relations among lawyers involved with nuclear law, facilitate research and development, and promote cooperation in nuclear liability. The INLA has more 650 members around the world, including a number of Emirati legal experts.



## Sharjah Stamp Exhibition celebrates the Year of Zayed

In celebration of the Year of Zayed, the management of the 9th Sharjah Stamp Exhibition has announced the showcasing of a collection of stamps that were issued during the era of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, which will include the 2 commemorative stamps that were launched in 2003 in honour of Sheikh Zayed's Accession day.

The exhibition was organised by the Emirates Philatelic Association and hosted by Mega Mall Sharjah during 13th to 17th November, 2018.

In March of 2003, Emirates Post had announced that it would organise a stamp design contest entitled “Zayed – Pride of Arabs” for students of colleges and

universities of the UAE. Maryam Al Muhairi, a student from the Higher Colleges of Technology (Sharjah Women’s Campus), bagged the top prize in the contest, and two commemorative stamps of the 50 Fils and the 175 Fils denominations were released.

The visitors of the exhibition had the opportunity to view these two rare stamps, as well as view various other collections of stamps that bear the images of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

These stamps highlight the features of development and renaissance during his reign before and after the union, including postcards and envelopes from the first day of issue.

Abdullah Khoury, President of the Emirates Philatelic Association, said, “The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan succeeded in realising a modern and comprehensive renaissance ever since he became Ruler on 6th August 1966 in Abu Dhabi, which led into the formation of the UAE on 2nd August 1971. Hobbyists from all around the world are keen to acquire postage stamps that epitomise the achievements of this leadership figure that has left his mark all around the world.”







## Emirates Energy Award 2020 launched in Jordan

Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE) unveiled the fourth edition of Emirates Energy Award (EEA) - 2020 at a press conference held at Fairmont - Amman, Jordan on 27th November.

The press conference was attended by high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Jordan, HE Mattar Saif Al Shamsi, the UAE ambassador to Jordan, HE Ahmad Buti Al Muhairbi, Secretary General of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE). Speakers at

the event were Mr. Taher Diab, Strategy & Planning Senior Director of DSCE and Mr. Ali Al Suwaidi, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications and Protocol, DSCE.

To be run under the new theme - 'Inspiring Innovation for Sustainable Energy', The Emirates Energy Award (EEA) aims to encourage the rationalised use of energy and resources, highlight the best practices and pioneering work in energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainability and conservation of the environment. The award is an international platform for institutions and individuals as it focuses on supporting global efforts to find innovative and sustainable solutions to

environmental pollution, global warming, carbon emissions and scarce natural resources.

The award also recognises the efforts of the public and private sectors in energy efficiency, energy projects and education, research and innovative ideas in the energy sector. A special recognition award is also granted to outstanding contributors in the energy sector.

Speaking at the conference, HE Ahmad Buti Al Muhairbi, stressed the importance of taking part in the award, which aims to promote a culture of excellence, sustainability and innovation in energy management and ensure the sustainability of alternative and clean energy sources.

Initiative

46 creating green communities

MoCCAЕ completes climate risks assessment on UAE infrastructure



Based on the assessment results, high risks – identified as priority risks – primarily include damage to coastal and offshore infrastructure, leading to a rise in maintenance costs.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAЕ) has completed a comprehensive assessment of climate change risks to infrastructure in the UAE to help make the sector more resilient to future impacts of climate change as part of the National Climate Change Plan 2050.

Through surveys, field visits, and a stakeholders' workshop, MOCCAЕ outlined the direct and indirect climate-induced risks that take their toll on the country's infrastructure as well as the existing and possible actionable

solutions for adaptation to climate change.

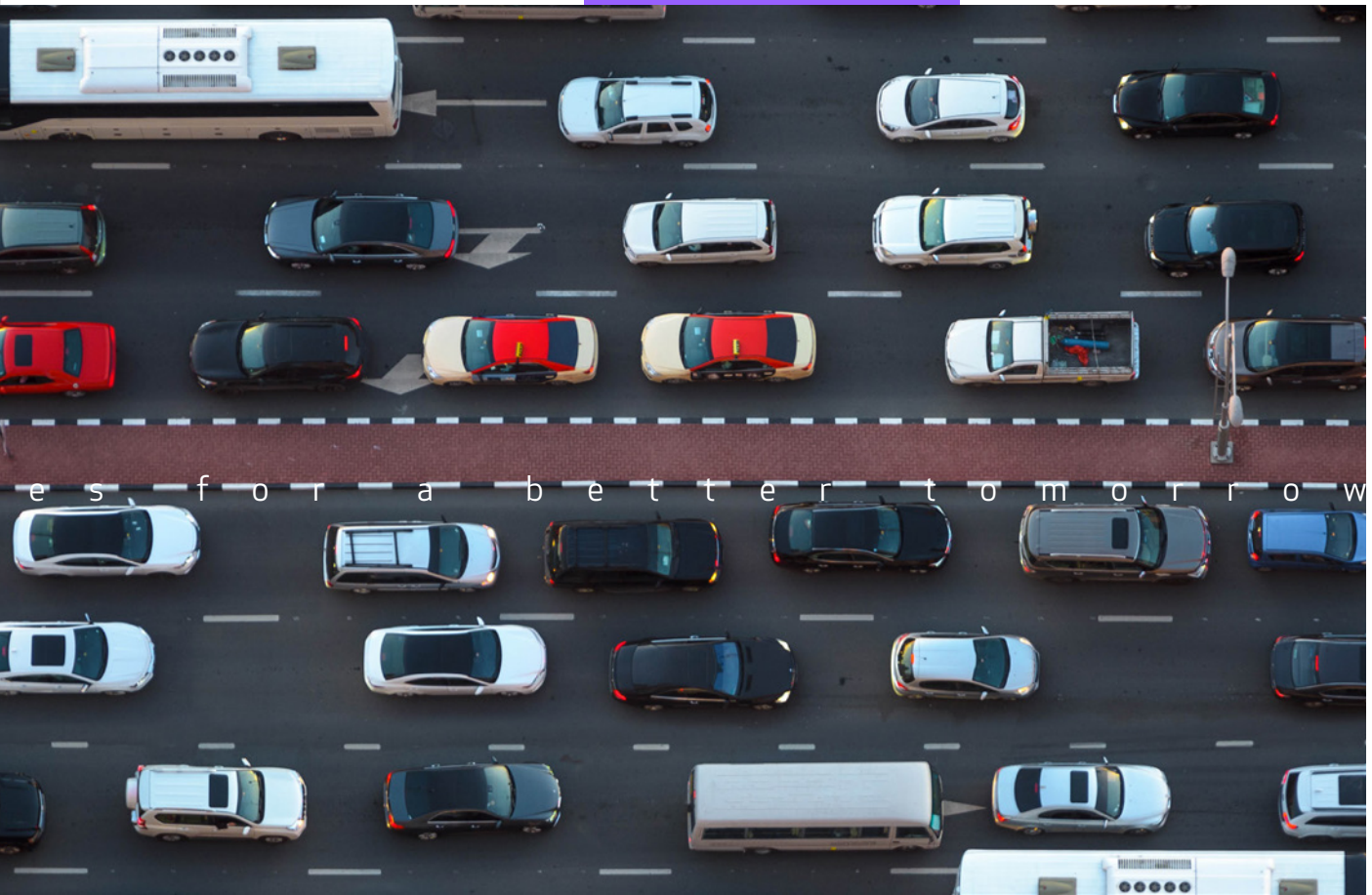
His Excellency Engineer Hassan Al Mansoori, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, said: "In line with our sustained efforts at the Ministry to adhere to the highest global standards and factor in the UAE's climate and natural environment in designing and executing infrastructure projects, we were pleased to contribute to this assessment conducted by MOCCAЕ.

"We work relentlessly to mitigate

the impact of climate change on the UAE's infrastructure, and already have in place an integrated action plan for the rainy season to prepare for heavy precipitation events and the associated soil erosion and water accumulation."

Fahed Al Hammadi, Acting Assistant Undersecretary of the Green Development and Climate Change Sector at MOCCAЕ, said: "The UAE's infrastructure network, comprising buildings, transport, water, energy, and sanitation, is an essential enabler of economic development, as it





AMONGST THE proposed a menu of potential measures are re-examining design standards and adopting more efficient operation and maintenance practices.

drives business opportunities and facilitates the delivery of public goods and services. Considering its long service life span and great economic value, equipping our infrastructure to withstand the unavoidable impacts of climate change has never been so critical.”

He added: “We should make proactive climate adaptation provisions over the entire infrastructure lifecycle – from planning and design to construction, operation, and maintenance. The benefits of acting now outweigh the costs of inaction in the future in ensuring

long-term climate resilience.”

Based on the assessment results, high risks – identified as priority risks – primarily include damage to coastal and offshore infrastructure, leading to a rise in maintenance costs. Among other ramifications of climate change are limited access to services due to transportation disruptions, and increased hazards in transport and building infrastructure as a result of lower operational efficiency.

Meanwhile, medium risks are manifested in the form of damage

to transportation infrastructure, as well as disruptions in water, sanitation, and waste facilities. Other negative effects of climate change comprise higher frequency and severity of infrastructure damage due to extreme drought and high sea temperature-induced cases of red tide that may result in displacing the population residing along the coastline.

On the other hand, residents of urban areas are expected to experience increased flooding due to reduced holding capacity of the drainage system during extreme rain events.



To step up the current climate adaptation efforts within the UAE infrastructure sector, the workshop participants proposed a menu of potential measures, including re-examining design standards not just in the light of historical climate trends but also future climate extremes, and adopting more efficient operation and maintenance practices.

For the UAE's coastal infrastructure, the stakeholders recommended extending existing coastal monitoring programs to all emirates, intensifying mangrove and seagrass restoration and beach nourishment activities, enhancing the design and construction standards for

coastal buildings and offshore platforms, establishing coastal setbacks and expanding the building of flood and storm surge defense structures, such as seawalls, dikes, and levees, and retrofitting offshore infrastructure to withstand Category 5 cyclones.

To climate-proof terrestrial infrastructure assets, particularly in the transportation sector, the participants proposed implementing several modernization projects. Suggestions included equipment upgrades, reinforcing existing infrastructure to ensure stability during extreme weather events, incorporating innovative technologies in the design and construction of air, land, and

water transportation systems, expanding the installation of smart technologies, automating national early warning systems, and leveraging transport network redundancy to reroute traffic in the event of climate-induced hazards.







## AI Zeyoudi leads UAE delegation to COP24 in Poland

His Excellency Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, is leading the UAE delegation to the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Katowice, Poland.

The negotiations at COP24, set to run from 2 to 14 December 2018, will focus on finalizing the elements of the Paris Agreement Work Programme that will guide the implementation of the milestone accord. This includes the type of information future nationally determined contributions (NDCs) will need to include and common criteria for assessing NDCs to

ensure comparability in order to evaluate the levels of global climate action against the two-degree target.

The delegation comprises of His Excellency Dr. Yousef Eisa Al Sabri, UAE Ambassador to Poland, as well as senior- and mid-level officials from the Ministry of Energy and Industry, DEWA, the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, and others.

The delegation will provide an overview of the UAE's climate action in line with its NDCs. The delegates will outline the country's experience in issuing legislations and strategies that form a regulatory framework for climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. In addition,

they will highlight the ambitious clean and renewable energy targets, the country's global aid and investment in renewable energy through its public and private sector, and the national youth empowerment drive.

Furthermore, they will call for differentiated requirements under the Paris Agreement Work Programme to ensure that they do not interfere with economic and social development priorities. They will also propose that developed countries with historical responsibilities continue taking the lead in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions as well as providing financial, technical, and capability-building support to developing countries.

## Conference

50 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

### UAE participates in Biological Diversity Conference in Egypt



At the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14), held under the theme ‘Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet’, UAE highlights its experience in achieving balance between economic growth and environment preservation.

**A** UAE delegation participated in the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP14), held under the theme ‘Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet’.

Held at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from 14 to 29 November 2018, the meeting aimed to enhance and unify international efforts to stop the loss in biodiversity and protect ecosystems that support food and water security and health for billions of people.

The delegation included Dr

Shaikha Al Dhaheeri, Executive Director of the Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity Sector at the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi; Abdul Aziz Al Suwaidi, Director of the Marine Sustainability Department at the Environment and Protected Areas Authority in Sharjah; experts from the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) and from municipalities across the UAE.

In addition, Hiba Al Shehhi, Acting Director of the Biodiversity Department at MOCCA, and Marwa Al Amiri, International Organizations Coordinator at

MOCCA, participated in the High-Level Segment of the meeting that took place on November 15.

COP14 addressed efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as laying the foundations for an alternative preparation process for the current global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. It also included high-level meetings aimed at discussing the mainstreaming of biodiversity into key sectors of the economy, namely: energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and





# UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Investing in biodiversity for people and planet

**COP 14 - CP/MOP9-NP/MOP3**  
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2018



UN environment



COP14 highlighted policies on a variety of issues that determine global and national trends for the protection of biodiversity.

processing industry, and health.

Addressing the High-Level Segment, Hiba Al Shehhi said: "Protecting wildlife has been a priority issue since the establishment of the UAE, and is a cornerstone of the country's policies towards protecting and developing the environment."

Al Shehhi highlighted the UAE's efforts in biodiversity and environment conservation in parallel with the development and growth of the energy, mining and infrastructure sectors. She pointed out to the UAE's issuance

of local and federal laws and regulations, such as Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 regarding the protection and development of the environment, which requires all entities working in these sectors to identify the risks of their actions and limit their impact on health, safety and environment, and that all their activities should have environmental impact assessment and strict health, safety and monitoring standards.

Al Shehhi noted the commitment of the institutions operating in these sectors to carry out

research and applied sciences and develop multiple projects that would reduce the environmental impact of their work and preserve the environment, including Abu Dhabi National Petroleum Company (ADNOC) that launched Al Reyadah, a company focused on exploring and developing commercial scale projects for carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS). Al Reyadah's facility captures up to 800,000 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted from the Emirates Steel factory annually.

Speaking on the mainstreaming



of biodiversity conservation in the infrastructure sector, Al Shehhi said: "The plans and strategies for the development of any sector in the UAE are mandatorily connected to environmental conservation and sustainability criteria, with a particular emphasis on the conservation of biodiversity, where any project developed requires a study of its environmental impact and the extent of the potential and proposed impacts of the project on the environment."

Al Shehhi pointed to the launch of the UAE Green Agenda 2030, which includes several working programs such as the integrated green infrastructure program that deals with the

implementation of sustainability standards and the development of infrastructure in a sustainable urban manner, in addition to the natural capital program that is concerned with the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of natural materials for the benefit of decision makers, and the clean energy and climate change adaptation program.

COP14 discussed topics such as biodiversity and climate change. It also highlighted policies on a variety of issues that determine global and national trends for the protection of biodiversity. These issues included information about digital sequencing on genetic resources, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, sustainable

wildlife management, spatial planning, protected areas and other effective conservation measures, marine and coastal biological diversity, and invasive alien species.

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols, governments of the parties to the convention addressed the important issues raised by emerging technologies, including how to manage developments in synthetic biology to maximize potential benefits and reduce risks. In addition, the implications of numerical sequencing information on genetic resources upon the objectives of the convention and the Nagoya Protocol were also discussed.





f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

## Dubai residents clean up 1.6 tons of trash in Jebel Ali

**M**ore than 300 people, including employees of corporate organizations participated in Ocean Conservancy's 33rd International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) organized by Dubai Municipality Environment Department on 8th and 9th November, which was a volunteer effort to remove trash from the coastal areas and water ways. The cleanup was organized at Jebel Ali Wetland Sanctuary, which was recently designated as a Ramsar site on 28th October 2018 by the Ramsar Convention.

The cleanup event was inaugurated by Khalid Sharif Al Awadhi, CEO of Dubai Municipality for Environment, Health and Safety Sector, in the presence of Eng. Alia

Al Harmoudi, Director of Environment Department, with release of eight Arabian Carpet Sharks (*Chiloscyllium arabicum*) in collaboration with Atlantis-The Palm, to conserve the unique biodiversity in the reserve.

By removing 1.6 tons of trash from the 4km stretch of the Jebel Ali Wetland Sanctuary coastline including plastics, metals, glass bottles, wood, personal items etc., the volunteers contributed to the world's largest database on marine debris which can be used by policy makers to find out solutions to the growing marine debris crisis.

Approximately 80% of the collected wastes were materials made of plastic. Other materials

included rubber, thermocol, ropes, wood, glass bottles and personal items such as shoes, shirts, etc. An estimated 60kg of trash, including plastics was also collected by volunteer scuba divers.

Every year, millions of tons of trash, including an estimated 8 million metric tons of plastic waste, flow into the ocean, entangling wildlife and polluting beaches.

"There is a need to find solutions to stem the tide of ocean plastic including investing in waste management and its safe disposal, reducing single-use plastics, and re-evaluating how we consume plastic products," said Eng. Alia Al Harmoudi.

Conservation

54 c r e a t i n g g r e e n c o m m u n i t i e s

## Illegal fishing practices lead to death of 20 Dugongs in UAE



[Number of dugong deaths in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi sees a year-on-year increase, bringing the total number of dead dugongs found to 20 since the beginning of the year.](#)

Six dugongs have recently been found washed ashore Abu Dhabi's coastline from Al Silaa to Ghantoot, in what is now considered to be a significant die-off of one of Abu Dhabi's most vulnerable species. The dugong carcasses were discovered by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) rangers who regularly patrol Abu Dhabi waters. This incident brings the total number of dead dugongs found to 20 since the beginning of the year, in comparison to 15 during the same period in 2017.

The results of the investigation

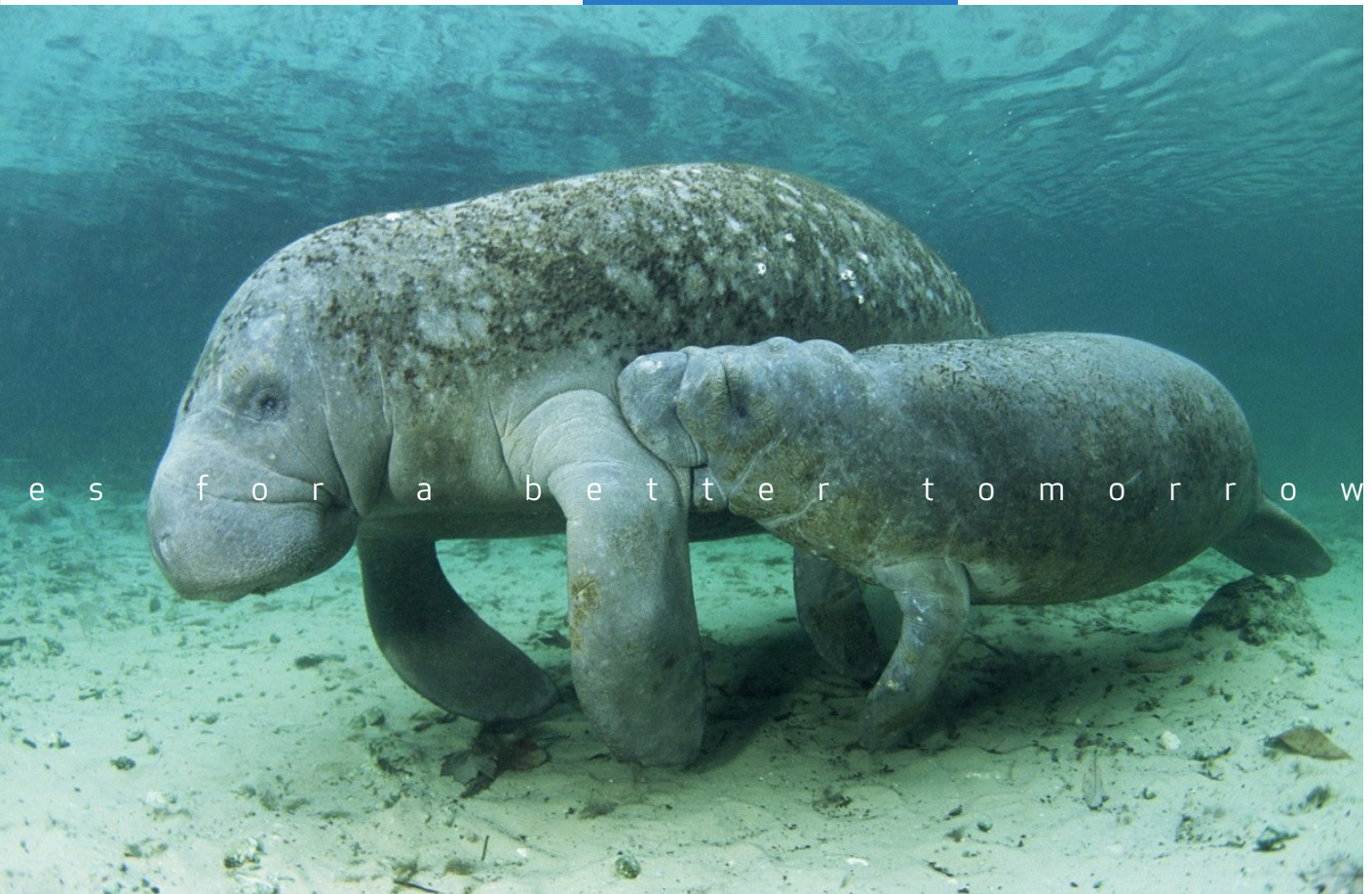
and necropsy indicate that the most probable cause of death was drowning via entanglement in unmanned and abandoned drift nets - an illegal fishing practice. This irresponsible act causes dugongs to be caught and ensnared in the lengthy netting.

Abu Dhabi is home to the world's second largest population of dugongs, with around 3,000 found in the Marawah Marine Biosphere Reserve. Dugongs, along with their foraging habitats and their migratory routes in the UAE, have been protected under Federal Law No. 23 and No. 24 since 1999. As

a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species, the UAE has an international commitment to protect local dugong species. This represents an important pillar of the legacy of the nation's founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, to preserve the environment and support regional and global efforts towards the conservation of dugongs.

Dr. Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Executive Director of Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity at EAD, said: "The Agency will continue to prioritise the protection of





e s f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

ABU DHABI is home to the world's second largest population of dugongs, with around 3,000 found in the Marawah Marine Biosphere Reserve.

dugong habitats and ensure that enforcement of the laws continues to be applied strictly, in partnership with the Critical Infrastructure & Coastal Protection Authority (CICPA). We strongly urge all fishermen to cast their nets mindfully, prudently and responsibly and fish in a sustainable manner – in line with our local and federal laws.”

The Agency has regularly reiterated the issue of illegal fishing practices with the local fishing community, applying pressure on them to discontinue them and to report the locations

of any abandoned fishing nets. EAD, with the support of CICPA, has also ramped up its random inspections to mitigate the detrimental impacts of illegal fishing practices. All violators found applying illegal fishing practices will be stiffly penalised. First-time offenders may receive fines of up to AED 50,000 and/or an imprisonment term of not less than three months.

In collaboration with TOTAL and TOTAL ABK, EAD has been studying and monitoring the local dugong population since 1999. These studies, which

include satellite-tagging the dugongs to analyse their migration patterns, have given EAD a better understanding of dugong behaviour and the threats to their population. Since the beginning of the programme, EAD has investigated 165 dugong mortalities. The most common cause of death by far, has been suffocation from entanglement in abandoned fishing nets. Other causes of death have included habitat loss, marine pollution and collisions with speeding boats. Most of the deaths were reported during the winter season, when fishing activity levels increase.

## Ahmed bin Saeed inaugurates Solar Decathlon Middle East 2018



15 teams representing 28 universities from 11 countries around the world and spanning 4 continents, presented their smart homes running on clean energy at the Solar Decathlon Middle East 2018.

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, inaugurated the Solar Decathlon Middle East, SDME 2018, on 14th November.

Held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park in Seih Al

Dahal in Dubai, the event was organised by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, DEWA, from 14th to 28th November, 2018.

The opening ceremony was attended by Matar Humaid Al Tayer, Chairman of DEWA; Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Vice Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, and MD and CEO of DEWA; Dawood Al Hajri, Director-General of Dubai Municipality; Ahmed Buti Al Muhairbi, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Energy; Mohammad Abdullah Abunayyan, Chairman of ACWA Power;

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi CEO of Masdar, Najeeb Al Ali, Executive Director of Expo 2020 Dubai; Joan Glickman, Senior Advisor at the US Department of Energy, and ambassadors and consuls of countries represented in the competition, as well as the media.

Sheikh Ahmed toured the competition site, accompanied by Matar Al Tayer and Saeed Al Tayer. They viewed the smart and sustainable homes, which have been designed and built by 15 teams representing 28 universities from 11 countries around the world.





THE 15 houses set up by university teams have been designed to fit the climatic, and environmental conditions of the Middle East.

Saeed Al Tayer said, “This year’s competition is particularly important as it takes place during the Year of Zayed, which marks 100 years since the birth of our Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, a man of the environment and a pioneer of sustainability.

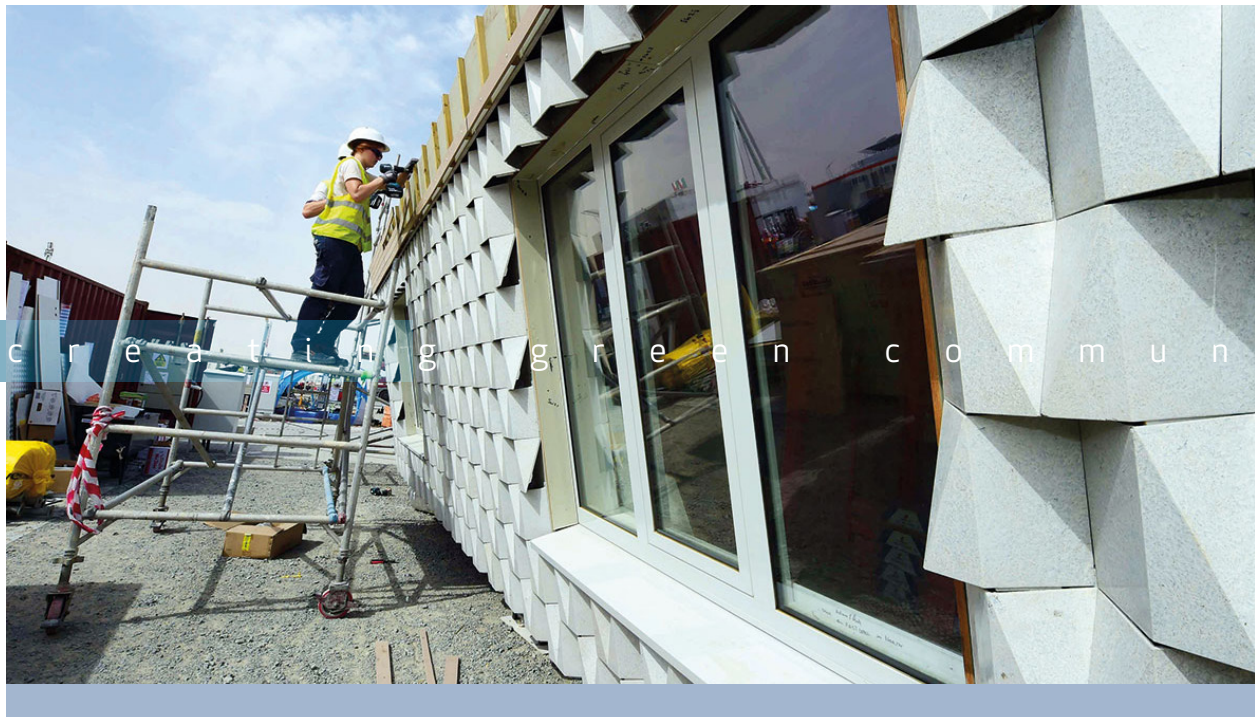
“His approach is continued by the wise leadership of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin

Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

“The UAE gives priority to innovation as an approach to develop sustainable solutions for the challenges that face mankind. It believes in the potential and capabilities of youth as the driving force for building a brighter future. The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park has been selected to host this important event, as it is the largest single-site solar park in the world. It supports our efforts to achieve

the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 to provide 75 percent of Dubai’s total power output from clean energy, and make Dubai the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the world by 2050,” he stated.

“Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid once said, ‘We may not live for hundreds of years, but the products of our creativity can leave a legacy long after we are gone.’ His Highness always emphasises the need to encourage young people and provide them with a suitable environment for creativity and



innovation, to help achieve sustainable development goals and support global efforts to combat climate change. This leading international competition is organised by the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy and DEWA with the US Department of Energy, for the first time in the Middle East and Africa. Dubai is part of these pioneering efforts and is hosting two consecutive competitions, with the second Solar Decathlon being held in conjunction with Expo 2020 Dubai," Al Tayer added.

"Sustainability has always had a strong presence in this region. Our ancestors used natural materials to build houses that adapted to the surrounding environment. They constructed

Barjeel wind towers as natural air conditioners to overcome high temperatures.

"Today in the UAE, the hub for innovation and creativity, 15 teams representing 28 universities from 11 countries around the world spanning 4 continents, are presenting their smart homes that contribute to a sustainable lifestyle. These houses use clean energy, are cost-effective, and energy-efficient," Al Tayer said.

Al Tayer noted that the jury would evaluate the houses, which will be available to the public to visit and meet the university teams. Visitors will have the chance to learn more about the innovative methods and technologies that

are reducing the environmental impact of these houses, which have been designed to fit the climatic, and environmental conditions of the Middle East.

"To all the participating teams, I congratulate you on your achievements. I thank you for your efforts over the past two years, especially in the past two weeks. I assure you that everyone is a winner in this competition. Your participation demonstrates your awareness of the importance of sustainability in building a greener future, for generations to come," said Al Tayer to the participating teams.

Total prizes for the two rounds of the competition are worth AED20 million.





## LEME Lighting and Pavegen to bring energy and data harvesting solutions to the UAE

LEME Lighting, a subsidiary of LEME Group, has entered into a strategic partnership with Pavegen, the UK award-winning energy and data harvesting firm, to bring its smart flooring technology and expertise to the UAE.

Pavegen and LEME Lighting plan to combine Pavegen's bespoke smart flooring solutions that integrate off-grid energy production with LEME Lighting's sustainable lighting solutions in the UAE and beyond.

Laurence Kemball-Cook, founder and CEO, Pavegen said: "We believe in putting people at the heart of smart city infrastructure. Our highly engaging flooring solution

converts the energy from human movement to power local applications including LED lighting, sensors and data capture and transmission and we're installing in locations such as airports, hospitals, corporate headquarters, retail sites and schools."

Sanuj Kohli, CEO, LEME Group, said: "Our partnership with Pavegen aims to drive the evolution of the alternative energy solutions in line with the ambitions of the UAE National Agenda 2021. Alternative energy has been a game changer in many markets around the world. As a complement to solar or wind power, Pavegen uses human footfall to generate energy for offices, transport hubs, and

generally, anywhere people can walk."

Pavegen produces an interactive flooring technology which converts the kinetic energy of footfall into off-grid electricity, data and rewards. Each step on Pavegen generates two to four joules of electricity or up to seven watts of power per person as they move across a walkway. Pavegen walkways also contain Low-Power Bluetooth beacons which connect to smartphone apps, rewarding people for their steps and generating permission-based customer analytics. The company has delivered over 200 installations around the world and is looking to build on its portfolio of permanent installations.

Exhibition

60 creating greener communities

Vertical farms attracting greater interest and investments in the GCC



Taking place from 5 – 7 March 2019 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, AgraME 2019 will bring to Dubai some of the leading innovators and urban farming experts to provide the industry with valuable information and knowledge.

**A** growing importance is being given to vertical farming, among other Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) methods across the GCC and is generating interest and increased investments from regional and overseas players.

According to Orbis Research, the MEA vertical farming market is expected to reach USD 1.21 billion by 2021 at a CAGR of 26.4% from only USD 0.38 billion in 2016.

One of the GCC countries leading this change is the UAE, which has

upcoming projects facilitated by the government as well as private players to help increase food security in the region. These include the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment allotting space for 12 vertical farms to be built by Shalimar Biotech Industries, and the world's largest vertical farm for Emirates Airlines by Crop One Holdings Inc.

With around 90 per cent of food being imported in the UAE, territorial problems of water scarcity and small percentages of arable land, vertical farming is becoming increasingly vital to

ensure food security within the region. H.E. Mariam Al Mehiri, Minister of Future Food Security and a leading campaigner of urban farming plans to create a 'Food Valley' or a technology hub, dedicated to the development of food and farming automation.

The Food Valley, and other government-led initiatives, are being introduced to attract and enable a new generation of farmers to help build future sustainability.

Commenting in a recent interview with euronews, the Minister said





AGRAME 2019 is attracting key players in the CEA industry such as Certhon, Agrotonomy, Veggitech, Wuxi, iGrowths Technology Co. Ltd, Ozorganic Urban Farming LLP and Van der Hoeven.

“[The idea] comes from the Silicon Valley in the United States, where you have technologies, or start-ups, sprouting and developing into commercial giants.” explains the Minister. “We want to bring this to the UAE and build a Food Valley that’s all about food technologies.”

**The Middle East and Africa:  
A prime location for CEA to  
successfully take off**

By capitalizing on vertical space, and controlling the environment for year-round optimal growth, CEA can produce significantly more yields per square foot than traditional agriculture, while

using only a fraction of the water. AgraME 2019 is once again creating a platform for the latest technology to be showcased to the regional agribusiness market, along with promoting knowledge sharing between leaders in the global industry and key local players around urban farming techniques and methods.

Henry Gordon-Smith, Founder and Managing Director of Agritecture and an acknowledged global thought leader in urban agriculture, stated that the Middle East has an unprecedented ability to reshape critical infrastructure

that supports modern human life.

“The potential is certainly there to transform what has historically been a relatively small traditional farming industry into perhaps the most technologically advanced agriculture industry in the world. This means economic development, increased production of nutritious local produce, and lowered food costs, all with minimal water consumption and increased resilience to climate change and foreign markets” said Gordon-Smith who will be speaking at the AgraME Conference in March.

Report

62 creating green communities

‘GCC tipped to become global renewables heavyweight’



GCC to speed up solar conversion as renewables power regional electricity generation sector to US\$22 billion by 2022, according to new industry report.

The GCC is likely to speed up its solar energy conversion movement in the wake of lessons learnt from the depressed oil prices of the past few years, according to an industry leader. Turkish solar power structure supplier, Tekom-Puk, maintains the super-energised solar drive will ensure the Gulf region reaches its 2030 target of a collective 4.6 GW PV in power generation to emerge as a global renewables leader.

Speaking ahead of Tekom-Puk’s participation at Middle East Electricity 2019, the region’s

power industry show, which runs at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) from March 5-7 next year, Murad Saygin, the company’s General Manager said the GCC’s solar sector is now widely viewed as “highly promising” and likely to scale up further.

“Being highly oil dependent economies, the GCC countries have been strongly impacted by the recent oil price drop. To counter this, we believe they’ll focus investments in the renewables industry more than ever for upcoming years. It’s a constantly growing sector with

highly promising potential. The UAE in particular will take action to focus growth from public to private sector, so that investors, developers and suppliers from the renewables industry will handle their projects without any time-consuming procedures,” he said.

“For the last several years, GCC countries have been fashioning a critical role for themselves in the global shift to renewable energy. Seeing the big picture from the global scale, the GCC market would likely reach its energy goals at the end of the next decade, which would make it the market





MIDDLE EAST Electricity is held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Maktoum Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Deputy Ruler and is hosted by the UAE Ministry of Energy.

driver,” he added.

Tekom-Puk’s forecast is backed up by the latest MENA Power Industry Outlook prepared by Ventures Onsite, for Middle East Electricity. The in-depth report says renewable energy is expected to play a vital role in the GCC’s economic diversification plans.

“It forms a lucrative option for electricity generation capacity in the GCC, which has reached US\$ 2.1 billion in 2018 and is expected to be worth US\$ 25 billion in 2022,” states the report, citing increasing renewable deployment

among the region’s policymakers, regulators and operators. The report adds that the GCC’s cumulative deployment and investment in renewables could reach US\$ 16 billion in 2020.

With all GCC countries now prioritising renewables, the UAE currently leads the way courtesy of mega projects such as the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park in Dubai, which is worth an estimated \$968m, and the 1.2GW Adwea Sweihan plant in Abu Dhabi, described as the world’s largest solar power plant. As part of its

‘Energy Strategy 2050’, the UAE aims to generate 44% of its electricity from renewables by the middle of the century.

“The UAE’s Ministry of Energy is considering tendering 1,000 MW of renewable-based mega-projects each year over the next few years to meet its energy targets. The expected increase in electricity consumption in the coming years, coupled with the integration of a large share of renewables, clean coal, nuclear and waste-to-energy in its energy mix is expected to project the UAE as a hotspot for power sector



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development in the Gulf region," says MENA Power Industry Outlook report.

Furthering its ambitions, the UAE has launched a lab to test artificial intelligence techniques for solar power. The Emirate's Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, in collaboration with Khalifa University of Science and Technology (KUST) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), are now working to identify solar energy locations. The lab will have three main systems featuring real-time maps of solar locations in the UAE: solar simulation, environmental monitoring and marine environment monitoring systems. Solar maps and simulations are likely to help

determine the best locations for solar power within the country.

"The huge potential of the GCC, which is expected to require power infrastructure investment totalling US \$109 billion over the next five years, is generating unprecedented interest in the regional market which is reflected in Middle East Electricity's high calibre and wide geographic exhibitor spread," said Claudia Konieczna, Exhibition Director - Informa Industrial Group, which organises the long-standing industry event.

"Middle East Electricity takes the form of five dedicated shows within a combined mega-exhibition, with solar having its own dedicated segment due

to its high potential. Solar at MEE is the largest gathering of this specialised sector's professionals in the Middle East and Africa, offering the most effective trade focused platform to international manufacturers and distributors looking to meet regional buyers."

Other dedicated Middle East Electricity sectors cover: power generation; transmission and distribution; lighting and energy storage and management. The show will also offer a diverse range of professional education and training opportunities where attendees can learn about the latest technologies at exhibitor-led Technical Seminars and advance professionally with CPD accredited Workshops.





f o r a b e t t e r t o m o r r o w

## DP World headquarters achieves carbon neutrality

To mark DP World's achievement of carbon neutrality from its global headquarters in Dubai, Dubai Carbon has issued the VP Group Health, Safety and Environment of DP World, Nabil Battal, a certificate for Net Zero Carbon Emissions. Setting an aspirational example to private organisations around the UAE on how to operate in line with the UAE's Vision 2021 agenda of building a sustainable environment and infrastructure whilst preserving the environment, DP World's global headquarters in Jebel Ali is now carbon neutral with regards to its consumption, as a result of installing solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on the building's rooftop and car park.

In line with its core competency of low carbon strategic economic enablers, Dubai Carbon calculated that DP World has achieved carbon neutrality by generating solar energy through PV panels.

This bold sustainable statement from DP World positions the organisation as a key contributor in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In a statement, Nabil Batta said: "We are delighted to receive this certificate as it underlines the investment and effort we have put into developing a sustainable and productive business. It reaffirms our commitment to helping the Dubai Government reach its goal of reducing the

city's energy demand by 25% by 2030 in line with the Dubai Integrated Energy Strategy.

"The future of our country lies in businesses integrating green technologies as a part their daily operations."

He added: "On completion, our Solar Power Programme will be the largest distributed solar photovoltaic project in the GCC that will produce enough energy annually to power 4,600 homes, while our Zero Waste Reduction project at Jafza will prevent nearly all waste from exiting the free zone. Our ultimate goal is to create a Zero Emission Supply Chain across our networks, helping the communities we serve create cleaner societies."



## Is Cancer an Environmental Problem?

In 1990, my younger brother's illness was diagnosed as cancer of the throat. Apparently, it was already in the terminal stage, and hence, incurable. He eventually died in 1992 at the age of 32. In 1995, the people of the Northern State in Sudan called upon the government to investigate the spread of cancer at an alarming rate. They claimed that some radioactive waste was probably buried somewhere in the state. I was a member of an independent committee commissioned by the Council of Ministers to investigate this claim. We were not able to detect any extraordinary radiation in the area.

I suggested that the spread of cancer was due to polluted food as pesticides were widely misused without much awareness of their impact. In addition, the new urban lifestyle introduced plenty of processed and canned foods in their diet. The urban poor at the peripheries of cities do not really care about quality or expiry date of food. The incidence of cancer continues unabated and has reached unbelievable rates this year. Is this an international trend?

Studies have predicted around 18 million new cases of cancer this year (22% higher in 6 years) and that almost 10 million people will die of cancer (15% more in 6 years) worldwide. One in five men and one in six women will develop the disease in their lifetime.

Researchers found lung cancer, female breast cancer and bowel cancer to account for a third of all cancer cases and deaths worldwide. Lung cancer is now the leading cause of cancer death in women in 28 countries due to the proliferation of smoking among women lately. This requires intensive efforts in raising awareness and more effective tobacco control worldwide.

Asia has a cancer crisis on hand, not only due to the high population density, but also because some cancers with higher death rates such as liver cancer, are more common in this part of the world.

Accordingly, the measures taken to prevent and treat cancer may differ greatly between regions of the world. In the Middle East and North Africa, we need to concentrate more on agro-practices, food quality and awareness raising. What we call "modern life style" is a major threat to our health as it is more associated with fast food and processed food loaded with chemical additives and preservatives.

Back to our question of whether cancer is an environmental problem? I believe, yes. It occurs mainly due to environmental pollution. Our drinking water is not free of chemicals or micro-plastics which have been detected in 92% of bottled water. Our food is also polluted. Fertilizers and pesticides are widely misused leaving residues in our diet, in addition to the additives and preservatives widely used in canned food.

**Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif**

**Chief Technical Advisor**

**Zayed International Foundation for the Environment**

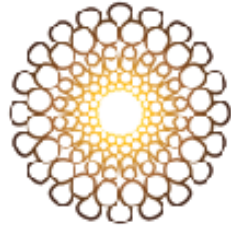




## **Zayed International Prize for the Environment**



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